

**THE MEMOIRS**  
**OF**  
**JACQUES CASANOVA de**  
**SEINGALT 1725-1798**

**THE RARE UNABRIDGED LONDON EDITION  
OF 1894 TRANSLATED BY ARTHUR MACHEN  
TO WHICH HAS BEEN ADDED THE CHAPTERS  
DISCOVERED BY ARTHUR SYMONS.**

[Transcriber's Note: These memoires were not written for children, they may outrage readers also offended by Chaucer, La Fontaine,

Rabelais and The Old Testament. D.W.]

[ENLARGE TO FULL SIZE](#)

## ***CONTENTS***

[CASANOVA AT DUX](#)

[TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE](#)

[AUTHOR'S PREFACE](#)

***THE MEMOIRS OF JACQUES CASANOVA***

***VENETIAN YEARS***

***EPISODE 1 — CHILDHOOD***

[CHAPTER I](#)

[CHAPTER II](#)

[CHAPTER III](#)

*CHAPTER IV*

*CHAPTER V*

*CHAPTER VI*

*CHAPTER VII*

***EPISODE 2 — CLERIC IN NAPLES***

*CHAPTER VIII*

*CHAPTER IX*

*CHAPTER X*

*CHAPTER XI*

*CHAPTER XII*

***EPISODE 3 — MILITARY CAREER***

*CHAPTER XIII*

*CHAPTER XIV*

*CHAPTER XV*

***EPISODE 4 — RETURN TO VENICE***

*CHAPTER XVI*

*CHAPTER XVII*

*CHAPTER XVIII*

*CHAPTER XIX*

***EPISODE 5 — MILAN AND MANTUA***

***CHAPTER XX***

***CHAPTER XXI***

***CHAPTER XXII***

***CHAPTER XXIII***

***ENLARGE TO FULL SIZE***

***TO PARIS AND PRISON***

***EPISODE 6 — PARIS***

***CHAPTER I***

***CHAPTER II***

***CHAPTER III***

***CHAPTER IV***

***CHAPTER V***

***CHAPTER VI***

***CHAPTER VII***

***CHAPTER VIII***

***CHAPTER IX***

***EPISODE 7 — VENICE***

***CHAPTER X***

***CHAPTER XI***

*CHAPTER XII*

*CHAPTER XIII*

*CHAPTER XIV*

*CHAPTER XV*

***EPISODE 8 — CONVENT AFFAIRS***

*CHAPTER XVI*

*CHAPTER XVII*

*CHAPTER XVIII*

*CHAPTER XIX*

*CHAPTER XX*

***EPISODE 9 — THE FALSE NUN***

*CHAPTER XXI*

*CHAPTER XXII*

*CHAPTER XXIII*

*CHAPTER XXIV*

*CHAPTER XXV*

***EPISODE 10 — UNDER THE LEADS***

*CHAPTER XXVI*

*CHAPTER XXVII*

*CHAPTER XXVIII*

*CHAPTER XXIX*

*CHAPTER XXX*

*CHAPTER XXXI*

*CHAPTER XXXII*

*ENLARGE TO FULL SIZE*

***EPISODE 11 — PARIS AND HOLLAND***

*CHAPTER I*

*CHAPTER II*

*CHAPTER III*

*CHAPTER IV*

***EPISODE 12 — RETURN TO PARIS***

*CHAPTER V*

*CHAPTER VI*

*CHAPTER VII*

*CHAPTER VIII*

*CHAPTER IX*

***EPISODE 13 — HOLLAND AND GERMANY***

*CHAPTER X*

*CHAPTER XI*

*CHAPTER XII*

***EPISODE 14 — SWITZERLAND***

***CHAPTER XIII***

***CHAPTER XIV***

***CHAPTER XV***

***CHAPTER XVI***

***CHAPTER XVII***

***CHAPTER XVIII***

***EPISODE 15 — WITH VOLTAIRE***

***CHAPTER XIX***

***CHAPTER XX***

***CHAPTER XXI***

***ENLARGE TO FULL SIZE***

***ADVENTURES IN THE SOUTH***

***EPISODE 16 — DEPART SWITZERLAND***

***CHAPTER I***

***CHAPTER II***

***CHAPTER III***

***EPISODE 17 — RETURN TO ITALY***

*CHAPTER IV*

*CHAPTER V*

*CHAPTER VI*

*CHAPTER VII*

***EPISODE 18—RETURN TO NAPLES***

*CHAPTER VIII*

*CHAPTER IX*

*CHAPTER X*

*CHAPTER XI*

*CHAPTER XII*

***EPISODE 19 — BACK AGAIN TO PARIS***

*CHAPTER XIII*

*CHAPTER XIV*

*CHAPTER XV*

*CHAPTER XVI*

*CHAPTER XVII*

***EPISODE 20 — MILAN***

*CHAPTER XVIII*

*CHAPTER XIX*

*CHAPTER XX*

*CHAPTER XXI*

*CHAPTER XXII*

*ENLARGE TO FULL SIZE*

***VOLUME 5 — TO LONDON AND MOSCOW***

***EPISODE 21 — SOUTH OF FRANCE***

*CHAPTER I*

*CHAPTER II*

*CHAPTER III*

*CHAPTER IV*

***EPISODE 21 — TO LONDON***

*CHAPTER V*

*CHAPTER VI*

*CHAPTER VII*

*CHAPTER VIII*

*CHAPTER IX*

***EPISODE 23—THE ENGLISH***

*CHAPTER X*

*CHAPTER XI*

*CHAPTER XII*

*CHAPTER XIII*

*EPISODE 24 — FLIGHT FROM LONDON TO BERLIN*

*CHAPTER XIV*

*CHAPTER XV*

*CHAPTER XVI*

*CHAPTER XVII*

*CHAPTER XVIII*

*EPISODE 25 — RUSSIA AND POLAND*

*CHAPTER XIX*

*CHAPTER XX*

*CHAPTER XXI*

*CHAPTER XXII*

*CHAPTER XXIII*

*ENLARGE TO FULL SIZE*

*VOLUME 6 — SPANISH PASSIONS*

*EPISODE 26 — SPAIN*

*CHAPTER I*

*CHAPTER II*

*CHAPTER III*

*CHAPTER IV*

*CHAPTER V*

*CHAPTER VI*

***EPISODE 27 — EXPELLED FROM SPAIN***

*CHAPTER VII*

*CHAPTER VIII*

*CHAPTER IX*

*CHAPTER X*

*CHAPTER XI*

*CHAPTER XII*

***EPISODE 28 — RETURN TO ROME***

*CHAPTER XIII*

*CHAPTER XIV*

*CHAPTER XV*

*CHAPTER XVI*

*CHAPTER XVII*

***EPISODE 29 — FLORENCE TO TRIESTE***

*CHAPTER XVIII*

*CHAPTER XIX*

*CHAPTER XX*

CHAPTER XXI

CHAPTER XXII

**EPISODE 30 — OLD AGE AND DEATH OF CASANOVA**

**APPENDIX AND SUPPLEMENT**

**PART THE FIRST — VENICE 1774-1782**

I — CASANOVA'S RETURN TO VENICE

II — RELATIONS WITH THE INQUISITORS

III — FRANCESCA BUSCHINI

IV — PUBLICATIONS

V — MLLE. X . . . C . . . V . . .

VI — LAST DAYS AT VENICE

**PART THE SECOND — VIENNA-PARIS**

I — 1783-1785

II — PARIS

III — VIENNA

IV — LETTERS FROM FRANCESCA

V — LAST DAYS AT VIENNA

**PART THE THIRD — DUX — 1786-1798**

I — THE CASTLE AT DUX

*II — LETTERS FROM FRANCESCA*

*III — CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIVITIES*

*IV — CORRESPONDENCE WITH JEAN-FERDINAND OPIZ*

*V — PUBLICATIONS*

*VI — SUMMARY of MY LIFE*

*VII — LAST DAYS AT DUX*

## ***Illustrations***

*Bookcover 1*

*Titlepage 1*

*Chapter 4*

*Chapter 5*

*Chapter 8*

*Chapter 9*

*Chapter 14*

*Chapter 14b*

*Chapter 17*

*Chapter 18*

*Chapter 8*

[Chapter 9](#)

[Chapter 22](#)

[Chapter 23](#)

[Chapter 5](#)

[Chapter 6](#)

[Chapter 11](#)

[Chapter 12](#)

[Chapter 7](#)

[Chapter 8](#)

[Chapter 16](#)

[Chapter 16b](#)

[Chapter 7](#)

[Chapter 8](#)

[Chapter 15](#)

[Chapter 17](#)

[Chapter 7](#)

[Chapter 8](#)

[Chapter 15](#)

[Chapter 16](#)

# CASANOVA AT DUX

## An Unpublished Chapter of History, By Arthur Symons

### I

The Memoirs of Casanova, though they have enjoyed the popularity of a bad reputation, have never had justice done to them by serious students of literature, of life, and of history. One English writer, indeed, Mr. Havelock Ellis, has realised that 'there are few more delightful books in the world,' and he has analysed them in an essay on Casanova, published in *Affirmations*, with extreme care and remarkable subtlety. But this essay stands alone, at all events in English, as an attempt to take Casanova seriously, to show him in his relation to his time, and in his relation to human problems. And yet these Memoirs are perhaps the most valuable document which we possess on the society of the eighteenth century; they are the history of a unique life, a unique personality, one of the greatest of autobiographies; as a record of adventures, they are more entertaining than *Gil Blas*, or *Monte Cristo*, or any of the imaginary travels, and escapes, and masquerades in life, which have been written in imitation of them. They tell the story of a man who loved life passionately for its own sake: one to whom woman was, indeed, the most important thing in the world, but to whom nothing in the world was indifferent. The bust which gives us the most lively notion of him shows us a great, vivid, intellectual face, full of fiery energy and calm resource, the face of a thinker and a fighter in one. A scholar, an adventurer, perhaps a Cabalist, a busy stirrer in politics, a gamester, one 'born for the

fairer sex,' as he tells us, and born also to be a vagabond; this man, who is remembered now for his written account of his own life, was that rarest kind of autobiographer, one who did not live to write, but wrote because he had lived, and when he could live no longer.

And his Memoirs take one all over Europe, giving sidelights, all the more valuable in being almost accidental, upon many of the affairs and people most interesting to us during two-thirds of the eighteenth century. Giacomo Casanova was born in Venice, of Spanish and Italian parentage, on April 2, 1725; he died at the Chateau of Dux, in Bohemia, on June 4, 1798. In that lifetime of seventy-three years he travelled, as his Memoirs show us, in Italy, France, Germany, Austria, England, Switzerland, Belgium, Russia, Poland, Spain, Holland, Turkey; he met Voltaire at Ferney, Rousseau at Montmorency, Fontenelle, d'Alembert and Crebillon at Paris, George III. in London, Louis XV. at Fontainebleau, Catherine the Great at St. Petersburg, Benedict XII. at Rome, Joseph II. at Vienna, Frederick the Great at Sans-Souci. Imprisoned by the Inquisitors of State in the Piombi at Venice, he made, in 1755, the most famous escape in history. His Memoirs, as we have them, break off abruptly at the moment when he is expecting a safe conduct, and the permission to return to Venice after twenty years' wanderings. He did return, as we know from documents in the Venetian archives; he returned as secret agent of the Inquisitors, and remained in their service from 1774 until 1782. At the end of 1782 he left Venice; and next year we find him in Paris, where, in 1784, he met Count Waldstein at the Venetian Ambassador's, and was invited by him to become his librarian at Dux. He accepted, and for the fourteen remaining years of his life lived at Dux, where he wrote his Memoirs.

Casanova died in 1798, but nothing was heard of the Memoirs (which the Prince de Ligne, in his own Memoirs, tells us that Casanova had read to him, and in which he found 'du dyamatique, de la rapidite, du comique, de la philosophie, des choses neuves,

sublimes, inimitables meme') until the year 1820, when a certain Carlo Angiolini brought to the publishing house of Brockhaus, in Leipzig, a manuscript entitled *Histoire de ma vie jusqu a l'an 1797*, in the handwriting of Casanova. This manuscript, which I have examined at Leipzig, is written on foolscap paper, rather rough and yellow; it is written on both sides of the page, and in sheets or quires; here and there the paging shows that some pages have been omitted, and in their place are smaller sheets of thinner and whiter paper, all in Casanova's handsome, unmistakable handwriting. The manuscript is done up in twelve bundles, corresponding with the twelve volumes of the original edition; and only in one place is there a gap. The fourth and fifth chapters of the twelfth volume are missing, as the editor of the original edition points out, adding: 'It is not probable that these two chapters have been withdrawn from the manuscript of Casanova by a strange hand; everything leads us to believe that the author himself suppressed them, in the intention, no doubt, of re-writing them, but without having found time to do so.' The manuscript ends abruptly with the year 1774, and not with the year 1797, as the title would lead us to suppose.

This manuscript, in its original state, has never been printed. Herr Brockhaus, on obtaining possession of the manuscript, had it translated into German by Wilhelm Schutz, but with many omissions and alterations, and published this translation, volume by volume, from 1822 to 1828, under the title, '*Aus den Memoiren des Venetianers Jacob Casanova de Seingalt.*' While the German edition was in course of publication, Herr Brockhaus employed a certain Jean Laforgue, a professor of the French language at Dresden, to revise the original manuscript, correcting Casanova's vigorous, but at times incorrect, and often somewhat Italian, French according to his own notions of elegant writing, suppressing passages which seemed too free-spoken from the point of view of morals and of politics, and altering the names of some of the persons referred to, or replacing those names by initials. This revised text was published in twelve volumes, the first two in 1826, the third and fourth in 1828, the fifth to the eighth in 1832,

## Thank You for previewing this eBook

You can read the full version of this eBook in different formats:

- HTML (Free /Available to everyone)
- PDF / TXT (Available to V.I.P. members. Free Standard members can access up to 5 PDF/TXT eBooks per month each month)
- Epub & Mobipocket (Exclusive to V.I.P. members)

To download this full book, simply select the format you desire below

