

**OCCASIONAL PAPERS READ
BY MEMBERS AT MEETINGS
OF THE SAMUEL PEPYS
CLUB. VOL. I, 1903-1914**

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Occasional papers read by members at meetings of the Samuel Pepys Club. Vol. I, 1903-1914 by Various

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The Samuel Pepys Club
Founded 26th May 1903

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READ BY MEMBERS AT
MEETINGS OF THE
SAMUEL PEPYS CLUB

EDITED BY THE PRESIDENT



VOLUME I

1903-1914

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PREFACE

ON the evening of the 26th of May 1903—the two hundredth anniversary of the death of Samuel Pepys—Sir Frederick Bridge, Mr. D'Arcy Power, Mr. George Whale, and Mr. Henry B. Wheatley dined together at the Garrick Club, and unanimously passed the following resolution:

“Resolved that a Pepys Dining Club be formed during the present year.”

Well-known admirers of Pepys and his immortal Diary were at once invited to join the new Club, and the response was prompt and enthusiastic. On Wednesday, 8 July, the first business meeting of the members was held, when certain resolutions were passed, and a President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Executive Committee were elected. The membership was strictly limited to seventy (the age of Pepys at his death) and that number has always been maintained during the fourteen years of its existence.

On Tuesday, 1 December 1903, the first dinner of the Club was held by permission of the Clothworkers' Company in their grand hall, and was a brilliant success.

The publications of the Samuel Pepys Club have hitherto been confined to the illustrated programmes of Songs selected by Sir Frederick Bridge and sung at its Meetings. They form a valuable record of the Music of Pepys's time, and of the special feature of the Club's dinners, which has made these Meetings so uniformly successful.

It has, however, always been intended that some further record of the Club's proceedings should be printed, so that when the scourge of war overtook our country in 1914, and our dinners were suspended for a time, steps were taken to produce a volume of "Occasional Papers" read at our Meetings. By the kindness of the authors we are able to produce in this small, but handsome volume, a tribute to the memory of a great public servant and unique diarist. It is hoped that the Members will appreciate the production of the volume as evidence that although its meetings had to be suspended for a time, the Club is as thoroughly alive as it has ever been. We may confidently hope to continue our Transactions with success, and we need not anticipate any lack of valuable matter in the future.

Mr. Lionel Cust, of whose great interest in the Club we have so many instances, has collected a large amount of important genealogical material relating to Pepys and his connections, which he has kindly placed at the disposal of the Club.

We should have been pleased to issue some portion of this material in the present volume, but the funds at our disposal would not permit. It is hoped, however, that we may be able to print these collections in a second volume.

The papers have not been printed in the order of reading, which may be seen from the Chronological List of Meetings at the beginning of the volume, but they are divided into two groups: (1) Papers relating generally to Pepys's Life and Occupations; (2) Papers on subjects more particularly illustrative of the Diary.

The last paper which completes the volume (read on the anniversary of Pepys's birthday, 23 February 1916) contains an attempt to show the gradual but sure growth of Pepys's Fame.

The illustrations in the volume are of much interest, especially the reproductions of the drawings made by Mr. Samuel Pepys Cockerell to illustrate his paper on "Some Distinctive Features in Pepys's Portraits." Other illustrations here used have already appeared in the programmes of the Meetings.

Outside its own particular work the Club has been proud to act as the representative of Mr. Pepys in a small duty, which would have appealed to him: that of restoring the portrait of the great Dr. John Wallis, F.R.S., by Sir Godfrey Kneller, with its beautiful contemporary silvered frame, which Pepys presented to the University of Oxford as one of the latest

public actions of his life. When a few years ago a general renovation of the portraits in the Bodleian Gallery was carried out, it was suggested that the Samuel Pepys Club might do its part. Therefore in 1905 it took upon itself the expense connected with this particular portrait, the Members subscribing a sum of £25 4s. for this special purpose.

The Club is now in the fourteenth year of its existence, and it has to deplore the loss since its foundation of many devoted Members. Death has deprived us of several of our honorary Members, viz., Miss Cockerell, the representative of the Pepys Cockerell family; Edward, 8th Earl of Sandwich, representative of Pepys's patron, the 1st Earl, and two masters of Magdalene College, Cambridge—the Rev. Lord Braybrooke and the Rev. Dr. Donaldson, who all took much interest in the Club. The death roll among the ordinary members contains the honoured names of J. B. Atlay, Judge Bacon, Paul Bevan, Sir William Bousfield, George Chatterton, S. P. Cockerell, jun., Charles Critchett, Dr. W. H. Cummings, Dr. G. H. R. Dabbs, Dr. Francis Elgar, Sir Laurence Gomme, J. Eliot Hodgkin, Joseph Knight, Sir John Knox Laughton, Alfred H. Littleton, F. G. Hilton Price, Sir Owen Roberts, Dr. John Todhunter, Robert Walters, Sir William White, K.C.B., E. D. J. Wilson, Lt.-Col. W. T. Wright, and Sidney Young. All these were true Pepysians, and their memory will ever live in the hearts of their