

diaries volume one 1939 1960 christopher isherwood

****Exploring the Depths of Diaries Volume One 1939 1960 Christopher Isherwood****

diaries volume one 1939 1960 christopher isherwood offers readers an intimate glimpse into the life and mind of one of the 20th century's most fascinating literary figures. Christopher Isherwood, renowned for his sharp observations and evocative prose, invites us to walk alongside him through some of the most turbulent and transformative years of his life. This collection of diaries captures not only the personal experiences of a writer navigating war, love, and identity but also paints a vivid portrait of the cultural and political landscape of the era.

If you are curious about Isherwood's thoughts during the Second World War, his relationships, or his artistic evolution, this volume is an invaluable resource. Let's delve into what makes **Diaries Volume One 1939 1960 Christopher Isherwood** an essential read for literature lovers, historians, and anyone intrigued by the human experience during a defining period in modern history.

A Window into Christopher Isherwood's World: What to Expect

Isherwood's diaries from 1939 to 1960 chronicle a period marked by global conflict, social upheaval, and personal transformation. His writing style, characterized by clarity and emotional honesty, allows readers to experience his inner struggles and triumphs as if through a confidant's eyes.

The Historical and Cultural Backdrop

The years covered in these diaries encompass World War II and its aftermath—a time of uncertainty and change. Isherwood, an English-American writer who had settled in California, reflects on the impact of these events not only on the world stage but also on his own identity and creative output. His observations provide valuable insights into:

- The war's influence on expatriate communities
- The shifting attitudes toward sexuality and artistic freedom
- The rise of Hollywood and the cultural shifts in mid-century America

Personal Reflections and Relationships

Isherwood's diaries are not just historical documents; they are deeply personal accounts. He candidly explores his relationships, including his lifelong partnership with Don Bachardy, and his interactions with other literary and artistic figures of the time. Readers gain an understanding of:

- The challenges and joys of his personal life

- His evolving views on love, companionship, and identity
- The role of creativity and companionship in his daily life

The Literary Significance of Diaries Volume One 1939 1960 Christopher Isherwood

Christopher Isherwood was already an established novelist and playwright by 1939, but these diaries reveal the man behind his celebrated works. They serve as a bridge between his public persona and private thoughts, offering a unique vantage point on his creative process.

Insights into His Writing Process

Throughout the diaries, Isherwood reflects on his own work, his inspirations, and the challenges of crafting stories that resonate with authenticity. This offers aspiring writers and fans alike a rare peek into:

- How real-life experiences inform literary creation
- The discipline required to maintain a writing practice during uncertain times
- The interplay between diary writing and fiction

Documenting the Artistic and Intellectual Circles

Isherwood's position within various artistic communities—both in Europe and the United States—is well documented in this collection. His interactions with contemporaries, including other expatriates and Hollywood figures, highlight the vibrant cultural exchanges that shaped mid-20th century literature and film.

Why Diaries Volume One 1939 1960 Christopher Isherwood Matters Today

In an era where personal narratives and memoirs are increasingly valued, Isherwood's diaries stand out for their literary quality and historical importance. They provide a compelling example of how personal writing can illuminate broader societal changes.

Understanding the LGBTQ+ Experience through Isherwood's Eyes

Isherwood was openly gay at a time when such openness was far from common. His diaries chronicle not only his personal journey but also the evolving social attitudes toward LGBTQ+ individuals over

two critical decades. This makes the book a vital document for those interested in queer history and literature.

Lessons for Modern Readers and Writers

Reading Isherwood's diaries offers practical lessons for anyone interested in journaling or memoir writing:

- The value of consistent, honest self-reflection
- How to capture the essence of an era through personal narrative
- Balancing the personal and the political in writing

The Structure and Style of Diaries Volume One 1939 1960 Christopher Isherwood

The diaries are presented in a chronological format, allowing readers to experience the ebb and flow of Isherwood's life in real-time. His prose is engaging and accessible, striking a balance between literary elegance and conversational tone.

Engagement through Authenticity

One of the reasons these diaries resonate so deeply is Isherwood's unfiltered honesty. He does not shy away from difficult topics or personal vulnerabilities, which creates a strong connection with readers.

Rich Descriptive Passages

Isherwood's keen eye for detail and his ability to evoke mood and setting transform ordinary diary entries into compelling narratives. This descriptive richness elevates the diaries beyond mere personal records into works of literary merit.

How to Approach Reading Diaries Volume One 1939 1960 Christopher Isherwood

Given the depth and breadth of the content, readers might wonder how to best engage with this volume.

- **Read Slowly and Reflectively:** Allow the details and emotions to sink in, especially given the

historical context.

- **Use Supplementary Materials:** Pair your reading with biographies or historical accounts of the period for enhanced understanding.
- **Take Notes:** Jot down passages or themes that resonate, particularly if you're a writer or student of literature.
- **Discuss with Others:** Join book clubs or online forums to explore different interpretations and perspectives.

Final Thoughts on Diaries Volume One 1939 1960 Christopher Isherwood

Diaries Volume One 1939 1960 Christopher Isherwood is more than just a collection of personal writings—it is a lens into a pivotal era seen through the eyes of a perceptive and talented chronicler. Whether you are drawn to historical diaries, LGBTQ+ literary history, or the art of diary writing itself, this volume offers a wealth of perspectives and insights. As you turn its pages, you are not only uncovering the life of a remarkable writer but also connecting with the enduring power of honest storytelling.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'Diaries Volume One 1939-1960' by Christopher Isherwood about?

'Diaries Volume One 1939-1960' is a collection of Christopher Isherwood's personal diary entries, offering insight into his life, thoughts, and experiences during the years 1939 to 1960.

When was 'Diaries Volume One 1939-1960' by Christopher Isherwood published?

'Diaries Volume One 1939-1960' was published in 2017, providing readers with previously unpublished personal writings of Isherwood.

Why are Christopher Isherwood's diaries from 1939 to 1960 significant?

These diaries cover a pivotal period in Isherwood's life, including World War II, his move to America, and his development as a writer and thinker, offering valuable historical and literary insights.

What themes are explored in 'Diaries Volume One 1939-1960' by Christopher Isherwood?

The diaries explore themes such as identity, sexuality, politics, war, and the cultural changes of mid-20th century, reflecting Isherwood's personal and artistic journey.

How does 'Diaries Volume One 1939-1960' contribute to understanding Christopher Isherwood's works?

The diaries provide context to his novels and plays by revealing his personal experiences, relationships, and thoughts that influenced his creative output.

Are there any notable historical figures mentioned in Isherwood's diaries from 1939-1960?

Yes, Isherwood's diaries mention several notable contemporaries, including fellow writers, artists, and political figures, reflecting his connections within literary and cultural circles.

What writing style does Christopher Isherwood use in his diaries?

Isherwood's diary entries are candid, introspective, and often literary in style, combining detailed observation with personal reflection.

Is 'Diaries Volume One 1939-1960' suitable for readers new to Christopher Isherwood?

Yes, it offers an intimate introduction to Isherwood's life and times, but readers may benefit from some familiarity with his major works for deeper appreciation.

Where can I purchase or access 'Diaries Volume One 1939-1960' by Christopher Isherwood?

The book is available for purchase through major retailers such as Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and independent bookstores, as well as in some public and university libraries.

Additional Resources

****Diaries Volume One 1939 1960 Christopher Isherwood: An Intimate Chronicle of a Turbulent Era****

diaries volume one 1939 1960 christopher isherwood offers readers an unparalleled window into the life and mind of one of the 20th century's most distinctive literary figures. This volume, the first in a projected series of Isherwood's diaries, spans the critical years from the outbreak of World War II to the dawn of the 1960s, capturing a period marked by global upheaval, personal transformation, and artistic exploration. As a document, it transcends the boundaries of a mere

personal journal, serving instead as an insightful historical record, a study in creative process, and a revealing psychological portrait.

The Significance of Diaries Volume One 1939 1960

Christopher Isherwood

Christopher Isherwood's diaries have long been regarded as essential reading for scholars and enthusiasts of modernist literature and LGBTQ+ history. This first volume, in particular, is noteworthy for its detailed account of not only Isherwood's day-to-day experiences but also the broader cultural and political currents that shaped his worldview. Covering two decades defined by war, migration, and the rise of new social paradigms, the diaries illuminate Isherwood's navigation of these forces with candor and literary elegance.

The period from 1939 to 1960 encompasses Isherwood's relocation to the United States, his deepening involvement in the gay rights movement, and the evolution of his spiritual beliefs. These elements emerge organically throughout the diary entries, underscoring the multifaceted nature of his identity as a writer, expatriate, and activist.

A Deep Dive into the Diary's Content and Style

Isherwood's diary entries are notable for their clarity, introspection, and occasional wit. Unlike some diarists who maintain a strictly private tone, Isherwood writes with an awareness of posterity, crafting reflections that are both immediate and timeless. The prose is marked by a balance between meticulous observation and philosophical rumination, providing readers with detailed snapshots of the era—ranging from the tension of wartime London to the bohemian enclaves of post-war California.

The diary also captures Isherwood's literary process, with candid notes on his works in progress, his interactions with contemporaries such as W.H. Auden, and his struggles with creative blocks. This behind-the-scenes perspective offers invaluable insight into the development of his celebrated novels and plays.

Historical and Cultural Context in the Diaries

One of the most compelling aspects of **diaries volume one 1939 1960 christopher isherwood** is the way it situates personal narrative within a larger historical framework. The outbreak of World War II, for example, is not just a backdrop but a force that reshapes Isherwood's life and work. His experiences during the Blitz, his reflections on fascism, and his eventual emigration to America are chronicled with immediacy and nuance.

Post-war, the diaries reveal Isherwood's engagement with the cultural renaissance occurring in the United States, particularly in Los Angeles. He documents his encounters with Hollywood figures, fellow expatriates, and emerging intellectual circles, providing readers with a snapshot of mid-century American cultural life. The diaries also touch on the societal challenges faced by LGBTQ+ individuals during this period, offering a poignant account of both oppression and resilience.

Literary and Personal Themes Explored

Several key themes emerge throughout the diary entries:

Identity and Sexuality

Isherwood's open exploration of his sexuality, rare for the time, is a defining feature of the diaries. His candid reflections on relationships, desire, and societal prejudice enrich the text with a level of authenticity that is both brave and groundbreaking. This transparency contributes to the diaries' importance as a historical document within queer literature.

Artistic Creation and Collaboration

The diary entries frequently delve into Isherwood's creative endeavors. His interactions with other artists, his experimentation with narrative forms, and his evolving philosophy on art and storytelling come alive on the pages. These insights afford readers a valuable understanding of the mid-century literary landscape and Isherwood's place within it.

Spirituality and Philosophy

Throughout the volume, Isherwood grapples with questions of meaning and existence, often referencing his interest in Vedanta and Eastern philosophies. These spiritual musings add depth to the diary, revealing the intellectual currents that influenced his later works and personal life.

Comparing Isherwood's Diaries with Contemporary Memoirs

In contrast to other diarists of the era—such as Anaïs Nin or Virginia Woolf—Isherwood's diaries stand out for their blend of journalistic detail and literary craftsmanship. While Nin's diaries often emphasize emotional intensity and Woolf's reflect psychological complexity, Isherwood's writings offer a more outward-looking perspective, combining the personal with socio-political observation.

Moreover, Isherwood's willingness to document his experiences as a gay man during a period of widespread discrimination adds a layer of cultural significance that many contemporaneous memoirs lack. This aspect positions **diaries volume one 1939 1960 christopher isherwood** not only as a literary artifact but also as a vital contribution to social history.

Pros and Cons of Diaries Volume One 1939 1960 Christopher Isherwood

- **Pros:**

- Rich historical and cultural context spanning two transformative decades.
- Intimate insight into Isherwood's creative process and personal life.
- Groundbreaking openness about sexuality and identity.
- Engaging prose style that balances narrative and reflection.

- **Cons:**

- At times, the density of detail may overwhelm casual readers.
- Some entries assume prior knowledge of Isherwood's works and associates, potentially limiting accessibility.
- The diaristic format may result in episodic pacing rather than continuous narrative flow.

The Role of the Diaries in Contemporary Scholarship

Since their publication, Isherwood's diaries have become an indispensable resource for academics studying 20th-century literature, queer history, and cultural studies. The volume's candid approach to topics like migration, sexuality, and artistic identity enriches ongoing conversations about the intersections between personal experience and historical change.

Additionally, the diaries serve as a model for how literary figures can document their lives with honesty and artistry, challenging the boundaries between private reflection and public discourse.

Final Reflections on the Impact of Isherwood's Diaries

Diaries volume one 1939 1960 christopher isherwood is much more than a personal journal; it is a profound exploration of a world in flux through the eyes of a perceptive and sensitive observer. Its significance lies not only in the breadth of history it covers but in the depth of human experience it conveys. For readers and researchers alike, this volume offers a unique blend of literary merit and documentary value, making it a cornerstone text for understanding both the man and his times.

Diaries Volume One 1939 1960 Christopher Isherwood

diaries volume one 1939 1960 christopher isherwood: *Christopher Isherwood Diaries Volume 1* Christopher Isherwood, 2011-01-06 These diary entries are filled with philosophy, gossip, mystical insights, and the period following his emigration to California in 1939. He is one of the great gay icons, and his relationships are discussed frankly in these diaries.

diaries volume one 1939 1960 christopher isherwood: *Diaries: 1939-1960* Christopher Isherwood, 1996 Den engelske forfatters (1904-1986) dagbøger

diaries volume one 1939 1960 christopher isherwood: *Diaries* Christopher Isherwood, 1998

diaries volume one 1939 1960 christopher isherwood: The American Isherwood James J. Berg, Chris Freeman, 2015-01-08 Novelist, memoirist, diarist, and gay pioneer Christopher Isherwood left a wealth of writings. Known for his crisp style and his camera-like precision with detail, Isherwood gained fame for his Berlin Stories, which served as source material for the hit stage musical and Academy Award-winning film Cabaret. More recently, his experiences and career in the United States have received increased attention. His novel A Single Man was adapted into an Oscar-nominated film; his long relationship with the artist Don Bachardy, with whom he shared an openly gay lifestyle, was the subject of an award-winning documentary, Chris & Don: A Love Story; and his memoir, Christopher and His Kind, was adapted for the BBC. Isherwood's colorful journeys took him from post-World War I England to Weimar Germany to European exile to Golden Age Hollywood to Los Angeles in the full flower of gay liberation. After the publication of his diaries, which run to more than one million words and span nearly a half century, it is possible to fully assess his influence. This collection of essays considers Isherwood's diaries, his vast personal archive, and his published works and offers a multifaceted appreciation of a writer who spent more than half of his life in southern California. James J. Berg and Chris Freeman have brought together the most informative scholarship of the twenty-first century to illuminate the craft of one of the singular figures of the twentieth century. Isherwood, the American, emerges from the shadow of his English reputation to stake his claim as a significant force in late twentieth-century American culture whose legacy continues in the twenty-first century. Contributors: Joshua Adair, Murray State U; Jamie Carr, Niagara U; Robert L. Caserio, Pennsylvania State U; Niladri Chatterjee, U of Kalyani, India; Lisa Colletta, American U of Rome; Lois Cucullu, U of Minnesota; Mario Faraone; Peter Edgerly Firchow; Rebecca Gordon Stewart; William R. Handley, U of Southern California; Jaime Harker, U of Mississippi; Sara S. Hodson, Huntington Library; Carola M. Kaplan, California State U, Pomona; Benjamin Kohlmann, U of Freiburg, Germany; Victor Marsh, U of Queensland; Tina Mascara; Stephen McCauley; Paul M. McNeil, Columbia U; Guido Santi, College of the Canyons, California; Kyle Stevens, Brandeis U.

diaries volume one 1939 1960 christopher isherwood: Christopher Isherwood Inside Out Katherine Bucknell, 2024-08-26 A stunningly intimate exploration of the writer and gay cultural icon and of his lifelong search for authenticity. The story of Christopher Isherwood's life is one of pilgrimage: away from the constraints of inheritance and empire and toward authenticity and spiritual illumination. Isherwood—the author of Goodbye to Berlin, which inspired Cabaret, and A Single Man—was born the heir to a crumbling English estate. He died an icon of gay liberation in California while his partner of thirty years, Don Bachardy, painted his death portrait. Isherwood began his career depicting the psychological wreckage of World War I. While living in Berlin, he began to write his reputation-making fiction and (with W. H. Auden) plays inspired by the city's nightlife, its artistic underbelly, its fevered politics. When Hitler took power, he fled with his German boyfriend, who was pursued and arrested by the Gestapo. Isherwood left Europe and found work as a screenwriter in Hollywood, where he became the disciple of a Hindu monk, Swami Prabhavananda. Together they translated the Bhagavad Gita. Isherwood shed his family ghosts and became a chief instigator of the cultural shift that made gay liberation possible. Every step of the journey served his writing; one of our greatest diarists, he recorded his experiences and transformed them in fiction

and memoir. Katherine Bucknell charts the quest of the restless, penetrating, blackly comic mind through books, films, foreign lands, love affairs, and collaborations toward self-understanding and happiness. Here is Christopher Isherwood Inside Out.

diaries volume one 1939 1960 christopher isherwood: The Oxford Encyclopedia of British Literature David Scott Kastan, 2006-03-03 From folk ballads to film scripts, this new five-volume encyclopedia covers the entire history of British literature from the seventh century to the present, focusing on the writers and the major texts of what are now the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. In five hundred substantial essays written by major scholars, the Encyclopedia of British Literature includes biographies of nearly four hundred individual authors and a hundred topical essays with detailed analyses of particular themes, movements, genres, and institutions whose impact upon the writing or the reading of literature was significant. An ideal companion to The Oxford Encyclopedia of American Literature, this set will prove invaluable for students, scholars, and general readers. For more information, including a complete table of contents and list of contributors, please visit www.oup.com/us/eb1

diaries volume one 1939 1960 christopher isherwood: Don Bachardy Michael Schreiber, 2025-10-28 Complete with never-before-seen photos and a selection of iconic artworks, an unfiltered and intimate chronicle of the storied Hollywood life of Don Bachardy, the acclaimed portrait artist who, as famed author Christopher Isherwood's life partner, was half of America's most famous gay couple for over three decades, and whose subjects and friends include an astounding array of Hollywood and literary celebrities. "Believe me baby, this is not just a book, sugar, it's a marvelous dance with words, enchanting, heady and daring!" —Liza Minnelli A figure as fascinating as any of his celebrated subjects, Don Bachardy has lived an extraordinary life at the heart of Hollywood, literary, and artistic circles. His drawings and paintings reside in museums throughout Europe and the United States, and include portraits of movie stars, writers, artists, and public and private figures of every background—from Bette Davis and Joan Crawford to Tennessee Williams and Truman Capote—all rendered in a candid, expressive style unmistakably the artist's own. In this unique oral biography, Bachardy recounts his astonishing story, providing illuminating recollections of celebrity portrait sittings and revelations about his 30-year relationship with Christopher Isherwood. From their meeting in the 1950s until Isherwood's death in 1986, theirs was a legendary love story, courageous and uncompromising for its time, and remarkable in any era for the creative collaborations and art it continues to inspire. Drawn from one-on-one interviews and conversations conducted at the Santa Monica home Bachardy shared with Isherwood, Michael Schreiber has crafted a biography unlike any other, filled with tantalizing celebrity tales set against the backdrop of Bachardy's artistic and personal journey. Wise, warm, and thoroughly unflinching, this is a fresh and revealing portrait of a life lived with boundless bravery, curiosity, and love.

diaries volume one 1939 1960 christopher isherwood: The Oxford Encyclopedia of British Literature David Scott Kastan, 2006-03-03 From folk ballads to film scripts, this new five-volume encyclopedia covers the entire history of British literature from the seventh century to the present, focusing on the writers and the major texts of what are now the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. In five hundred substantial essays written by major scholars, the Encyclopedia of British Literature includes biographies of nearly four hundred individual authors and a hundred topical essays with detailed analyses of particular themes, movements, genres, and institutions whose impact upon the writing or the reading of literature was significant. An ideal companion to The Oxford Encyclopedia of American Literature, this set will prove invaluable for students, scholars, and general readers. For more information, including a complete table of contents and list of contributors, please visit www.oup.com/us/eb1

diaries volume one 1939 1960 christopher isherwood: E. M. Forster Wendy Moffat, 2010-06-07 Based on exclusive access to E. M. Forster's previously restricted diaries this scrupulously researched and sensitively written biography is the first to put the fact that he was homosexual back at the heart of his story.

diaries volume one 1939 1960 christopher isherwood: A Great Unrecorded History Wendy

Moffat, 2010-05-11 A REVELATORY LOOK AT THE INTIMATE LIFE OF THE GREAT AUTHOR—AND HOW IT SHAPED HIS MOST BE LOVED WORKS With the posthumous publication of his long-suppressed novel *Maurice* in 1970, E. M. Forster came out as a homosexual— though that revelation made barely a ripple in his literary reputation. As Wendy Moffat persuasively argues in *A Great Unrecorded History*, Forster's homosexuality was the central fact of his life. Between Wilde's imprisonment and the Stonewall riots, Forster led a long, strange, and imaginative life as a gay man. He preserved a vast archive of his private life—a history of gay experience he believed would find its audience in a happier time. *A Great Unrecorded History* is a biography of the heart. Moffat's decade of detective work—including first-time interviews with Forster's friends—has resulted in the first book to integrate Forster's public and private lives. Seeing his life through the lens of his sexuality offers us a radically new view—revealing his astuteness as a social critic, his political bravery, and his prophetic vision of gay intimacy. *A Great Unrecorded History* invites us to see Forster— and modern gay history—from a completely new angle.

diaries volume one 1939 1960 christopher isherwood: British Novelists in Hollywood, 1935-1965 L. Colletta, 2013-12-10 *British Novelists in Hollywood, 1935-1965* calls attention to the shifting grounds of cultural expression by highlighting Hollywood as a site that unsettled definitions and narratives of colonialism and national identity for prominent British novelists such as Christopher Isherwood, P.G. Wodehouse, Evelyn Waugh, and J.B. Priestley.

diaries volume one 1939 1960 christopher isherwood: Künstlers in Paradise Cathleen Schine, 2023-03-14 There was a time when the family Künstler lived in the fairy-tale city of Vienna. Circumstances transformed that fairy tale into a nightmare, and in 1939 the Künstlers found their way out of Vienna and into a new fairy tale: Los Angeles, California, United States of America. For years Mamie Künstler, ninety-three-years-old, as clever and glamorous as ever, has lived happily in her bungalow in Venice, California with her inscrutable housekeeper and her gigantic St. Bernard dog. Their tranquility is upended when Mamie's grandson, Julian, arrives from New York City. Like many a twenty-something, he has come to seek his fortune in Hollywood. But it is 2020, the global pandemic sweeps in, and Julian's short visit suddenly has no end in sight. Mamie was only eleven when the Künstlers escaped Vienna in 1939. They made their way, stunned and overwhelmed, to sunny, surreal Los Angeles where they joined a colony of distinguished Jewish musicians, writers and intellectuals also escaping Hitler. Now, faced with months of lockdown and a willing listener, Mamie begins to tell Julian the buried stories of her early years in Los Angeles: her escapades with eminent émigrés like Arnold Schoenberg, Christopher Isherwood, Thomas Mann. Oh, and Greta Garbo. While the pandemic cuts Julian off from the life he knows, Mamie's tales open up a world of lives that came before him. They reveal to him just how much the past holds of the future.

diaries volume one 1939 1960 christopher isherwood: Queer Times Jamie M. Carr, 2013-10-23 This book maps Christopher Isherwood's intellectual and aesthetic reflections from the late 1930s through the late 1970s. Drawing on the queer theory of Eve Sedgwick and the ethical theory of Michel Foucault, Carr illuminates Isherwood's post-war development of a queer ethos through his focus on the aesthetic, social, and historical politics of the 1930s in his novels *Prater Violet* (1945), *The World in the Evening* (1954), and *Down There on a Visit* (1962), and in his memoir, *Christopher and His Kind: 1929-1939* (1976).

diaries volume one 1939 1960 christopher isherwood: Queer Saint - The Cultured Life of Peter Watson Adrian Clark & Jeremy Dronfield, 2015-04-02 When Peter Watson was murdered in his bath by a jealous boyfriend in 1956, the art world lost one of its wealthiest, most influential patrons. This compellingly attractive man, adored by Cecil Beaton; a man who was called a legend by contemporaries, who was the subject of two scandalous novels, and who helped launch the careers of Francis Bacon, John Craxton and Lucian Freud, fell victim to a fortune-hungry lover. Elegant and hungrily sexual, Peter Watson had a taste for edgy, disreputable boyfriends. He was the unrequited love of Cecil Beaton's life - his 'queer saint' - but Peter preferred the risk of edgier, less sophisticated lovers, including the beautiful, volatile, drug-addicted prostitute Denham Fouts. Peter's thirst for adventure took him through the cabaret culture of 1930s Berlin, the demi-monde and aristocratic

salons of pre-war Paris, English high society, and the glitz of Hollywood's golden age. Gore Vidal described him as 'a charming man, tall, thin, perverse. One of those intricate English queer types who usually end up as field marshals, but because he was so rich he never had to do anything.' Truman Capote called him 'not just another rich queen, but - in a stooped, intellectual, bitter-lipped style - one of the most personable men in England'. More than just a gay playboy, Peter Watson was a renowned connoisseur, and fuelled the engine of mid-twentieth century art with his enormous wealth. Without his patronage, Bacon and Freud might have failed before they'd got started. He also founded the influential British arts journal *Horizon* with Cyril Connolly and Stephen Spender, and was one of the core founders of the Institute of Contemporary Arts, and organised most of its early exhibitions. From the mystery of his obscure family origins to the enigma surrounding his premature death, this book follows Peter Watson through an odyssey of the mid twentieth century, from high society to sweaty underworld, and discovers a man tormented by depression and doubt; he ultimately wanted love and a sense of self-worth but instead found angst and a squalid death. 'PETER WATSON (1908-1956), LONG FORGOTTEN AS AN ASTUTE GREY EMINENCE IN THE ART WORLD OF HIS DAY, DISCERNING COLLECTOR OF PAINTINGS, PATRON OF THE YOUNG AND PROMISING, FOUNDER AND BENEFACTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS, IS AT LAST AND DESERVEDLY THE SUBJECT OF A SCRUPULOUS AND COMPELLING INVESTIGATION' - BRIAN SEWELL 'THIS COMPELLING REDISCOVERY OF THE LIFE AND DEATH OF PETER WATSON CASTS NEW LIGHT ON THE INTELLECTUAL AND ARTISTIC WORLD OF MID-TWENTIETH-CENTURY BRITAIN: THE WORLD OF BACON AND FREUD, CYRIL CONNOLLY AND STEPHEN SPENDER' - LOYD GROSSMAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE HERITAGE ALLIANCE

diaries volume one 1939 1960 christopher isherwood: Stephen Spender David Leeming, 2025-09-23 The first critical biography of one of the twentieth century's towering literary figures. Stephen Spender was a minor poet, but a major cultural influence during much of the century. Literary critic, journalist, art critic, social commentator, and friendend of the best-known cultural figures of the modernist and postmodernist periods (Yeats, Woolf, Sartre, Auden, Eliot, Isherwood, Hughes, Brodsky, Ginsberg-a who's who of contemporary literature). Spender's writing recorded and distilled the emotional turbulence of many of the century's defining moments: the Spanish Civil War; the rise and fall of Marxism and Nazism; World War II; the human rights struggle after the war; the Vietnam protest, the Cold War, and the 1960s sexual revolution; the rise of America as a cultural and political force. As David Leeming's fascinating biography demonstrates, Stephen Spender's life reflected the complexity and flux of the century in which he lived: his sexual ambivalence, his famous friends, the free-love days in Germany between the wars, the CIA-Encounter scandal. In David Leeming's capable hands, this comprehensive, unauthorized study of Spender is a meditation on modernity itself.

diaries volume one 1939 1960 christopher isherwood: Shaw and History Gale K. Larson, 1999 This special issue of *Shaw* offers ten articles that focus on the theme of Shaw and History. That focus illuminates Shaw's concept of history as art and its uses for dramatic purposes. It is a focus that is broadly applied to the historical perspective. Views range from Shaw's uses of historical sources in the Shavianizing of history, his uses of historical, geographical, and political places and events in his work, to views that place selected Shavian works within a historical context. Stanley Weintraub discusses Shaw's references to Cetewayo, Zulu chieftain, in *Cashel Byron's Profession* as the first incorporation of a contemporary historical figure into his work. John Allett explores the liberal, socialist, and radical feminist views of prostitution in nineteenth-century England and demonstrates how those political views are developed within the unfolding action of *Mrs Warren's Profession*. Sidney P. Albert studies the Utopian movement, *The Garden City*, to determine the extent to which that movement influenced Shaw's conception of *Perivale St. Andres* in *Major Barbara*. He also narrates his personal attempt to identify the Ballycorus smelting works and its surroundings as well as the campanile, or Folly, at Faringdon as sites that provided the scenic sources for *Perivale St. Andres* in *Major Barbara*. Gale K. Larson has edited a partially unpublished Shavian manuscript that addresses Shaw's relationship with Frank Harris and, among other matters,

sets the historical record right as to who deserves the credit for attributing the identity of the Dark Lady of the Sonnets to Mary Fitton. He also examines the historical sources that influenced Shaw's views on Charles II, the Merry Monarch, in *In Good King Charles's Golden Days* and demonstrates Shaw's reclamation of yet another historical figure from the traditional historians. David Gunby examines the first-night performance of *O'Flaherty, V.C.* for purposes of setting the historical record straight as to the facts of that production. Wendi Chen presents the stage history of the production of *Mrs Warren's Profession* in China during the early 1920s and argues its central role in shaping modern Chinese drama. Rodelle Weintraub assesses *Too True to Be Good* as a dream play within the context of the nightmarish times of World War I. Michael M. O'Hara surveys the Federal Theatre's productions of *Androcles and the Lion* in the 1930s to reveal the political and religious repressions that those productions underscore. Shaw 19 also includes three reviews of recent additions to Shavian scholarship as well as John R. Pfeiffer's *Continuing Checklist of Shaviana*.

diaries volume one 1939 1960 christopher isherwood: Benjamin Britten Paul Kildea, 2013-01-28 Published to mark the beginning of the Britten centenary year in 2013, Paul Kildea's *Benjamin Britten: A Life in the Twentieth Century* is the definitive biography of Britain's greatest modern composer. In the eyes of many, Benjamin Britten was our finest composer since Purcell (a figure who often inspired him) three hundred years earlier. He broke decisively with the romantic, nationalist school of figures such as Parry, Elgar and Vaughan Williams and recreated English music in a fresh, modern, European form. With *Peter Grimes* (1945), *Billy Budd* (1951) and *The Turn of the Screw* (1954), he arguably composed the last operas - from any composer in any country - which have entered both the popular consciousness and the musical canon. He did all this while carrying two disadvantages to worldly success - his passionately held pacifism, which made him suspect to the authorities during and immediately after the Second World War - and his homosexuality, specifically his forty-year relationship with Peter Pears, for whom many of his greatest operatic roles and vocal works were created. The atmosphere and personalities of Aldeburgh in his native Suffolk also form another wonderful dimension to the book. Kildea shows clearly how Britten made this creative community, notably with the foundation of the Aldeburgh Festival and the building of Snape Maltings, but also how costly the determination that this required was. Above all, this book helps us understand the relationship of Britten's music to his life, and takes us as far into his creative process as we are ever likely to go. Kildea reads dozens of Britten's works with enormous intelligence and sensitivity, in a way which those without formal musical training can understand. It is one of the most moving and enjoyable biographies of a creative artist of any kind to have appeared for years. Paul Kildea is a writer and conductor who has performed many of the Britten works he writes about, in opera houses and concert halls from Sydney to Hamburg. His previous books include *Selling Britten* (2002) and (as editor) *Britten on Music* (2003). He was Head of Music at the Aldeburgh Festival between 1999 and 2002 and subsequently Artistic Director of the Wigmore Hall in London.

diaries volume one 1939 1960 christopher isherwood: The Promise of the Present and the Shadow of the Past Benson Varon, 2011-05-17 [Barbara] did not fit the classic model of an immigrant who becomes acquainted with America through school or work, learns English, falls in love with and adopts America's values, and is helped along in many cases by an American spouse. First of all, I was not an American. We became American together; if anything, rather than lead, I lagged behind. More important, like me, she came [from Germany] to this country fully bilingual, with considerable familiarity with its history and society, and a developed set of values. America fit those set of values; she did not have to discover them. This book is in large part for those familiar with Barbara's community service and political work who wish they had known her longer or more closely. This book is also for the many whom Barbara would have wished to know personally those committed to community service who, like herself, believed strongly in voting rights, human rights, and women's rights, who shared her limitless curiosity, and who loved history as much. The book is at the same time about my own journey. I traveled not only wherever she went during this journey, but in her constellation. I met in the process her spiritual kin, people linked to her by history, alleys she had not gone into, and relationships she had not fully explored. (Introduction)

diaries volume one 1939 1960 christopher isherwood: Brecht In Context John Willett, 2015-04-06 New edition, revised for the centenary of Brecht's birth, containing additional updated material In this classic study, John Willett sets in context not only Brecht the theatre practitioner but Brecht the writer and man of his time. Through chapters on Brecht's relationships and attitudes to contemporary politics, English and American literature, Expressionism, music, art and cinema, as well as to such figures as Auden, Kipling and Piscator, the book presents a detailed and wide-ranging account of one of the most significant men of this century. An outstanding introduction to its subject. . . will immeasurably enrich Brechtians young and old, especially those who think they know it all (Times Educational Supplement); Economical, witty and unpretentious in a way that Brecht would have liked, but immensely well-informed and thoroughly documented, seems certain to become required reading for anyone seriously interested in the dramatist (London Review of Books); An extraordinarily rich volume, which succeeds in being packed but uncrowded (New Statesman)

diaries volume one 1939 1960 christopher isherwood: Murder in the Closet Curtis Evans, 2016-12-12 Before the 1969 Stonewall Riots, LGBTQ life was dominated by the negative image of the closet--the metaphorical space where that which was deemed queer was hidden from a hostile public view. Literary studies of queer themes and characters in crime fiction have tended to focus on the more positive and explicit representations since the riots, while pre-Stonewall works are thought to reference queer only negatively or obliquely. This collection of new essays questions that view with an investigation of queer aspects in crime fiction published over eight decades, from the corseted Victorian era to the unbuttoned 1960s.

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