

Quintin Craufurd (22 September 1743 – 23 November 1819), a [British author](#), was born at [Kilwinning](#).

In early life he went to [India](#), where he entered the service of the [British East India Company](#). Returning to [Europe](#) before the age of forty with a handsome fortune, he settled in [Paris](#), where he gave himself to the cultivation of literature and art, and formed a good library and collection of paintings, coins and other objects of antiquarian interest.

Craufurd was on intimate terms with the French court, especially with [Marie Antoinette](#), and was one of those who arranged the [flight to Varennes](#). He escaped to [Brussels](#), but in 1792 he returned to Paris in the hope of rescuing the royal prisoners. He lived among the French émigrés until the [peace of Amiens](#) made it possible to return to Paris. Through [Talleyrand](#)'s influence he was able to remain in Paris after the war was renewed, and he died there on the 23rd of November 1819.

He wrote, among other works:

- The History, Religion, Learning and Manners of the Hindus (1790)
- Secret History of the King of France and his Escape from Paris (first published in 1885)
- Researches concerning the Laws, Theology, Learning and Commerce of Ancient and Modern India (1817)
- History of the Bastille (1798)
- On Pericles and the Arts in Greece (1815)
- Essay on Swift and his Influence on the British Government (1808)
- Notice sur Marie Antoinette (1809)
- Mémoires de Mme du Hausset (1808).

Quintin Craufurd was a Scottish author, on close terms with the French Royal Court, especially Marie Antoinette.