Dame Agatha Mary Clarissa Christie DBE (15 September 1890 – 12 January 1976) was an English writer of crime stories. The Guinness Book of World Records ranks Christie as the best–selling novelist ever. In 1971, she was honoured by the Queen with the title Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire. [1] Christie died on 12 January 1976 at age 85 from natural causes at her Winterbrook House in the north of Cholsey parish, adjoining Wallingford in Oxfordshire (formerly part of Berkshire). Her works are the world's most–widely published books after those of William Shakespeare and the Bible. [2] Her books have been translated into at least 103 languages. [3] Christie's best–selling novel is And Then There Were None. The most well–known characters in her books are Miss Marple and Hercule Poirot. Hercule Poirot is a strange man, a private detective from Belgium who lives in London. a plaque with a picture of Agatha Christie Christie also wrote plays. Christie was born in Torquay in Devon, England. She is buried in the nearby churchyard of St Mary's, Cholsey. The stories of Poirot and Miss Marple were made into many TV shows and movies. She was married twice; she had a daughter called Rosalind Hicks. She worked in a hospital and in a pharmacy during World War I. She also wrote romance novels and plays. Her novels have sold about 4 billion copies. Only William Shakespeare has sold more .books. It remains the world's longest–running play