

**D'EON DE
BEAUMONT,
HIS LIFE AND TIMES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649145768

D'Eon de Beaumont, his life and times by Octave Homberg & Fernand Jouselin & Alfred Rieu

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

OCTAVE HOMBERG & FERNAND JOUSSELIN & ALFRED RIEU

**D'EON DE
BEAUMONT,
HIS LIFE AND TIMES**

D'EON DE BEAUMONT

THE CHEVALIER D'EON
1729-1795



THE CHEVALIER D'EON 1770

From the Portrait by Huquier

**D'EON DE BEAUMONT
HIS LIFE AND TIMES**

COMPILED CHIEFLY FROM UNPUBLISHED
PAPERS AND LETTERS BY OCTAVE HOMBERG
AND FERNAND JOUSSELIN AND NOW TRANS-
LATED INTO ENGLISH BY ALFRED RIEU

LONDON: MARTIN SECKER
NUMBER FIVE JOHN STREET ADELPHI MCMXI

CONTENTS

I

FROM TONNEIRE TO ST. PETERSBURG

	PAGE
Childhood—His first Successes and Friends—Enters Diplomatic Service—Employed also by Louis XV. in his "Secret" Diplomacy—Mission to Russia—Attached to Chevalier Douglas in negotiating the Alliance of France and Russia—Triumphant Return to Paris	17-43

II

DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY

Returns to Russia to join Marquis de L'Hospital—Embassy of Baron de Breteuil—Carries the Ratification of the Treaty with Russia to France, 1758—Gives up Diplomacy for the Army and is appointed Aide-de-Camp to Marshal de Broglie—His brilliant Services during the Seven Years' War—Enters the Diplomatic Service again and accompanies the Duc de Nivernais to London	44-60
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------

III

IN LONDON

Difficult Negotiations in London to bring about the Peace of 1763—The English Government entrusts d'Eon to carry the Ratification of the Treaty to Paris—He receives the Cross of St. Louis—The Comte de Guerchy appointed to succeed the Duc de Nivernais as Ambassador in London—D'Eon acts as Minister Plenipotentiary in the Interim—Arrogates to himself the Style and Position of Ambassador and quarrels with the Duc de Praslin and de Guerchy	61-80
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------

IV

CONTENTION WITH DE GUERCHY

Comte de Guerchy arrives in London—D'Eon is disgraced and takes Steps to revenge himself—Accuses de Guerchy of attempting to murder him—The de Vergy Case—Mission of Carrelet de la Rozière—The Duc de Choiseul urges d'Eon to return to France and to restore the Secret Service Papers to the King—His Extradition refused by the English Government—D'Eon's Letter to his Mother 81-99

V

LAWSUITS AND A PENSION

Embittered and libellous Contention with de Guerchy—Publishes *Lettres, Mémoires et Négociations* in London—Louis XV. sends Emissaries to him—D'Hugonnet arrested in Calais, and the Secret Correspondence endangered—Opens Proceedings against de Guerchy, who is pronounced guilty by an English Jury—The King grants a Pension to d'Eon, who decides to remain in England 100-123

VI

BIRTH OF AN IDEA

While in England continues in Secret Service of the King—Correspondence with Comte de Broglie—Offers his Services to the King of Poland, but Louis XV. opposes the Scheme—D'Eon's Popularity in London—The Beta regarding his Sex—Leaves London and travels in England under assumed Name—Entertains the Idea of passing as a Woman 124-144

VII

THE MORANDE CASE

Secret Service on behalf of Louis XV. and of Madame du Barry—The Morande Case—Negotiation with Beaumarchais—Publishes *Les Loix du Chevalier d'Eon*—Louis XV. loses Interest in the Secret Diplomacy, of which his Ministers had grown suspicious—Favier and Dumouriez imprisoned and Comte de Broglie exiled—Death of the King—Louis XVI. discontinues the Secret Service—On the Comte de Broglie's Recommendation d'Eon receives a Pension—Fresh Pretensions of the Chevalier 145-166

CONTENTS

11

VIII

METAMORPHOSIS

	PAGE
Louis XVI. refuses the Chevalier's Claims—Creditors become pressing, and d'Eon deposits his valuable Documents with Earl Ferrers—His Lack of Means forces him to adopt the Plan of passing as a Woman—His Avowal to Beaumarchais—Consents to sign a Declaration in due Form—Comte de Vergennes sends a Safe Conduct to the Chevalière d'Eon for her Return to France	167-186

IX

RETURN OF A HEROINE

The Chevalière arrives in France—Reception accorded at Tonnerre—Stays at Versailles and presented at Court—Impressions of her Family, Friends and Contemporaries—Popularity of the new "Heroine" in France and her Success both at Court and in Parisian Society—Her voluminous Correspondence—Fresh Disturbance with Beaumarchais—Feminine Garments, contrary to Arrangement, being discarded d'Eon is arrested and sent to Dijon Castle	187-234
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------

X

TONNERRE ONCE MORE

Imprisonment at Dijon—Set at Liberty and exiled to Tonnerre—New Plans and fresh Movements—Attempts to equip <i>La Chevalière d'Eon</i> —In Paris during winter of 1780-1781—Returns to Tonnerre and lives quietly among Neighbours—In 1785 is called to London on Private Business	235-255
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------

XI

LONDON AND THE END

Returns to London and settles with his Creditors—His former Popularity revived—Endeavours to sell his Library and Collections—First News of the Revolution— <i>La Citoyenne Geneviève d'Eon</i> an ardent Jacobin—Petitions the National Assembly—In order to obtain a Living gives Public Fencing Competitions—Wounded at Southampton, 1796—Illness and Old Age—Dies in London, May, 1810	256-275
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------

