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Chapter 1 : George Villiers (2nd Duke of Buckingham) (The Diary of Samuel Pepys)

George Villiers, second duke of Buckingham, ; a study in the history of the restoration, by Winifred, lady Burghclere. by: Burghclere, Winifred Anne Henrietta Christine Herbert Gardner, Baroness,

Villiers family George Villiers was born in Brooksby , Leicestershire, on 28 August , the son of the minor gentleman Sir George Villiers . Villiers took to the training set by his mother: Bishop Godfrey Goodman declared Villiers to be "the handsomest-bodied man in all of England; his limbs so well compacted, and his conversation so pleasing, and of so sweet a disposition". Money was raised to purchase Villiers a new wardrobe, and intense lobbying secured his appointment as Royal Cup-bearer , a position that allowed him to make conversation with the king. In he was knighted as a Gentleman of the Bedchamber. Stephen who was said to have had "the face of an angel". You may be sure that I love the Earl of Buckingham more than anyone else, and more than you who are here assembled. I wish to speak in my own behalf and not to have it thought to be a defect, for Jesus Christ did the same, and therefore I cannot be blamed. Christ had John , and I have George. Restoration of Apethorpe Palace in 1688 revealed a previously unknown passage linking his bedchamber with that of James. Buckingham used his influence to prodigiously enrich his relatives and advance their social positions, which soured public opinion towards him. Bacon wrote letters of advice to the young favourite and drafted the patent of nobility when Buckingham ascended to the peerage. Following an investigation by Parliament into royal grants of monopoly, financial speculation and corrupt officials, Bacon was convicted of corruption and forced into retirement. Thence, he acquired control of the Irish customs farm , dominated Irish patronage at court, particularly with the sale of Irish titles and honours, and from began to build substantial Irish estates for himself, his family and clients with the aid of a plantation lobby, composed of official clients in Dublin. To the same end, he secured the creation of an Irish Court of Wards in . When Parliament began its investigation into monopolies and other abuses in England, and later Ireland in , Buckingham made a show of support to avoid action being taken against him. He headed further marriage negotiations, but when, in December , the betrothal to Henrietta Maria of France was announced, the choice of a Catholic was widely condemned. Buckingham, whose popularity had suffered a further setback, took a decision to help the rebellious Huguenot Admiral Prince Soubise. Yet even before they set sail the food was consumed awaiting the Board of Ordnance to deliver the cannonry and musket balls. On this occasion the Lord Admiral was not in command. Although this plan was tactically sound landing further up the coast and marching the militia army on the city the troops were badly-equipped, ill-disciplined and poorly-trained. Coming upon a warehouse filled with wine, they simply got drunk, and the attack was called off. The English army briefly occupied a small port further down the coast before re-boarding its ships. The King too was hurting; England was heading towards war with France. This was followed by Buckingham leading the Army and the Navy to sea to intercept an anticipated Spanish silver fleet from its American territories. However the Spanish were forewarned by their intelligence and easily avoided the planned ambush. With supplies running out, men sick and dying from starvation and disease, the English limped home in embarrassment. The plan only fuelled their fears of crypto-Catholicism at court. Shortly before departure Buckingham had authorized a new dry dock at Portsmouth to bring Navy Administration up to date; yet it was never built. On 18 September Earl of Lindley arrived with fireships but they did not prove decisive. The king had rescued him by dissolving it both times, but public feeling was so inflamed as a result that he was widely blamed as a public enemy. Eventually his physician, Dr Lambe, popularly supposed to assert a diabolic influence over him, was mobbed in the streets and died as a result. Among the pamphlets issued afterwards was one that prophesied Let Charles and George do what they can, The Duke shall die like Doctor Lambe. According to an eye-witness account, he lived just long enough to jump up, shouting "Villain! The assassin was John Felton , an army officer who had been wounded in the earlier military adventure and believed he had been passed over for promotion by Buckingham. A large number of poems celebrating Felton and justifying

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his action were published. Copies of written statements Felton carried in his hat during the assassination were also widely circulated. However, these punishments were remitted after his father and Archbishop Laud appealed to King Charles I. However, this proved to be a miscalculation by the authorities as it became an object of veneration by the public. His lavish tomb bears a Latin inscription that may be translated as "The Enigma of the World". Here, too, he was depicted surrounded by mythical figures. The black marble sculptures at each corner include Mars and Neptune, in reference to his military and naval exploits; on the catafalque lie bronze-gilt effigies of the Duke and his wife who long survived him, cast by Hubert le Sueur. Buckingham is clad in armour, enriched with crossed anchors and with an ermine cloak over it. He wears on his breast the chain and George of the Garter and on his head a ducal coronet, summing up the principal steps in his brief career. Self-promotion through the arts[edit] As a means of manoeuvring for political as well as court advancement, Villiers commissioned masques in which he was able to promote himself in a leading role. There he is dressed in white brocade and white silk hose, wearing the Garter and standing in a decor of costly silks. Another full-length portrait by the same artist celebrates his succession as Lord High Admiral in Here he wears three-quarter armour; on the right, behind a balustrade, is a shoreline with the fleet beyond. This is evident in the lovingly depicted lace about his collar and cuffs in the full-length portrait by Cornelis Janssens van Ceulen. At his entry to the French Court, he is recorded as wearing a grey velvet suit from which the loosely threaded pearls dropped to the ground as he advanced to make his bow to the queen, to the general wonder. Two of these are connected with his betrothal to and marriage with Lady Katherine Manners in There is a further literary connection, since the story is found in Ovid, but the picture again defies convention by hinting at a different, happier ending. In front of the marble temple to which he is carried upwards are the probable figures of Virtue and Abundance; the three Graces offer the Duke a crown of flowers, while Envy seeks to pull him down and a lion challenges him. Several other personal references are also incorporated. Overhead, a winged allegory of Fame signals victory which nevertheless evaded the commander in real life with trumpet in hand. These now form part of the collection at the National Portrait Gallery. There he is similarly depicted as Lord Admiral with a military baton in his right hand. During the expedition that he led personally, Buckingham was recorded as sponsoring "an unprecedented campaign of intensive print propaganda". In this the Duke is cast as Mercury, the patron of the arts, the procession of whom is brought in his train to the presence of the king and queen in the guise of Apollo and Diana. Marriage and children[edit] Buckingham with his wife Katherine Manners, their daughter Mary and son George. The children of this marriage were: Lord Francis Villiers bef. At thirty-five, which was then his age, he passed, with just title, for the handsomest gentleman and the most elegant cavalier of France or England. The favourite of two kings, immensely rich, all-powerful in a kingdom which he disordered at his fancy and calmed again at his caprice, George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, had lived one of those fabulous existences which survive, in the course of centuries, to astonish posterity. The second film includes his assassination by Felton, but following the original novel in this depicts the killing as being orchestrated by the fictional Milady de Winter, an agent of the principal villain, Cardinal Richelieu.

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Add a photo to this gallery He was released by 17 July, was restored to favour and to his appointments on 15 September, and took an active part in the prosecution of Clarendon. When Clarendon fell, he became the chief minister, even though he held no high office except that of Master of the Horse, bought from the Duke of Albemarle in 1660. In 1661 he was elected chancellor of Cambridge, and in 1662 high steward of the University of Oxford. He favoured religious toleration, and earned the praise of Richard Baxter; he supported a scheme of comprehension in 1663, and advised the Royal Declaration of Indulgence in 1669. His illicit connection with the Countess of Shrewsbury led to a duel with her husband the Earl at Barn Elms on 16 January 1667, in which the Earl was fatally wounded. He intrigued against James, Duke of York, against Sir William Coventry – one of the ablest statesmen of the time, whose fall he procured by provoking Coventry to send him a challenge – and against the Duke of Ormonde, who was dismissed in 1668. Arlington, next to Buckingham himself the most powerful member of the "Cabal" and a favourite of the king, was less easy to overcome; and he derived considerable influence from the control of foreign affairs entrusted to him. Buckingham always been an adherent of the French alliance, while Arlington concluded through Sir William Temple the Triple Alliance of 1669. He was much pleased with his reception by Louis XIV, declared that he had "more honours done him than ever were given to any subject", and, was presented with a pension of 10,000 livres a year for Lady Shrewsbury. After all this activity he suffered a keen disappointment in being passed over for the command of the newly formed Blackheath Army in favour of the Duke of Schomberg. Buckingham was given command of a regiment, but resented serving under Schomberg. He now knew of the secret treaty of Dover, and towards the end of his jealousy of Arlington became open hostility. He threatened to impeach him, and endeavoured with the help of Louis to stir up a faction against him in parliament. In the House of Commons he was attacked as the promoter of the French alliance, of "popery" and arbitrary government. He defended himself chiefly by endeavouring to blame Arlington; but the house approved a petition to the king to remove Buckingham from his councils, presence and from employment forever. In the spring of 1670 he was conspicuous for his opposition to the Test Oath and for his abuse of the bishops, and on 16 November he introduced a bill for the relief of the nonconformists. On 15 February he was one of the four lords who tried to embarrass the government by raising the question whether the parliament, not having assembled according to the act of Edward III once in the year, had not been dissolved by the recent prorogation. The motion was rejected and the four lords were ordered to apologize. When they refused, they were sent to the Tower, Buckingham in particular exasperating the House by ridiculing its censure. Because of this, a writ was issued for his arrest, but it was never served. He promoted the return of Whig candidates to Parliament, constituted himself the champion of the dissenters, and was admitted a Freeman of the City of London. In hopes of converting him to Roman Catholicism, James sent him a priest, but Buckingham ridiculed his arguments. He died on 16 April 1678, from a chill caught while hunting, in the house of a tenant in Kirkbymoorside in Yorkshire it is known as Buckingham House and it is located in the town centre, expressing great repentance and feeling himself "despised by my country and I fear forsaken by my God". With his death, the family founded by the extraordinary rise to power and influence of the first duke ended. As he left no legitimate children, the title became extinct, and his great estate was completely dissipated; of the enormous mansion [12] he constructed at Cliveden in Buckinghamshire only the arcaded terrace remains. Buckingham is often judged ostentatious, licentious, and unscrupulous, the "Alcibiades of the seventeenth century. His good looks and amusing wit made him irresistible to his contemporaries, in spite of his moral faults and even crimes. A contemporary observer at the Court of Charles II found him: On the other hand he is an atheist, blasphemer, violent, cruel and infamous for his licentiousness, in which he is so wrapped up that there is no sex, nor age, nor condition of persons who are

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spared from it". John Reresby calls him "the first gentleman of person and wit I think I ever saw", and Burnet bears the same testimony. Dean Lockier, after alluding to his unrivalled skill in riding, dancing and fencing, adds, "When he came into the presence-chamber it was impossible for you not to follow him with your eye as he went along, he moved so gracefully". Racing and hunting were his favourite sports, and his name long survived in the hunting songs of Yorkshire. John Dryden described him under the character of Zimri in celebrated lines in the poem Absalom and Achitophel to which Buckingham replied in Poetical Reflections on a late Poem On the contrary, the distinguishing features of his life are incompleteness, aimlessness, imperfection, insignificance, neglected talent and wasted opportunity. He is more severely but more justly judged by himself. In light-hearted moments he wrote "Methinks, I see the wanton houres flee, And as they passe, turne back and laugh at me", but his last recorded words, "O! It is believed that Samuel Butler had a hand in it. Dryden had his revenge in his picture of Buckingham as Zimri in Absalom and Achitophel. Buckingham also published two adapted plays: The latest edition of his works is that by T. Another work is named by Wood, A Demonstration of the Deity, of which there is now no trace. He is soon smitten with the young lady, which Philippe perceives quickly, and appeals to his mother, Anne of Austria. Anne, whose love for Villiers Senior was chronicled in The Three Musketeers , convinces him that, due to his feelings, it would be best for French-English relations if he returned home. De Wardes escorts him to a boat destined for England, but before departing, the two men duel and de Wardes is injured. In the motion picture Stage Beauty , Ben Chaplin plays him.

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Chapter 3 : Staff View: A rake and his times:

George Villiers, 2nd Duke of Buckingham, 20th Baron de Ros, KG, PC, FRS (30 January - 16 April) was an English statesman and poet.

John Maitland, 1st Duke of Lauderdale He was released by 17 July, was restored to favour and to his appointments on 15 September, and took an active part in the prosecution of Clarendon. When Clarendon fell, he became the chief minister, even though he held no high office except that of Master of the Horse , bought from the Duke of Albemarle in In he was elected chancellor of Cambridge, and in high steward of the University of Oxford. He favoured religious toleration, and earned the praise of Richard Baxter ; he supported a scheme of comprehension in , and advised the Royal Declaration of Indulgence in His illicit connection with the Countess of Shrewsbury led to a duel with her husband the Earl at Barn Elms on 16 January , in which the Earl was fatally wounded. He intrigued against James, Duke of York , against Sir William Coventry "one of the ablest statesmen of the time, whose fall he procured by provoking Coventry to send him a challenge"and against the Duke of Ormonde , who was dismissed in Arlington , next to Buckingham himself the most powerful member of the "Cabal" and a favourite of the king, was less easy to overcome; and he derived considerable influence from the control of foreign affairs entrusted to him. Buckingham always been an adherent of the French alliance, while Arlington concluded through Sir William Temple the Triple Alliance of He was much pleased with his reception by Louis XIV , declared that he had "more honours done him than ever were given to any subject", and, was presented with a pension of 10, livres a year for Lady Shrewsbury. After all this activity he suffered a keen disappointment in being passed over for the command of the newly formed Blackheath Army in favour of the Duke of Schomberg. Buckingham was given command of a regiment, but resented serving under Schomberg. He now knew of the secret treaty of Dover, and towards the end of his jealousy of Arlington became open hostility. He threatened to impeach him, and endeavoured with the help of Louis to stir up a faction against him in parliament. In the House of Commons he was attacked as the promoter of the French alliance, of "popery" and arbitrary government. He defended himself chiefly by endeavouring to blame Arlington; but the house approved a petition to the king to remove Buckingham from his councils, presence and from employment forever. In the spring of he was conspicuous for his opposition to the Test Oath and for his abuse of the bishops, and on 16 November he introduced a bill for the relief of the nonconformists. On 15 February he was one of the four lords who tried to embarrass the government by raising the question whether the parliament, not having assembled according to the act of Edward III once in the year, had not been dissolved by the recent prorogation. The motion was rejected and the four lords were ordered to apologize. When they refused, they were sent to the Tower , Buckingham in particular exasperating the House by ridiculing its censure. Because of this, a writ was issued for his arrest, but it was never served. He promoted the return of Whig candidates to Parliament, constituted himself the champion of the dissenters, and was admitted a Freeman of the City of London. In hopes of converting him to Roman Catholicism, James sent him a priest, but Buckingham ridiculed his arguments. He died on 16 April , from a chill caught while hunting, in the house of a tenant in Kirkbymoorside in Yorkshire it is known as Buckingham House and it is located in the town centre , expressing great repentance and feeling himself "despised by my country and I fear forsaken by my God". With his death, the family founded by the extraordinary rise to power and influence of the first duke ended. As he left no legitimate children, the title became extinct, and his great estate was completely dissipated; of the enormous mansion [12] he constructed at Cliveden in Buckinghamshire only the arcaded terrace remains. Buckingham is often judged ostentatious, licentious, and unscrupulous, the " Alcibiades of the seventeenth century. His good looks and amusing wit made him irresistible to his contemporaries, in spite of his moral faults and even crimes. A contemporary observer at the Court of Charles II found him: On the other hand he is an atheist, blasphemer, violent, cruel and infamous for his licentiousness, in which he is so wrapped up that there is no sex, nor age, nor condition

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of persons who are spared from it". John Reresby calls him "the first gentleman of person and wit I think I ever saw", and Burnet bears the same testimony. Dean Lockier, after alluding to his unrivalled skill in riding, dancing and fencing, adds, "When he came into the presence-chamber it was impossible for you not to follow him with your eye as he went along, he moved so gracefully". Racing and hunting were his favourite sports, and his name long survived in the hunting songs of Yorkshire. John Dryden described him under the character of Zimri in celebrated lines in the poem *Absalom and Achitophel* to which Buckingham replied in *Poetical Reflections on a late Poem On the contrary*, the distinguishing features of his life are incompleteness, aimlessness, imperfection, insignificance, neglected talent and wasted opportunity. He is more severely but more justly judged by himself. In light-hearted moments he wrote "Methinks, I see the wanton houres flee, And as they passe, turne back and laugh at me", but his last recorded words, "O! It is believed that Samuel Butler had a hand in it. Dryden had his revenge in his picture of Buckingham as Zimri in *Absalom and Achitophel*. Buckingham also published two adapted plays: The latest edition of his works is that by T. Another work is named by Wood, *A Demonstration of the Deity*, of which there is now no trace. He is soon smitten with the young lady, which Philippe perceives quickly, and appeals to his mother, Anne of Austria. Anne, whose love for Villiers Senior was chronicled in *The Three Musketeers*, convinces him that, due to his feelings, it would be best for French-English relations if he returned home. De Wardes escorts him to a boat destined for England, but before departing, the two men duel and de Wardes is injured.

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Chapter 4 : George Villiers, 2nd Duke of Buckingham - Wikiquote

A rake and his times: George Villiers, 2nd duke of Buckingham. by John Harold Wilson starting at \$ A rake and his times: George Villiers, 2nd duke of Buckingham. has 0 available edition to buy at Alibris.

An advocate of religious toleration, he was also known as a rake and as the author of lewd poetry and prose. In November his father was assassinated by a Puritan fanatic, and George, his brother Francis, and his sisters became wards of the King. Educated with the royal princes, Buckingham and his brother then attended Trinity College, Cambridge, and George received a master of arts degree in . With the outbreak of civil war in the same year, George age 15 and Francis 13 left their studies to fight for their guardian. Their youthful valor resulted in the sequestration of their estates by Parliament. By summer anxious relatives had prevailed upon the boys to abandon the fighting and to complete their educations abroad. For the next 4 years they came under the influence of the dissolute Ferdinand II, Grand Duke of Tuscany, and George began his long career of debauchery. During the renewed hostilities of , his brother was killed in battle. Buckingham fled to Holland, and his estates were again seized by Parliament. After the execution of Charles I, the young Prince Charles became a king in exile. Charles II gave what recompense he could to his friend and followerâ€” Buckingham was made a knight of the Garter in and became a member of the Privy Council the next year. He soon proved to have a great deal of influence over the King. Buckingham was with the King at the battle of Worcester in and, with some difficulty, managed to escape overseas, as he had done 3 years earlier. By Buckingham had tired of his life in Holland and returned to England. Convincing Oliver Cromwell that he was harmless, Buckingham sought to win back his property by wooing and marrying the heiress of the man who held most of his landsâ€”Lord Fairfax, late general of the parliamentary forces. He then joined his father-in-law and Gen. For the next decade the duke was at the height of his power. He was in favor with Charles, his lands were restored, and he entered government service as lord lieutenant in Yorkshire. Buckingham wanted more than the trappings of favor, however. He sought to exercise power in the state but was, at first, blocked in his attempts by Clarendon. Seemingly, at least, Buckingham was now supreme. At this time, however, Charles began to direct his own policy; surrounded by five chief ministers Clifford, Arlington, Buckingham, Ashley, Lauderdaleâ€”whose initials spelled Cabal , the King confided fully in none and made use of them all. Buckingham favored an alliance with France; in this his wishes accorded with those of his sovereign. Buckingham, however, sought only a political and military treaty, while Charles had his Catholic members of the Cabal negotiate a secret agreement with Louis XIV in which he promised to return England to the Catholic faith. When Buckingham learned of the existence of the secret treaty in , he sought to have Arlington impeached but was himself subjected to scathing attacks in the Commons where it was thought that he was the papist and in the Lords where the vagaries of his private life were under attack. But the resultant confusion served his purpose â€”the Cabal was destroyed, and England was no longer the ally of France. His feuds with literate such as John Dryden had led him to compose the brilliant, slashing satire *The Rehearsal*. It was, however, his long-standing affair with the Countess of Shrewsbury that formed the basis for the attack in the Lords in the s. When the infant died, the parents, with incredible effrontery, had the child buried in Westminster Abbey. Buckingham was forced to abjure his mistress and apologize to the Lords for his behavior. Later Career Buckingham now retired for a time to private life and contented himself with spending one of the largest fortunes in England. But he soon became active in the Country party the opposition party to Charles II , which had been founded by Lord Shaftesbury formerly Lord Ashley, a member of the Cabal. In his opposition to the government led Buckingham to be imprisoned in the Tower for a short time. It also led him to join with Shaftesbury in promoting the monstrous accusations of Titus Oates â€”the " Popish Plot. This defense was his last public role, for in , his health ruined by his vices, he retired finally into private life. His own words provide his best epitaph: Other biographies include Robert P. Tristram Coffin, *The Dukes of Buckingham: George Villiers, 2nd Duke of Buckingham* Valuable insights into his life can be found in the

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works of his contemporaries, such as Pepys, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Rochester, and Burnet.

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Chapter 5 : George Villiers, 2nd Duke of Buckingham - Wikipedia

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He was John Felton, the forty-year-old scion of a minor gentry family from Suffolk that had fallen on hard times. To kill the Duke, Felton imagined, would be an act of personal and national redemption. Before setting out for the Greyhound Inn, therefore, Felton had written and then sewn into his hatband two apologies for the murder: He had struck the blow for the public good. While the King retreated to his chambers, grief stricken, news of the murder spread across the country, inspiring spontaneous and often reckless outbursts of joy. The assassin was taken under armed guard from Portsmouth to the Tower of London, where he was repeatedly interrogated, possibly under torture, about his motives and accomplices. Tared by the authorities as a wicked, atheistic criminal who had acted solely to avenge his personal grudges against the Duke, Felton was convicted and sentenced to death. Two days later, on the gallows at Tyburn, he confessed before a crowd of onlookers, and openly repented his crime. The assassination, and the trial and execution that eventually ensued, triggered a massive outpouring of political verse, some of which was printed years ago by F. Fairholt *Poems and Songs Relating to George Villiers*, and a more complete collection of which is now published here for the first time. We have grouped the poems into three subsections. Celebrating—and by implication legitimating—the assassination, many of these verses rake over the charges that had dogged Buckingham in the last few years of his life. Our second subsection contains the smaller, but in many ways even more powerful, collection of verse primarily concerned with or addressed to John Felton. Alongside their hymns to Felton, a number of these verses also elaborate explicit and occasionally quite legalistic defences of the assassination, now reimagined not as a murder but as an execution of the will of divine justice upon a nefarious criminal. The third and final subsection collects poems that offer very different responses to the assassination. Several other poets—including Thomas Carew and Sir William Davenant, who would later become major participants in Caroline court and literary culture—took a straightforwardly hostile view of both the assassination and the celebrations that followed it. Recent work has added to this perceptive diagnosis, discovering in and around the assassination evidence of a profound political crisis. Yet the poems also reveal how little chance this hope of redemptive transformation ever had of materializing. Sometimes these anxieties pushed quite radical sentiments out into the open. The bulk of the commentary has come from literary critics, and includes a major study of representations of Felton by James Holstun, and important briefer assessments by David Norbrook and Andrew McRae *Literature* esp. Political historians have been slower to give these materials the attention they deserve. Quick links to other poems within this section Sections.

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Chapter 6 : Buckingham, 2d Duke of - Biography

Rake (stock character) wikipedia, the defining period of the rake was at the court of charles ii in the late seventeenth century dubbed the "merry gang" by poet andrew marvell, their members included king charles himself; george villiers, 2nd duke of.

George Villiers took very well to the training set by his mother; he could dance well, fence well, and speak a little French and was overall an excellent student. In August, Villiers, reputedly "the handsomest-bodied man in all of England", [4] was brought before the king, in the hope that the king would take a fancy to him, diminishing the power at court of then favourite Robert Carr, 1st Earl of Somerset. The extent to which there was a sexual element, or a physical sexual relationship, involved in these cases remains controversial. James wrote to Villiers: Villiers was knighted in as a Gentleman of the Bedchamber, and was rapidly advanced through the peerage: After the reductions in the peerage that had taken place during the Tudor period, Buckingham was left as the highest-ranking subject outside the royal family. He made it a condition of the sale that his name and title be commemorated by George Street, Villiers Street, Duke Street, Of Alley, and Buckingham Street, some of which have survived into the 21st century. Thence, he acquired control of the Irish customs farm, dominated Irish patronage at court, particularly with the sale of Irish titles and honours, and from began to build substantial Irish estates for himself, his family and clientsâ€™ with the aid of a plantation lobby, composed of official clients in Dublin. To the same end, he secured the creation of an Irish Court of Wards in Relations with Parliament, â€™ Edit The Parliament began an investigation into monopolies and other abuses in England and extended it later to Ireland; in this first session, Buckingham was quick to side with the Parliament to avoid action being taken against him. Knowing that, in the summer, the king had assured the Spanish ambassador that the Parliament would not be allowed to imperil a Spanish matrimonial alliance, he therefore surreptitiously instigated a conflict between the Parliament and the king over the Spanish Match, which resulted in a premature dissolution of the Parliament in December and a hobbling of the Irish commission in Irish reforms nevertheless introduced by Lionel Cranfield, Earl of Middlesex, in â€™24 were largely nullified by the impeachment and disgrace of the pacific Lord Treasurer in the violently anti-Spanish parliamentâ€™ spurred on by Buckingham and Prince Charles. He headed further marriage negotiations, but when, in, the betrothal to Henrietta Maria of France was announced, the choice of a Catholic was widely condemned. Though his plan was tactically sound, landing further up the coast and marching the militia army on the city, the troops were ill-equipped, ill-disciplined and ill-trained. Coming upon a warehouse filled with wine, they simply got drunk, and the attack was called off. The English army briefly occupied a small port further down the coast before re-boarding its ships. This was followed by Buckingham leading the Army and the Navy to sea to intercept an anticipated Spanish silver fleet from its American territories. However, the Spanish were forewarned by their intelligence and easily avoided the planned ambush. With supplies running out and men sick and dying from starvation and disease, the fleet limped home in embarrassment. Buckingham then negotiated with the French Prime Minister to the King, Cardinal Richelieu, for English ships to aid Richelieu in his fight against the French Protestants Huguenots, in return for French aid against the Spanish occupying the Palatinate. The plan only fuelled their fears of crypto-Catholicism at court. In, Buckingham led another failure: Death Edit During the course of his incompetent leadership, Parliament had twice attempted to impeach the Duke. The king had rescued him by dissolving it both times, but public feeling was so inflamed as a result that he was widely blamed as a public enemy. Eventually his physician, Dr Lambe, popularly supposed to assert a diabolic influence over him, was mobbed in the streets and died as a result. Among the pamphlets issued afterwards was one that prophesied Let Charles and George do what they can, The Duke shall die like Doctor Lambe. He lived just long enough to jump up, shouting "Villain! The assassin was John Felton, an army officer who had been wounded in the earlier military adventure and believed he had been passed over for promotion by Buckingham. Buckingham was buried in Westminster Abbey. His lavish

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tomb bears a Latin inscription that may be translated as "The Enigma of the World".

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Chapter 7 : Unusual Historicals: Men: George Villiers

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An advocate of religious toleration, he was also known as a rake and as the author of lewd poetry and prose. In November his father was assassinated by a Puritan fanatic, and George, his brother Francis, and his sisters became wards of the King. Educated with the royal princes, Buckingham and his brother then attended Trinity College, Cambridge, and George received a master of arts degree in . With the outbreak of civil war in the same year, George age 15 and Francis 13 left their studies to fight for their guardian. Their youthful valor resulted in the sequestration of their estates by Parliament. By summer anxious relatives had prevailed upon the boys to abandon the fighting and to complete their educations abroad. For the next 4 years they came under the influence of the dissolute Ferdinand II, Grand Duke of Tuscany, and George began his long career of debauchery. During the renewed hostilities of , his brother was killed in battle. Buckingham fled to Holland, and his estates were again seized by Parliament. After the execution of Charles I, the young Prince Charles became a king in exile. Charles II gave what recompense he could to his friend and follower--Buckingham was made a knight of the Garter in and became a member of the Privy Council the next year. He soon proved to have a great deal of influence over the King. Buckingham was with the King at the battle of Worcester in and, with some difficulty, managed to escape overseas, as he had done 3 years earlier. By Buckingham had tired of his life in Holland and returned to England. Convincing Oliver Cromwell that he was harmless, Buckingham sought to win back his property by wooing and marrying the heiress of the man who held most of his lands--Lord Fairfax, late general of the parliamentary forces. He then joined his father-in-law and Gen. For the next decade the duke was at the height of his power. He was in favor with Charles, his lands were restored, and he entered government service as lord lieutenant in Yorkshire. Buckingham wanted more than the trappings of favor, however. He sought to exercise power in the state but was, at first, blocked in his attempts by Clarendon. Seemingly, at least, Buckingham was now supreme. At this time, however, Charles began to direct his own policy; surrounded by five chief ministers Clifford, Arlington, Buckingham, Ashley, Lauderdale--whose initials spelled Cabal , the King confided fully in none and made use of them all. Buckingham favored an alliance with France; in this his wishes accorded with those of his sovereign. Buckingham, however, sought only a political and military treaty, while Charles had his Catholic members of the Cabal negotiate a secret agreement with Louis XIV in which he promised to return England to the Catholic faith. When Buckingham learned of the existence of the secret treaty in , he sought to have Arlington impeached but was himself subjected to scathing attacks in the Commons where it was thought that he was the papist and in the Lords where the vagaries of his private life were under attack. But the resultant confusion served his purpose--the Cabal was destroyed, and England was no longer the ally of France. His feuds with literate such as John Dryden had led him to compose the brilliant, slashing satire *The Rehearsal*. It was, however, his long-standing affair with the Countess of Shrewsbury that formed the basis for the attack in the Lords in the s. When the infant died, the parents, with incredible effrontery, had the child buried in Westminster Abbey. Buckingham was forced to abjure his mistress and apologize to the Lords for his behavior. Later Career Buckingham now retired for a time to private life and contented himself with spending one of the largest fortunes in England. But he soon became active in the Country party the opposition party to Charles II , which had been founded by Lord Shaftesbury formerly Lord Ashley, a member of the Cabal. In his opposition to the government led Buckingham to be imprisoned in the Tower for a short time. It also led him to join with Shaftesbury in promoting the monstrous accusations of Titus Oates--the "Popish Plot. This defense was his last public role, for in , his health ruined by his vices, he retired finally into private life. His own words provide his best epitaph: Other biographies include Robert P. Tristram Coffin, *The Dukes of Buckingham: George Villiers, 2nd Duke of Buckingham* Valuable insights into his life can be found in the works of his contemporaries, such as Pepys, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Rochester, and Burnet. Need a custom

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Chapter 8 : George Second Duke of Buckingham Villiers Further Reading - Essay - calendrierdelascience.

July 18, , Page 10 *The New York Times Archives*. *THE name of George Villiers, second Duke of Buckingham, is familiar to every reader of Pepys, de Gramont and the other gossips of Restoration.*

By Anita Davison George and Francis Villiers by Van Dyck The son of the murdered 1st Duke, the 2nd Duke of Buckingham is often judged as ostentatious, licentious, and unscrupulous, but even his critics agreed he was also good-humoured, good-natured, generous, an unsurpassed mimic, and the leader of fashion. His good looks and wit made him irresistible to his contemporaries, in spite of his lack of morality, and even his crimes. John Reresby called him "the first gentleman of person and wit I think I ever saw," and Dean Lockier, after alluding to his unrivalled skill in riding, dancing and fencing, added, "When he came into the presence-chamber it was impossible for you not to follow him with your eye as he went along, he moved so gracefully. Under the care of the Earl of Northumberland, their early childhood was spent in Florence and Rome. Francis was killed near Kingston-upon-Thames, at the age of twenty. Buckingham escaped to the Netherlands and joined Charles II in exile, while his lands were confiscated and given to Thomas, Lord Fairfax. Allying himself with the Marquess of Argyll, he fought at the Battle of Worcester in September , and escaped the field to arrive in Rotterdam and re-joined Charles II in exile. Tired of exile and determined to regain his estates, Buckingham argued with Charles II and returned to England and went to court Lord Fairfax. They were married at the Fairfax estate in Yorkshire and as a wedding gift, Lord Fairfax signed the two Villiers properties back to his son-in-law. When news of the wedding reached London, the Lord Protector was furious. Suspicious that Buckingham might be secretly working with royalists to undermine the republic, Cromwell saw the marriage as a potentially treasonous alliance with the power to turn the army against him. Buckingham was arrested and held at York House, from where he escaped. Re-arrested, he was imprisoned in the Tower of London, and again his properties confiscated. Theaters and inns opened again. Boys were allowed to play football on Sunday, and Charles legalized horse racing in the first week of his reign. He accompanied Princess Henrietta Anne to Paris to marry the Duke of Orleans, but made such shameless advances to her, that he was recalled. An advocate of religious tolerance, George was horrified by the trend of Catholics being barred from public office. As a Freemason, he had progressive views on most issues, and contempt for the established church. But he was sympathetic to the Quakers, who were being imprisoned, tortured and hung for their refusal to conform to Anglican demands. Sodomy laws were still on the books in England, but Restoration liberality had reduced punishment from death to a day in the stocks. Being an amateur playwright, George often dallied with actors--and rumours spread that he was intimate with young Edward Kynaston, famed for playing female roles. Yet another "gentle" favorite was poet Abraham Cowley, with whom Buckingham was a student at Cambridge. It was said that Cowley never spoke a word of love to a woman in his life. Many conventional biographies of Buckingham refrain from mentioning that he was bisexual, but historian Howard Love says flatly in his *English Clandestine Satire*, , that Buckingham "was a bisexual rake who was prosecuted for sodomy. Wilmot once admitted to being drunk for five years. Their drink of choice was imported wine spiked with opium--which was making its debut in England thanks to trade with China. On occasion, George had dinner at 2 AM, washed down with a French drink he had introduced to English high society, called champagne. While drunk, Villiers and Wilmot loved to disguise themselves, and pull off mad escapades and practical jokes. With most of his pre-war property retrieved, and a vast income, George lived well. In , he built a vast mansion at Cliveden on the Thames where he installed his mistress, the Countess of Shrewsbury. This affair with Anna Maria Brudenell, led to a duel with her husband at Barn Elms in January that turned into a massacre with two deaths and several injuries. Riders had to be a gentleman. Each horse to carry 12 stone pounds. No whipping each other by the riders. No cruelty to the horses. The first horse to win three heats was the victor. Wagering on all races reached preposterous levels, so King Charles II, alarmed by bankruptcies of titled bettors, issued a royal decree limiting the size of bets. Years of abuse left

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Buckingham with rheumatism, liver problems, and his sex life became a national issue. The Earl of Clarendon took the position that George was a godless monster. Both were thrown in the Tower to cool off. Arrested and dismissed from all his offices, Buckingham evaded capture but he gave himself up and was imprisoned in the Tower. Restored to favour and his appointments three months later, Buckingham took an active part in the prosecution of Clarendon. When Clarendon fell, he became the chief minister, even though he had previously held no high office except that of Master of the Horse, bought from the Duke of Albermarle in Buckingham was accused of: Through it all, King Charles stayed supportive, and re-appointed George to high office in But in , Buckingham was openly attacked in Parliament over his relationship with Lady Shrewsbury. By , England veered into panic over Titus Oates and the "Popish plot. A series of ludicrous state trials resulted in some public executions of innocent men caught up in the hysteria. Buckingham was put through a state trial by Parliament, spent more time in the Tower, and defended himself with savage wit. Eventually charges were dropped. On May 21, , George was freed from the Tower for the last time. In , at age 53, Villiers left public life in disgust. He paid off some of his debts by selling Cliveden and other properties. But he held onto Helmsley, in Yorkshire, making it his home for the first time. Income from tenant farmers provided some cash flow, and his old retainers stayed loyal, so under the shadow of the half-ruined castle, he and Mary lived a recluse life in the antiquated manor house. The once-athletic, handsome cavalier was now a hefty country squire with a few wooden teeth, chugging ale with other squires at the Cock and Bottle Inn. He founded the Bilsdale Hunt, put together the first pack of hounds, and went fox-hunting with his new cronies. The odd mistress still came and went from Helmsley, along with a boyfriend or two, including George Etheredge. Finally his long-suffering wife Mary moved out. In February , King Charles died, and in April , while the aging Duke was out hunting, he fell ill or had a riding accident-accounts vary. Carried to the home of a tenant in Kirkbymoorside, six miles from Helmsley, he lingered for several days until on April 16, George Villiers died. After his death, all his property, which had been deeply mortgaged, was sold, and did not realize sufficient to pay his debts. George and Mary had no children, so his titles became extinct.

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2d Duke of Buckingham. The English statesman George Villiers, 2d Duke of Buckingham (), was influential in Restoration England. An advocate of religious toleration, he was also known as a rake and as the author of lewd poetry and prose.