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AudioBooks

**NON-
FICTION**

HISTORIES

Selections from
The Diary of Samuel Pepys

Read by **Michael Maloney**



NA428812D

1	Samuel Pepys' Diaries – Preface – Fetching the King	5:43
2	The Restoration Voyage – 6th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 12th & 14th March 1660	5:45
3	15th–19th March 1660	3:47
4	22nd, 23rd, 25th, 26th & 31st March 1660	4:54
5	2nd & 6th–9th April 1660	3:44
6	11th, 18th, 21st, 23rd, 24th & 30th April 1660	5:48
7	2nd, 3rd, 10th, 13th, 14th & 17th May 1660	6:41
8	22nd, 23rd & 25th May, 1st & 2nd June 1660	6:19
9	Running the Navy	2:55
10	7th, 15th October & 4th December 1660	1:58
11	The Second Dutch War – Preface	1:29
12	Work and Play in the Shadow of War and Plague – 8th & 24th October 1662	1:32
13	6th January & 29th June 1663	2:02
14	26th, 28th July, 27th August, 5th & 6th September 1664	4:34
15	19th & 20th December 1664 & 20th February 1665	4:01
16	21st, 28th February & 1st March 1665	3:01
17	7th, 12th, 24th & 30th April 1665	3:18
18	10th, 14th & 22nd May 1665	2:22
19	3rd, 4th, 7th–11th June 1665	6:22

20	15th–17th, 20th, 23rd June & 26th July 1665	4:09
21	8th, 10th–12th & 15th August 1665	5:02
22	3rd, 9th, 10th & 14th September 1665	4:13
23	11th October, 1st, 3rd, 4th November, 6th & 31st December 1665	6:46
24	3rd January, Pepys' song 'Beauty Retire', 14th & 24th January 1666	3:31
25	9th, 10th & 26th March 1666	2:19
26	Defending the Realm, his Cash and his Reputation	2:52
27	Dutch War – Defeat, Peace and the Post Mortem – 2nd–4th June 1666	4:52
28	An Account of the Fight	4:15
29	6th & 7th June 1666	4:39
30	24th & 26th June, 1st & 4th July 1666	4:44
31	10th July, 5th August & 31st October 1666	4:43
32	8th–12th June 1667	7:05
33	13th & 14th June 1667	6:48
34	18th–20th June & 6th July 1667	6:18
35	10th, 12th & 20th October 1667	6:33
36	5th March 1668	3:19
37	The Great Fire of London – Preface	3:16

38	The Great Fire of London – 2nd September 1666	5:19
39	2nd September 1666 continued	3:48
40	3rd & 4th September 1666	5:02
41	5th September 1666	4:23
42	6th–8th September 1666	6:29
43	10th–12th, 15th & 17th September 1666	4:21
44	Deb Willet – Preface	2:23
45	Pepys, his women and the worst day of his life – 23rd July 1664, 27th September, 15th October & 22nd December 1667	4:05
46	11th January, 31st March, 25th–27th & 31st October 1668	7:03
47	3rd & 8th–10th November 1668	4:00
48	12th–14th & 16th November 1668	4:34
49	18th & 19th November 1668	6:10
50	20th, 21st, 28th & 29th November 1668	5:55
51	5th, 7th December 1668 & 12th January 1669	3:11
52	11th, 13th, 15th & 19th April 1669	4:11
53	31st May 1669 – Epilogue	2:31

Total time: 3:55:35

Selections from The Diary of Samuel Pepys

SAMUEL PEPYS – HIS LIFE BEFORE AND AFTER THE DIARY

BEFORE

In the 1650s, Samuel Pepys was an obscure clerk in the office of Mr. George Downing, one of the Tellers of the Receipt of Exchequer in London. He was not content to remain in obscurity, however, his intention was to get on in the world. His famous diary intimately charts his progress into the corridors of power.

Pepys was born on 23rd February 1633, the son of a poor tailor. The family was sober and Puritan in its inclinations, but Samuel was not to inherit these aspects. He went to St. Paul's School, and proved a ready and keen scholar; traits he was to retain all his life. In 1650 he went to Magdalene College, Cambridge. His memories of school and college must have been happy for in later years he endowed them both liberally. He received his BA in 1654, and though he had no immediate prospects of employment, married the pretty and vivacious daughter of a

Frenchman, Elizabeth St. Michel. Despite Samuel's natural amorous propensities towards any attractive woman he saw, there is no doubt that his marriage to Elizabeth was a love-match that was only ended by death. The couple were penniless, but Samuel had one piece of good fortune, he had a rich and successful relative, Edward Mountague. He had been made an Admiral under Cromwell's Protectorate, and seeing Samuel's inclination for hard work and his ambitious nature, he offered the newly-weds rooms in his apartments at Whitehall, in return for which Samuel was to make himself useful as his agent in official naval business. Neither could have known how important their partnership was to be in the decade ahead. Mountague was fortunate to have so dedicated and discreet a servant. Pepys' services were rewarded when in 1659 he was appointed to the Treasury Clerkship, an office which included a house of his own. This was Pepys' position when he decided to begin a diary. He was fortunate to live in interesting times: Cromwell and Republicanism were dead and

Charles II and the Restoration of the Monarchy were on the horizon. Sensing something in the wind perhaps, and with his customary precision, Pepys begins his **Diary** on the first day of the first month of a new decade. Reading it three hundred and forty years later, we can experience what it was like to live daily life in the 17th century with all the freshness as if Samuel had flung up his sash-cord window and let the sights and sounds of the street burst in upon us:

'Blessed be God, at the end of the last year I was in very good health, without any sense of my old pain but upon taking of cold. I live in Axe-Yard, having my wife and servant Jane, and no more in family than us three...'

And off we are hustled into the busy world of Samuel Pepys.

THE DIARY

The Diary is a monument which gives life to a man of enormous charm, modesty and vulnerability. One of the most attractive aspects of his writing is his continual self-scrutiny without any sense of irony. He knew his faults and constantly struggled to be better. His efforts were usually unsuccessful. This degree of intimacy in his writing, practically unique for the 17th

century, is accounted for by the fact that he intended his diary to be for his eyes alone. He wrote it in cipher, using an established form of shorthand devised by Shelton in 1641. His secrets remained locked in their code until the 1820s when it was published in an edited form, and the world first became acquainted with the private life of Mr. Pepys.

AFTER

After closing his **Diary**, with great reluctance, on 31st May 1669, Pepys took his wife to the Hague, for a rest and a chance to repair their marriage, which had been so battered by his affair with Deb Willet. Fate decreed that a happy future together was not to be their lot, however. Elizabeth caught a fever passing back through France, and succumbed to it within days of returning to London. She was twenty-nine years old. That Pepys was utterly distraught at his wife's death cannot be doubted. **The Diary**, despite recording so many extramarital liaisons, testifies scores of times to his passionate love for Elizabeth. It is significant that he never married again. Pepys erected a stunning statue to his wife's memory in St. Olave's Church, in the City of London near their home. The skilled sculptor has caught Elizabeth's youthful vivacity in

her face, as she is captured turning her head, as if replying to a question.

The tragedy of his wife's death was to be compounded by a disastrous fire at their home in Seething Lane in 1673. Pepys had time to save his books, including the precious six volumes of his **Diary**, but so many mementos and memories of life with Elizabeth went up in smoke forever. The house of which he was so proud, and which had provided the colourful backdrop to the events of his **Diary**, was burnt beyond repair, and he was obliged to move into lodgings. It was in 1673 too, that Mountague, his patron, and the ladder by which he had climbed so high, was drowned whilst fighting in the Third Dutch War.

But his losses were also balanced by his gains, for in this same year of 1673 he became Secretary to the Admiralty Board, representing the height of his professional ambitions. He didn't forget his old friends who had supported him through good and ill, for Will Hewer became the Admiralty's Chief Clerk. It seems too, that true to his nature, Samuel Pepys did not stay celibate for long. In the absence of a detailed diary, we only catch a glimpse of the woman who was to be the partner of his last years, though never his wife. In 1676 Robert

Hook, who was a friend of Pepys through the Royal Society, makes a tantalising reference in his diary to a 'Mrs. Pepys', and a codicil to Pepys' will made in 1700 leaving money to a Mrs. Mary Skinner, whom he claims has been his close friend for 30 years, seems to identify the woman, who Hook assumed to be Samuel's wife, conclusively. To be considered to be Mrs. Pepys implies that there was a noticeable degree of intimacy between them even as early as three years after Elizabeth's death. Certainly by the 1680s Mary seems to have been generally accepted by the Pepys' circle as his other half. Mary Skinner was the daughter of a successful city merchant, and had been a mere 17 when she first met Samuel. There is no documentary evidence, alas, describing their first meeting and courtship, but how they came to an understanding can well be imagined from the many amorous adventures related in **The Diary**. A leopard after all does not change his spots.

The 1670s brought a significant change to the political climate and public mood of Stuart Britain. A slow-burning hysteria was developing against the influence of Catholics in the government and the royal family. It was well known that James, Duke of York, the brother of Charles II and heir to the throne, was a confessed Roman

Catholic, and rumours of Papist treachery were increasing during this decade, to erupt in 1678 into the discovery of the so-called Popish Plot. This fabrication sprang from the desire for a witch-hunt against Catholics in high places, and on the flimsiest of evidence, many a worthy man perished as a result. The Duke of York, as England's High Admiral, was Pepys' boss, and Samuel found himself tainted by association with England's foremost Roman Catholic. In 1673, Pepys presented himself as prospective Parliamentary candidate for Castle Rising, and although he won the seat, he had to face the jeers of the crowd and the accusations of being 'a bloody Papist'. Of course he was no such thing, but such was the mood of the times that the accusation stuck, and in 1679 he was accused of corruption and abuse of his Office, and formally charged with 'Piracy, Popery and Treachery'. There wasn't any basis for such a charge. False witnesses testified against him, and he was forced to resign. A brief sojourn in the Tower followed. His career was ruined, his job as Secretary, with its perquisite of a house was lost, though he was financially secure. When he was let out on bail, it was his old friend Will Hewer who came to the rescue, inviting Pepys to come and live with him.

Pepys was determined to clear his name, which led to a second diary being started. It contained, however, none of the exuberance or insight of the first **Diary**, being specifically designed as a record of conversations Pepys had with the false witnesses that had brought about his downfall in an effort to get them to speak the truth. His thoroughness once again paid off, the charge was dropped through the evidence being unsubstantiated. Pepys was acquitted in 1680, and continued as Secretary to the Admiralty. Pepys' reputation as a man of worth and influence is reflected in the honours that were heaped on him at this time. In 1676 he became Master of Trinity House, the institution that cared for naval veterans, and the following year Master of the Clothworkers Company. [The silver cup he presented to the Company is still in evidence at their banquets.] In 1684 he became President of the Royal Society, which must have been a particularly gratifying appointment to the man who displays such eager enthusiasm and a sense of wonder for anything scientific in his diaries. He must have been 'mightily pleased' with the way his life had turned out, particularly when his master, the Duke of York, became King James II in

1685. However, the spectre of James' Catholicism reared its head once again, and in the 'Glorious Revolution' of 1689 James was ousted by the solidly Protestant Dutchman William of Orange. All those who had found favour under James, which of course included Pepys, now fell from grace. Samuel Pepys' long and fruitful connection with England's Royal Navy ceased in the same year that William III ascended his throne. Like many great men when they leave office, he concentrated on producing a book of memoirs, though not alas of his own fascinating life, but a volume of 'Memoirs of the Navy'.

By now in his sixties, Pepys' health was beginning to deteriorate. In 1700, he was suffering from an ulcerated kidney, and his old wound, produced by his bladder-stone operation in his youth, had once again flared up. He moved down to Will Hewer's house at Clapham, surrounded by his beloved books and the people most dear to him: Mary Skinner, Will and John Jackson, his nephew and godson. By April 1703, when he was 70, he knew he was dying. He revised his will, leaving Mary £200 a year for life. On the morning of 26th May, watching the sun rise, he died wishing that God would be gracious to him.

John Evelyn wrote in his diary: 'This

day died Mr. Sam. Pepys, a very worthy, industrious and curious person, none in England exceeding him in knowledge of the navy, in which he had passed through all the most considerable offices...all of which he performed with great integrity...he was universally belov'd, hospitable, generous, learned in many things, skill'd in music, a very greate cherisher of learned men of whom he had the conversation...' A generous tribute from one great chronicler of the 17th century to another.

PEPYS AND MUSIC

Music runs like a thread throughout **The Diary**. At every opportunity Pepys would indulge his passion for music-making, whether at home, his office, a tavern, the cellar at Audley End ('there being an excellent echo'), or even on-board ship whilst waiting for the momentous events of the Restoration. He taught himself to play the viols, the theorbo and the flageolet and his 'greatest content' was to invite his musical friends to his house for an impromptu 'concert'. Music appears to have had a profound physical effect on Pepys. Listening to music in the theatre for instance, he found 'so sweet it ravished me, and...did wrap up my soul so that it made me really sick.'

Pepys dabbled in composition, and had some success within his own circle with his setting of words from Sir William Davenant's play 'The Siege of Rhodes'. 'Beauty Retire' is written in the declamatory

style of the 'recitative music' that was very popular at the time. The most famous exponent of this musical style was the court-composer Henry Lawes (1596–1662).

A GLOSSARY OF THE NAMES OF SOME OF PEPYS' ASSOCIATES AND FRIENDS

Edward Shepley – The Earl of Sandwich's steward, who from 1659 to 1662 helped Pepys manage the Earl's Whitehall lodgings. Pepys often complains of his inefficiency.

Will Howe – A junior colleague of Pepys in Sandwich's service. He went as Sandwich's clerk to the Hague in 1660. He eventually became Secretary and Deputy Treasurer to the Fleet in 1664.

John Creed – A secretary in the Sandwich household, but in competition with Pepys for Sandwich's favour. He was superseded by Pepys for the voyage to the Hague, and lost favour maybe because he was a Puritan. Pepys implies that his undoubted ability was tempered with meanness.

Thomas Cowley – Clerk of the Cheque at Deptford 1660–5, brother of the poet Abraham.

Balthasar St. Michel (Balty) – Pepys'

troublesome French brother-in-law, who expected and got advancement at Pepys' hands.

Anthony Joyce – A tallow chandler related to Pepys by marriage to his cousin. Pepys is not very approving of him. He appears to have been unsuccessful and died in 1668 after attempting to drown himself.

Will Hewer – A naval official and merchant. He entered the Pepys' household as a manservant and clerk, but quickly became Pepys' confidant and close friend. He became very wealthy in later years, and took care of his ailing master. Pepys died at his house in Clapham in 1703.

Mrs. Knipp – Actress, singer and dancer in the King's company.

Edward Mountague – A distant relation of Pepys, who became his patron. He was an Admiral in Cromwell's navy (though always a moderate rather than a republican) and was instrumental in bringing about the

Restoration, being personally responsible for bringing King Charles back from the Continent. For his pains he was created Earl of Sandwich. He achieved notability in the Dutch Wars, but was involved in the

scandal of making money from prize-goods. Pepys, who owed his success to Mountague, refers to him in **The Diary** as 'My Lord'.

Notes by David Timson

The music on this recording is taken from the NAXOS catalogue

PURCELL THE TEMPEST	8.554262
Aradia Baroque Ensemble, Kevin Mallon	
PURCELL SUITES & TRANSCRIPTIONS FOR HARPSICHORD	8.553982
Terence R Charlston	
PURCELL THE FAIRY QUEEN	8.550660-1
The Scholars Baroque Ensemble	
PURCELL DIDO & AENEAS	8.553108
The Scholars Baroque Ensemble	

The music was programmed by Sarah Butcher

Lute song, 'Beauty Retire', composed by Samuel Pepys
Sung by David Timson, Lutenist Dorothy Linell

Selections from The Diary of Samuel Pepys

Read by **Michael Maloney**

The Diary of Samuel Pepys is perhaps the most well-known collection of reminiscences. He maintained it, in secrecy, from 1660, the year of the Restoration, until 1669, when fear of blindness prevented his daily labours. Though it covers less than a decade, it offers a lively and detailed insight into a period and a personality – for he noted events in both public and private life. Famous passages include descriptions of The Plague and The Great Fire of London. In this presentation key sections are set in historical context.



Michael Maloney's many Shakespearean roles on the London stage include Edgar in *King Lear*, the title roles in *Hamlet* and *Romeo and Juliet*, Prince Hal in *Henry IV Parts 1 & 2*; on film he has appeared in Branagh's productions of *Hamlet* and *Henry V*, as well as in Parker's *Othello*. Other notable films include Minghella's *Truly, Madly, Deeply*. He frequently performs on radio and TV. He has been involved in other Naxos AudioBooks productions including *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *King Richard III*, and *Poets of the Great War*. He has also played the part of George Tesman in *Hedda Gabler* for Naxos AudioBooks.

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