



NAXOS

AudioBooks

NON-
FICTION
UNABRIDGED



Edward Gibbon

THE DECLINE AND FALL
OF THE
ROMAN EMPIRE

Read by

David Timson

VOLUME IV

CD 1

1	Chapter 37	10:00
2	Athanasius introduced into Rome...	10:06
3	Such rare and illustrious penitents were celebrated...	8:47
4	Pleasure and guilt are synonymous terms...	9:52
5	The lives of the primitive monks were consumed...	9:42
6	Among these heroes of the monastic life...	11:09
7	Their fiercer brethren, the formidable Visigoths...	10:35
8	The temper and understanding of the new proselytes...	8:33

Total time on CD 1: 78:49

CD 2

1	The passionate declarations of the Catholic...	9:40
2	VI. A new mode of conversion...	9:08
3	The example of fraud must excite suspicion...	9:14
4	His son and successor, Recared...	12:03
5	Chapter 38	10:07
6	The first exploit of Clovis was the defeat of Syagrius...	8:43
7	Till the thirtieth year of his age Clovis continued...	10:45
8	The kingdom of the Burgundians...	8:59

Total time on CD 2: 78:43

CD 3

1	A full chorus of perpetual psalmody...	11:18
2	Such is the empire of Fortune...	10:08
3	The Franks, or French, are the only people of Europe...	9:56
4	In the calm moments of legislation...	10:31
5	The silence of ancient and authentic testimony...	11:39
6	The general state and revolutions of France...	11:27
7	We are now qualified to despise the opposite...	13:38

Total time on CD 3: 78:42

CD 4

1	One of these legislative councils of Toledo...	11:59
2	A monk, who in the profound ignorance...	8:30
3	In a century of perpetual...	8:46
4	This strange alteration has persuaded historians...	8:05
5	Their disposition was rash and choleric...	8:08
6	General Observations on the Fall of the Roman Empire	10:26
7	This awful revolution may be usefully applied...	7:54
8	III. Cold, poverty, and a life of danger and fatigue...	8:32
9	Chapter 39	5:12

Total time on CD 4: 77:37

CD 5

1	An hero, descended from a race of kings...	8:55
2	In every state of his fortune...	10:30
3	The jealousy of power and the mischiefs of discord...	12:57
4	The life of Theodoric represents the rare...	10:25
5	As the patron of the republic...	10:51
6	A difference of religion is always pernicious...	8:04
7	Even the religious toleration...	9:56
8	A philosopher, liberal of his wealth...	7:43

Total time on CD 5: 79:27

CD 6

1	But his genius survived to diffuse a ray...	7:08
2	Chapter 40	10:04
3	While he indulged the people of Constantinople...	8:53
4	I. In the exercise of supreme power...	10:35
5	Those who believe that the female mind...	7:49
6	II. A material difference may be observed...	11:43
7	A sedition which almost laid Constantinople in ashes...	11:20
8	III. That empire, after Rome was barbarous...	11:33

Total time on CD 6: 79:11

CD 7

1	To escape the Tartar robbers and the tyrants...	10:45
2	IV. The subjects of Justinian were dissatisfied...	9:43
3	The aerial tribute, without a name...	11:50
4	V. The edifices of Justinian were cemented...	10:00
5	But the pride of the Roman Solomon...	11:17
6	Almost every saint in the calendar acquired the honours...	10:20
7	Asia Minor, after the submission of the Isaurians...	15:18

Total time on CD 7: 79:17

CD 8

1	The death of Perozes abandoned Persia...	8:37
2	VII. Justinian suppressed the schools of Athens...	10:12
3	The Gothic arms were less fatal to the schools of Athens...	11:49
4	Chapter 41	11:03
5	The Africanus of new Rome was born...	11:10
6	In the seventh year of the reign of Justinian...	11:13
7	In a march of ten or twelve days...	15:01

Total time on CD 8: 79:09

CD 9

1	The historian has inserted and the reader may easily...	10:09
2	Yet the conquest of Africa was imperfect...	11:55
3	But the purest reward of Belisarius...	11:27
4	The experience of past faults...	9:44
5	But the future happiness of the queen of Italy...	11:13
6	Although Theodatus descended from a race of heroes...	9:39
7	At the end of twenty days that of Belisarius...	7:03
8	As soon as Belisarius had fortified his new conquests...	7:44

Total time on CD 9: 79:01

CD 10

1	Yet Rome in its present state...	12:15
2	From the moment that Belisarius had determined...	10:17
3	These seasonable aids...	10:42
4	In this hasty act of violence...	10:02
5	As soon as Belisarius was delivered...	9:35
6	Every spectator admired, without peril...	11:21
7	A philosopher may pity and forgive the infirmities...	8:56
8	Chapter 42	5:42

Total time on CD 10: 78:55

CD 11

1	In such an age, the triumphs of Belisarius...	10:15
2	Four thousand six hundred villages were scattered...	9:37
3	In the midst of these obscure calamities...	9:08
4	In the rapid career of conquest...	10:28
5	The answer of Disabul corresponded...	8:38
6	But the justice of kings is understood by themselves...	10:35
7	In the search of universal knowledge...	10:07
8	He advanced into the heart of Syria...	10:16

Total time on CD 11: 79:10

CD 12

1	Fifteen generals, without concert or skill...	10:49
2	Yet, amidst the rudest ignorance...	9:48
3	But the Lazi soon discovered that their impatience...	11:50
4	In peace, the king of Persia continually sought...	8:24
5	The independence of the Homerites...	5:59
6	Chapter 43	9:48
7	A personal injury, the unjust execution or murder...	9:45
8	The virtues of Belisarius were replaced...	12:20

Total time on CD 12: 78:47

CD 13

1	The foresight of Totila had raised obstacles...	9:41
2	The loss of Rome was speedily retrieved...	9:25
3	Before the departure of Belisarius, Perugia was besieged...	10:14
4	The talents of Narses were tried and improved...	10:00
5	The first line of cavalry advanced with more courage...	11:00
6	Before Lucca had surrendered...	9:34
7	After a reign of sixty years...	9:06
8	But the eyes of the prince and people...	8:56

Total time on CD 13: 78:02

CD 14

1	If the emperor could rejoice in the death of Belisarius...	5:04
2	I shall conclude this chapter...	12:07
3	III. Aethiopia and Egypt have been stigmatised...	10:54
4	Chapter 44	8:59
5	I shall not repeat the well-known story of the Decemvirs...	10:09
6	Once, and once only, he experienced...	10:37
7	The tyrant of Rome was sometimes the benefactor...	12:01
8	The jurisprudence which had been grossly adapted...	9:00

Total time on CD 14: 78:56

CD 15

1	This opposition of sentiments was propagated...	10:29
2	From the library of Tribonian they chose forty...	11:58
3	It is the first care of a reformer to prevent...	10:20
4	The law of nature instructs most animals...	8:15
5	Experience has proved that savages are the tyrants...	10:44
6	Insufficient remedies followed with distant and tardy steps...	9:25
7	The relation of guardian and ward...	9:03
8	The personal title of the first proprietor...	9:02

Total time on CD 15: 79:20

CD 16

1	But the experience of unnatural parents...	8:29
2	II. The obligations of the second class...	9:06
3	The execution of the Alban dictator...	11:36
4	The first imperfect attempt to restore the proportion...	12:07
5	The free citizens of Athens and Rome...	13:40
6	Chapter 45	9:11
7	While Alboin served under his father's standard...	8:18
8	The destruction of a mighty kingdom...	6:36

Total time on CD 16: 79:08

CD 17

1	The reality, or the suspicion...	11:50
2	When the nephew of Justinian ascended the throne...	9:50
3	With the odious name of Tiberius...	11:23
4	During a period of two hundred years...	12:03
5	So rapid was the influence of climate and example...	9:34
6	Amidst the arms of the Lombards...	11:40
7	The pontificate of Gregory the Great...	11:27

Total time on CD 17: 77:52

CD 18

1	Chapter 46	10:19
2	The throne of Chosroes Nushirvan was filled...	11:26
3	As the passes were faithfully guarded...	9:52
4	The palace was soon distracted with conspiracy...	10:40
5	These were the casual sallies of his pride...	10:35
6	The military fame of Commentiolus is the object of satire...	10:05
7	In a small bark the unfortunate Maurice...	7:36
8	In the massacre of the Imperial family...	7:31

Total time on CD 18: 78:09

CD 19

1	Even after his death the republic was afflicted...	9:43
2	From the long-disputed banks of the Tigris and Euphrates...	10:37
3	On the shore of Chalcedon the emperor held...	10:05
4	Whatever hardship the emperor imposed on the troops...	11:06
5	Instead of skirmishing on the frontier...	10:26
6	Eastward of the Tigris, at the end of the bridge of Mosul...	9:19
7	Twenty-two satraps, they styled themselves patriots...	9:23

Total time on CD 19: 70:45

Total time on CDs 1–19: 24:49:00

Edward Gibbon

THE DECLINE AND FALL
OF THE
ROMAN EMPIRE

VOLUME IV

SUMMARY OF THE CONTENTS

Chapter 37

The institution of the monastic life – its origin, effects and progress • The Ascetic way of life – its origins in Egypt • St Antony • Athanasius encourages monasticism in Rome – it spreads throughout the Roman world • The fanaticism of the monks • Imposition of strict rules and discipline in monasteries • Of labour and abstinence in the monastic communities • The rigorous extremes of hermits • Simeon Stylites • The popularity of and reverence for monks

Chapter 38

The state of the Roman provinces after the dissolution of the Western Empire •

Conflict between the Germans and Gauls • The reign and conquests of Clovis • He defeats the Alemanni • His conversion to Christianity • The Burgundians and Visigoths • The Franks (Merovingians) establish the French monarchy • The laws of the Franks and Germans • Subjection of the Auvergne • The servitude of the Romans of Gaul • The decline of the Merovingian Kings and the disorder of the government of the Franks • The Visigoths invade Spain • The Saxons conquer Britain • Vortigern, Hengist and Horsa • The fierce resistance of the Britons • The myth of King Arthur • The constitution of Saxon England

General Observations on the Fall of the Roman Empire in the West

The unity of the ancient Romans • Decline caused by ‘immoderate greatness’ • The weakening of Roman power by the division of the Empire • The influence of Christianity on the fall of the Roman Empire • The overwhelming numbers of the Barbarian attackers • The loss of the Roman provinces to the Barbarians • Their military strength • The natural progression of mankind towards civilisation

Chapter 39

Zeno (474–491) and Anastasius (491–518), emperors of the Eastern Empire • Theodoric the Ostrogoth, King of Italy • His birth, education and first exploits • His opposition to Odoacer • His conquest of Italy • The Gothic Kingdom of Italy • Peace and trade established • The government and administration • Theodoric in Rome • His religious toleration • Boethius the senator • The death of Theodoric

Chapter 40

The rise of Justin the Elder (518–527) • His character • The rise to power of his

nephew Justinian • The reign of Justinian (527–565) • The life of the actress Theodora and her elevation to empress • Her cruelty • Her devotion to Justinian • The Roman Games • The factions of the Circus • Constantinople adopts the factions • Their bad influence on the selection of officers of state • The violent friction between the factions produces sedition in the church • Flourishing trade and manufactures in the Eastern Empire • The Silk trade • Dissatisfaction of the public with Justinian’s management of the Finances • The avarice of Justinian and his unjust taxes • The buildings of Justinian • The rebuilding of St Sophia • Description of its architecture • Justinian re-fortifies Constantinople and the frontiers of the Eastern Empire • The Philosophical teachings of the School of Athens and the ancient office of Consul, abolished by Justinian

Chapter 41

The military campaigns of Justinian against the West • The general Belisarius • His life and early campaigns • His conquest of the Vandals in Africa • His triumph •

Belisarius invades the Vandal territories of the West • Amalasontha, Vandal Queen of Italy • Belisarius recovers Sicily, Naples and Rome • The Goths besiege Rome • Belisarius's military strategy saves Rome • The Gothic losses and fall of Ravenna • The continuing glory of Belisarius • The infidelity of his wife, Antonina • Belisarius loses the support of Justinian • His ignominious dismissal

Chapter 42

The insecurity of the Eastern Empire after the fall of Belisarius • The origins and rise to power of the Lombards • The barbaric tribes of Russia: the Bulgarians and the Slavonians • The emergence of the Turks • Their conquests • The Turks send embassies to the Emperor Justinian • The flight of the Avars • Justinian forms an alliance with the Turks • Nushirvan (Chosroes), King of Persia • His wisdom and his prosperous reign • The spread of learning and science in Persia • Nushirvan's wars with Justinian • Nushirvan, Justinian and the Colchian or Lazic wars • The rise and fall of the Ethiopians

Chapter 43

Rebellions in Africa against Justinian • Revival of the Gothic nation by Totila • His conquests and attack on Rome • Belisarius's military skill retrieves Rome from the Goths • The conquest of Italy by Narses the eunuch, general of the Eastern Empire • Belisarius disgraced by Justinian • Belisarius's death • The last years of Justinian and his death • The portents: comets, earthquakes and plagues during Justinian's reign

Chapter 44

Roman Jurisprudence from Romulus to Justinian • The laws of the Kings • The 12 Tables of the decemviri • The laws of the people • The decrees of the senate • The edicts of the magistrates and emperors • The authority of the civilians • The reform of Roman jurisprudence by Justinian • His codes, pandects and novels • Justinian's Institutes: I. Rights of persons — II. Rights of things — III. Private injuries and actions — IV. Crimes and punishments

Chapter 45

The reign of Justin II (565–574) • The embassy of the Avars • They settle on the Danube • The conquests of the Lombards • Alboin, their leader, conquers Italy • The assassination of Alboin • Justin's weak reign and adoption of Tiberius (574–582) as successor • The Emperor Maurice (582–602) • The plight of Italy under the Lombards • The state of Rome at the end of the 6th century • The character and pontificate of Gregory I

Chapter 46

Unrest in Persia against the emperor after the death of Nushirvan • His son Hormouz succeeds and degenerates into a tyrant • Combined forces of Romans and Turks depose Hormouz • Bahram, a Persian general, retaliates • His usurpation • Flight and restoration of Chosroes II, son of Hormouz, with the aid of the emperor Maurice • Chosroes's gratitude to the Romans • Europe threatened by the Chagan of the Avars • Maurice resolves to march against the Avars • Revolt of the army against Maurice • His

flight, execution and the death of his sons • Tyranny of Phocas (602–610) • Elevation of Heraclius, exarch of Africa, to the Imperial throne (610–641) • Persia, under Chosroes II, rises against Heraclius • Chosroes subdues Syria, Egypt and Asia Minor • Siege of Constantinople by the Persians and Avars • Character of Heraclius • His victories over the Persians and Avars • The triumph of Heraclius and the weakness of the Eastern Empire after a long war

EMPERORS OF ROME

AUGUSTUS: 27 BC–14 AD

TIBERIUS: 14–37

CALIGULA: 37–41

CLAUDIUS I: 41–54

NERO: 54–68

GALBA: 68–69

OTHO: 69

VITELLIUS: 69

VESPASIAN: 69–79

TITUS: 79–81

DOMITIAN: 81–96

NERVA: 96–98

TRAJAN: 98–117

HADRIAN: 117–138

ANTONINIUS PIUS: 138–161

MARCUS AURELIUS: 161–180

 With Lucius Verus: 161–169

 With Commodus: 177–180

COMMODUS: 180–192

PERTINAX: 193

DIDIUS JULIANUS: 193

SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS: 193–211

 With Caracalla: 198–209

 With Caracalla and Geta: 209–211

CARACALLA: 211–217

 With Geta: 211

MACRINUS: 217–218

ELAGABALUS: 218–222

ALEXANDER SEVERUS: 222–235

MAXIMINUS THRAX : 235–238

GORDIAN I & GORDIAN II: 238

PUPIENUS & BALBINUS: 238

GORDIAN III: 238–244

PHILIP: 244–249

DECIUS: 249–251

TREBONIANUS GALLUS: 251–253

AEMILIANUS: 253

VALERIAN: 253–260

 With Gallienus: 253–260

GALLIENUS: 260–268

CLAUDIUS II: 268–270

QUINTILLUS: 270

AURELIAN: 270–275

TACITUS: 275–276

FLORIANUS: 276

PROBUS: 276–282

CARUS: 282–283

CARINUS: 283–285

 With Numerian: 283–284

DIOCLETIAN: 284–305

 With Maximian: 286–305

 With Galerius 293–305

GALERIUS: 305–311

 With Constantius I: 305–306

With Constantine I: 306–311
With Maxentius: 306–311
With Licinius: 307–311
With Maximinus II: 308–311
CONSTANTINE I: 311–337
With Maxentius: 311–312
With Licinius: 311–324
CONSTANTINE II, CONSTANTIUS II &
CONSTANS: 337–340
CONSTANTIUS II: 340–361
With Constans: 340–350
JULIAN: 361–363
JOVIAN: 363–364
VALENTINIAN I: 364–375
With Valens: 364–375
With Gratian: 367–375
VALENS: 364–378
With Gratian and Valentinian II:
375–378
THEODOSIUS I: 379–395
With Gratian: 379–383
With Valentinian II: 379–392
With Arcadius: 383–395
With Honorius: 392–395

Emperors of the Western Empire after Theodosius I

HONORIUS: 394–423
VALENTINIAN III: 423–455
PETRONIUS MAXIMUS: 455
AVITUS: 455–456
MAJORIAN: 457–461
LIBIUS SEVERUS: 461–465
(No Emperor: 465–467)
ANTHEMIUS: 467–472
OLYBRIUS: 472
GLYCERIUS: 473–474
JULIUS NEPOS: 474–475
ROMULUS AUGUSTULUS: 475–476

End of the Western Empire: Odoacer, King of Italy

EMPERORS OF THE EASTERN ROMAN EMPIRE

CONSTANTINE I: 306–337
CONSTANTIUS II: 337–361 (sole emperor after 350)
JULIAN: 361–363 (sole emperor)

JOVIAN: 363–364 (sole emperor)

VALENS: 364–378

Dynasty of Theodosius

THEODOSIUS I, the Great: 379–395

(sole emperor after 392)

ARCADIUS: 395–408

THEODOSIUS II: 408–450 (Anthemius,
regent: 408–414)

MARCIAN: 450–457 (married to
Pulcheria, daughter of Arcadius)

Dynasty of Leo

LEO I, the Thracian: 457–474

LEO II: 474

ZENO: 474–491

ANASTASIUS I, Dicomus: 491–518

Dynasty of Justinian

JUSTIN I: 518–527

JUSTINIAN I: 527–565

JUSTIN II: 565–574 (Sophia, regent)

TIBERIUS II, Constantine: 574–582

MAURICE: 582–602

PHOCAS: 602–610

Dynasty of Heraclius

HERACLIUS: 610–641

CONSTANTINE III: 641

CONSTANS II: 641–668

CONSTANTINE IV: 668–685

JUSTINIAN II: 685–695 (banished)

LEONTIUS: 695–698

TIBERIUS III: 698–705

JUSTINIAN II (restored): 705–711

PHILIPPICUS: 711–713

ANASTASIUS II: 713–715

THEODOSIUS III: 715–717

Syrian or Isaurian Dynasty (the Iconoclasts)

LEO III, the Isaurian: 717–741

CONSTANTINE V, Copronymus: 741–775

LEO IV, the Khazar: 775–780

CONSTANTINE VI: 780–797 (blinded and
murdered by mother Irene, wife of Leo IV)

IRENE: 797–802

NIKEPHOROS I: 802–811

STAUACIUS: 811

MICHAEL I, Rhangabe: 811–813

LEO V, the Armenian: 813–820

Phrygian or Amorian Dynasty

MICHAEL II, the Amorian: 820–829

THEOPHILUS: 829–842

MICHAEL III: 842–867

Macedonian Dynasty

BASIL I, the Macedonian: 867–886

LEO VI, the Wise: 886–912

ALEXANDER: 912–913

CONSTANTINE VII, Porphyrogenitus:
913–959

 With Romanus I, Lekapenos: 920–944

ROMANUS II: 959–963

BASIL II: 963–1025

 With Nikephoros II: 963–969

 With John I Zimiskes: 969–976

CONSTANTINE VIII: 1025–28

ROMANUS III, Argyros: 1028–1034

MICHAEL IV, the Paphlagonian:
1034–1041

MICHAEL V, Kalaphates: 1041–1042

CONSTANTINE IX, Monomachus:
1042–1055

THEODORA: 1055–1056

MICHAEL VI, Bringas: 1056–1057

ISAAC I, Comnenus: 1057–1059
(abdicated)

CONSTANTINE X, Doukas: 1059–1067

ROMANUS IV, Diogenes: 1068–1071

MICHAEL VII, Doukas: 1071–1078

NIKEPHOROS III, Botaneiates: 1078–1081

Dynasty of the Comneni

ALEXIOS I, Komnenos: 1081–1118

JOHN II, Komnenos: 1118–1143

MANUEL I, Komnenos: 1143–1180

ALEXIUS II, Komnenos: 1180–1183

ANDRONICUS I, Komnenos: 1183–1185

Dynasty of the Angeli

ISAAC II, Angelos: 1185–1195
(dethroned)

ALEXIOS III, Angelos: 1195–1203

ISAAC II (restored): 1203–1204

 With Alexios IV, Angelos: 1203–1204

ALEXIOS V, Doukas: 1204

Capture of Constantinople by the Fourth
Crusade and establishment of Latin
emperors in the city

Latin Emperors of the East

BALDWIN I: 1204–1205

HENRY: 1206–1216

PETER OF COURTENAY: 1216–1217

ROBERT: 1221–1228

BALDWIN II: 1228–1261

With John of Brienne: 1229–1237

Eastern Emperors in Nicaea

THEODORE I, Laskaris: 1204–1222

JOHN III, Doukas Vatatzes: 1222–1254

THEODORE II, Laskaris: 1254–1258

JOHN IV, Laskaris: 1258–1261

With Michael VIII, Palaiologos:

1259–1261

Recapture of Constantinople and re-establishment of the Eastern emperors there

Dynasty of the Palaiologi

(Seven-year civil war: 1390, 1391–1425, 1425–1448, 1449–1453, 1453)

MICHAEL VIII, Palaiologos: 1261–1282

ANDRONIKOS II, Palaiologos: 1282–1328

With Michael IX: 1294–1320

ANDRONICUS III, Palaiologos: 1328–1341

JOHN V, Palaiologos: 1341–1376

With John VI, Kantakouzenos:

1347–1354

With Andronikos IV, Palaiologos:

1354–1373

ANDRONIKOS IV, Palaiologos: 1376–1379

JOHN V, Palaiologos (restored):

1379–1390

JOHN VII, Palaiologos: 1390

JOHN V, Palaiologos (restored): 1391

MANUEL II, Palaiologos: 1391–1425

JOHN VIII, Palaiologos: 1425–1448

CONSTANTINE XI, Palaiologos:

1449–1453

Capture of Constantinople by Mahomet II

End of the Roman Empire

THE LIFE OF EDWARD GIBBON

It was at Rome, on the 15th of October, 1764, as I sat musing amidst the ruins of the Capitol, while the barefoot friars were singing vespers in the Temple of Jupiter, that the idea of writing the decline and fall of the city first started to my mind.

Memoirs of My Life and Writings, 1796

Gibbon was born at Putney, Surrey, on 8 May 1737, into a comfortable, though not particularly wealthy, family. At the age of ten, his mother died and he was brought up by an aunt. During childhood he was always sick and of a weak disposition. This interrupted any regular attendance at school and led to his being privately educated at home, where he had access to his father's extensive library. This developed the natural scholar in Gibbon at an early age.

At age 15, he went to Magdalen College, Oxford, and he 'arrived with a stock of erudition that might have puzzled a doctor' (Gibbon, *Memoirs*).

Ever curious, Gibbon challenged the Anglican clergymen who were his tutors

as to the true faith. His inclination was towards the Roman Catholic faith, and after consultation with a Roman Catholic student, he converted to Catholicism. It was a rash decision, for by English law, Roman Catholics were excluded from public office and ostracised from many rights available to their Anglo-Catholic brethren.

When Gibbon's father learnt of his son's actions he was furious and insisted that his son should be sent to Lausanne, Switzerland, which was a centre of Calvinism, to be re-indoctrinated to the Protestant faith.

Gibbon studied there under the Calvinist minister Daniel Pavilliard for nearly five years (1753–1758). During this time he renounced his conversion, became fluent in French and Latin, had a meeting with Voltaire, and for the one and only time in his life, fell in love, with a beautiful and highly intelligent girl, Suzanne Curchod. Once again, Gibbon was thwarted by his father who would not countenance 'this strange alliance', and Gibbon reluctantly returned to England. Reflecting on this in his *Memoirs*, Gibbon wrote:

'I sighed as a lover, I obeyed as a son.'

With the advent of the Seven Years War in 1760, Gibbon dutifully joined, with his father, the local militia, which was assembled in response to the possibility of a French invasion. He does not seem to have shone as an officer. At the end of his term of service he embarked on a grand tour of Europe, an obligatory experience for educated young men in the 18th century. Arriving in Rome early in October 1764, he was overwhelmed by its magnificence and antiquities, and as he said in his memoirs it was here he first began to conceive his *magnum opus*, but it would be nine years before he began to write it. The first volume of *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, shortened here to *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, was published in 1776. It was an instant success and quickly ran into three editions. Volumes II and III appeared in 1781, with equivalent success. In the same year, Gibbon was elected as an MP for Lymington, but despite a dead end job in the board of trade in Lord North's declining government, his parliamentary career was uneventful.

Resorting to his true vocation, he moved back to Lausanne and shared accommodation with an old student friend, George Deyverdun, and completed the last three volumes of his *Decline and Fall*, which were all published in 1788, to coincide with his 51st birthday.

In 1793, when the effects of the French Revolution began to intrude on his Swiss idyll, he returned to England. His health had begun to fail, an enlarged scrotum caused him considerable pain and despite several unsuccessful operations, he died in his sleep on 16 January 1794, at the age of 56.

A NOTE ON THE TEXT

The text used in this recording of Gibbon's *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* is the standard Everyman edition of 1910. It is a clean text unabridged and unedited, and in six volumes it reflects the division of chapters of the original edition of the 1780s.

Notes by David Timson



David Timson has made over 1,000 broadcasts for BBC Radio Drama. For Naxos AudioBooks he wrote *The History of Theatre*, which won an award for most original production from the Spoken Word Publishers Association in 2001. He has also directed five Shakespeare plays for Naxos AudioBooks, including *King Richard III* (with Kenneth Branagh), which won Best Drama award from the SWPA in 2001. In 2002 he won the Audio of the Year award for his reading of *A Study in Scarlet*. He has read the entire *Sherlock Holmes* canon for Naxos AudioBooks.

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