

Grenville and Pepys

Samuel Pepys wrote his diary during the years 1660-69 and used a form of shorthand known as *tachygraphy* which had been invented shortly before by Thomas Shelton. After his death in 1703 he left the diary, in six leatherbound volumes, to Magdalene college, Oxford, where it remained for more than a century. In 1818 Evelyn's Diary was published and met with some success and in it was mention of Pepys' Diary. This attracted the attention of George Grenville, Master of Magdalene. He took the volumes of the Diary and showed them to his kinsman Lord Grenville, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. Lord Grenville, who knew something about ciphers, did a little bit of the deciphering and encouraged the Master. In 1819 the volumes, with a few hints from the Secretary of State, were handed to an undergraduate, John Smith, (the curate of Barham and a graduate of the College, later rector of Baldock in Hertfordshire). Between 1819 and 1822 Smith diligently transcribed Pepys' six volumes into a total of fifty-four notebooks, which were then used by the Master's older brother Richard Griffin-Neville as the basis for the publication of a small selection from the Diary in 1825.* This edition was re-issued in 1828, with further editions appearing in 1848-1849 and 1854 containing expanded selections from the text.

For the Diary see www.pepysdiary.com

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Memoirs of Samuel Pepys Comprising His Diary from 1659 to 1669, Deciphered by the Rev. John Smith A.B. of St. John's College, Cambridge, from the Original Short-Hand Ms. in the Pepysian Library, and a Selection from His Private Correspondence.

Edited by Richard, Lord Braybrooke. [Two Volumes].

Book Description: London: Henry Colburn, 1825., 1825. Pages [2], xlii, 498, [2], xlix, [3] pp.; [4], 348, vii, [1], 311, [1] pp.4to. (33 cm). Three quarter morocco over marble paper-covered boards, four compartments, two with gilt titles, top edge gilt, marbled endpapers. First edition. Illus. with an engraved frontispiece in each volume plus 11 engraved plates (1 folding), and two engraved in-text illustrations. The plates are engraved by R. Cooper, Bragg Thomson, and R. White, after Kneller, Derby, Lely, Hailes, and Neville. Matthews, p.29; CBEL, p.831; Grolier 100 (#75); Osler 5286; Lowndes III, 1828.

