

The logo features the word "NAXOS" in a bold, serif font, with "AudioBooks" in a smaller, sans-serif font below it. Above the text is a stylized graphic of a classical building facade with columns.

NAXOS
AudioBooks

COMPLETE
CLASSICS
UNABRIDGED

THE MAN in the IRON MASK

Alexandre Dumas



Read by **Bill Homewood**

1	Chapter 1: The Prisoner	10:40
2	Aramis looked steadily at this singular youth...	11:12
3	While listening to these words, delivered with emphasis...	11:26
4	Aramis almost imperceptibly smiled.	10:03
5	'Listen, then; I will in a few words tell you...'	9:04
6	'Monseigneur,' answered Aramis...	9:33
7	'And you would have kept your word, monseigneur?'	7:57
8	Chapter 2: How Mouston Had Become Fatter...	9:23
9	'In truth, my dear Porthos, you possess ideas...'	9:02
10	Chapter 3: Who Messire Jean Percerin Was	7:59
11	It was to the house of this grand llama of tailors...	8:02
12	Chapter 4: The Patterns	12:29
13	'Come in, M. Lebrun, come in,' said Aramis...	11:17
14	Chapter 5: Where, Probably, Molière Obtained His First Idea...	14:26
15	Chapter 6: The Bee-Hive, the Bees, and the Honey	8:25
16	'Come,' said Molière, laughing, 'he is off now.'	7:40
17	The shouts of laughter reached the ears of Fouquet...	4:50
18	Chapter 7: Another Supper at the Bastille	7:11
19	While he was drinking he did not see with what attention...	9:20
20	Chapter 8: The General of the Order	9:43

21	Baisemeaux was so profoundly astonished...	11:37
22	Chapter 9: The Tempter	13:36
23	At this point in Aramis's gloomy analysis...	11:21
24	Chapter 10: Crown and Tiara	11:40
25	'That poor boy who is dying of love for La Vallière...'	10:19
26	Chapter 11: The Chateau de Vaux-le-Vicomte	14:02
27	Chapter 12: The Wine of Melun	13:43
28	Chapter 13: Nectar and Ambrosia	11:51
29	Chapter 14: A Gascon, and a Gascon and a Half	9:11
30	D'Artagnan shook his head with a sorrowful expression.	9:14
31	We have seen that Louis XIV had sent for Colbert...	10:43
32	Chapter 15: Colbert	7:36
33	Why did Louis XIV insist upon it in such a manner?	8:19
34	Chapter 16: Jealousy	7:45
35	D'Artagnan turned on his heel...	7:54
36	Chapter 17: High Treason	12:09
37	The carriage was completely concealed amid the trees.	11:40
38	Chapter 18: A Night at the Bastille	9:42
39	At the end of an hour, Louis heard something...	8:53
40	Chapter 19: The Shadow of M. Fouquet	5:30

41	The air was still perfumed, or infected...	11:55
42	When D'Artagnan returned, he found Fouquet...	11:16
43	'That is all well and good,' said D'Artagnan...	9:53
44	Chapter 20: The Morning	11:34
45	And, in fact, a knock at the door was heard at that moment.	9:28
46	Chapter 21: The King's Friend	11:04
47	'Do you remember,' said the bishop, casting down his eyes...	13:15
48	'Have you thought,' continued Fouquet, becoming animated...	8:34
49	Aramis remained silent and motionless.	9:07
50	Chapter 22: Showing How the Countersign Was Respected...	9:05
51	Baisemeaux showed him the order to release Seldon.	9:42
52	Chapter 23: The King's Gratitude	10:07
53	'Sire,' said the surintendant, with firmness...	10:05
54	Chapter 24: The False King	11:28
55	'What does your majesty wish?' said D'Artagnan, appearing.	11:08
56	As to Anne of Austria, struck suddenly in head and heart...	4:21
57	Chapter 25: In Which Porthos Thinks He is Pursuing a Duchy	13:45
58	Chapter 26: The Last Adieu	12:51
59	Chapter 27: Monsieur de Beaufort	10:23
60	Athos became pale, and was unable to conceal his agitation.	9:38

61	Chapter 28: Preparations for Departure	10:19
62	This <i>but</i> , so big with menace and with storm...	9:25
63	Chapter 29: Planchet's Inventory	8:13
64	This word <i>little fortune</i> placed Planchet in his rank...	4:48
65	Chapter 30: The Inventory of M. de Beaufort	14:49
66	Chapter 31: The Silver Dish	9:10
67	Athos and Raoul wandered for some time...	8:19
68	Chapter 32: Captive and Jailers	12:40
69	Athos shook his head, and continued his walk alone...	10:46
70	Chapter 33: Promises	9:09
71	The night was fine, as it always is in these happy climes.	9:31
72	'We love each other too dearly,' said the comte...	11:49
73	Chapter 34: Among Women	9:33
74	He replied that he had just come from the land of oranges.	10:57
75	Chapter 35: The Last Supper	8:08
76	A painful cry of denial arose from all parts of the table.	8:41
77	Chapter 36: In M. Colbert's Carriage	10:24
78	Colbert fixed upon the old duchesse one of those fierce looks...	7:38
79	Chapter 37: The Two Lighters	11:01
80	Fouquet, satisfied of having forced the enemy...	6:11

81	Chapter 38: Friendly Advice	13:21
82	Chapter 39: How the King, Louis XIV, Played His Little Part	9:46
83	And he looked Louis full in the face...	9:42
84	Chapter 40: The White Horse and the Black	8:25
85	D'Artagnan gave his horse good breathing-time.	10:55
86	Chapter 41: In Which the Squirrel Falls, the Adder Flies	9:16
87	D'Artagnan, with his quick glance, appreciated...	11:19
88	D'Artagnan was about to retire likewise...	2:22
89	Chapter 42: Belle-Ile-en-Mer	11:12
90	'Porthos, what is that yonder?' interrupted Aramis...	10:52
91	Chapter 43: Explanations by Aramis	12:44
92	D'Artagnan made them a sign to keep silence...	12:46
93	Chapter 44: Result of the Ideas of the King...	6:36
94	Chapter 45: The Ancestors of Porthos	10:00
95	Chapter 46: The Son of Biscarrat	12:12
96	'I will go, messieurs,' replied Biscarrat...	2:23
97	Chapter 47: The Grotto of Locmaria	14:10
98	Chapter 48: The Grotto	10:43
99	Biscarrat remained silent.	8:42
100	Chapter 49: An Homeric Song	12:29

101	Chapter 50: The Death of a Titan	9:02
102	As for Porthos, after having hurled the barrel of powder...	8:48
103	Chapter 51: Porthos's Epitaph	12:56
104	Aramis stared imperceptibly.	4:03
105	Chapter 52: M. de Gesvres's Round	13:06
106	Chapter 53: King Louis XIV	10:25
107	At these words Louis cast down his eyes.	10:57
108	Chapter 54: M. Fouquet's Friends	7:25
109	D'Artagnan turned rapidly on his heel...	9:58
110	Chapter 55: Porthos's Will	8:49
111	Here the reader stopped to take breath.	7:32
112	Chapter 56: The Old Age of Athos	5:59
113	People respected Athos, we say, and they loved him.	8:54
114	Chapter 57: Athos's Vision	8:13
115	There was, for a moment, a frightful pêle-mêle of timbers...	8:22
116	Chapter 58: The Angel of Death	13:36
117	Chapter 59: The Bulletin	15:49
118	Chapter 60: The Last Canto of the Poem	7:49
119	A woman was praying, kneeling on the moist earth.	10:20
120	Epilogue	6:19

121	D'Artagnan allowed the ill-humour of the one...	8:06
122	They chatted together, while following the sport...	10:06
123	'Remember well what I tell you, sire...'	11:54
124	Colbert drew from his pocket a little oblong book...	12:48
125	The Death of D'Artagnan	16:57

Total time: 20:46:13

Alexandre Dumas

(1802– 1870)

THE MAN in the IRON MASK

This gripping tale of valour and honour in seventeenth-century France continues the adventures of the proud heroes of *The Three Musketeers* by the same author. We now know them as venerable leaders; their swashbuckling has become diplomacy – though the sword is never very far from the hand – and Dumas skilfully enhances their legendary status through the characters around them:

... 'The musketeers! the musketeers!' repeated they. And among all these brave men, the idea that they were going to fight two of the oldest glories of the French army made a shiver, half enthusiasm, half terror,

run through them. In fact, those four names – d'Artagnan, Athos, Porthos and Aramis – were venerated among all who wore a sword, as in antiquity the names of Hercules, Theseus, Castor and Pollux were revered...

The musketeers, an elite royal corps, show unmatched courage and quick thinking in the face of danger. They are specialists in the arts of killing, disguise and deceit, but we are drawn to them as romantic and attractive heroes – their actions always, of course, in a noble cause – imbued with the great French court traditions of *politesse*, flamboyant costume and honour. One of them bids

his son, off to war: ‘...do not die without honour or advantage to France.’

Dumas writes with fun and dash, pushing the story on with repartee as fast as swordplay, earning the right, every now and then, to dwell on an especially important moment. For these lyrically written passages his unique skill is to spice his richly descriptive language with images of sense or taste, or with perfectly-timed details which underscore the mood of a scene or a character (‘...a bird of night uttered from the depths of the forest a prolonged and plaintive cry...’).

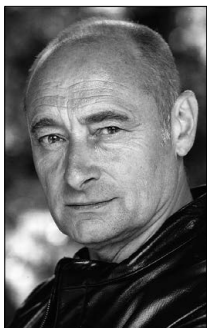
The book contains some of the funniest scenes Dumas wrote. Especially rich in comedy is the visit by Porthos to the King’s tailor, where Porthos is observed with fascination by Molière and, Dumas suggests, becomes the inspiration for the great writer’s *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*. This is typical; Dumas adds to the ‘reality’ of his work with a painstakingly researched and beautifully presented historical backdrop, and by the inclusion of actual people: noted artists of the Left Bank and ‘Le Roi Soleil’ himself (Louis XIV), among many others.

Alexandre Dumas wrote or collaborated on nearly 100 plays and many novels, including *The Three Musketeers* and *The Count of Monte Cristo*. He was born in 1802, the son of a general in Napoleon’s army and the grandson of a French Marquis and a Saint Domingo negress. As a child he lived through the upheavals of the Napoleonic Revolution and the subsequent restoration of the monarchy of France. He received his private education from a priest (like Monte Cristo). He was politically active and, though he is thought to have rather embellished the actions in his *Mémoires*, was involved heroically in skirmishes during the 1830 revolution. He was the father of Alexandre Dumas (fils), most famous for his *The Lady of the Camellias*. Alexandre Dumas (père) ran his career as an industry. It is thought that he would sketch the outline of a story to an assistant who would write it up; then Dumas himself would take the story by the throat and wrestle it into a masterpiece. He was a generous, idiosyncratic and fun-loving man who cooked brilliantly, gave a lot of money to cadgers and hangers-on,

and spent prodigiously on his private life, most notoriously on various highly-publicised *affaires* and the construction of a monstrous folly of a house at Saint-Germain-en-Laye.

He died, just solvent, in 1870.

Notes by Bill Homewood



Bill Homewood's West End credits include leads in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Grand Hotel*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *The Boys From Syracuse*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Twelfth Night* and *The Hollow Crown* (Royal Shakespeare Company). His innumerable television series include *The Professionals*, *Berkeley Square*, *A Wing and a Prayer*, *The Renford Rejects*, *London's Burning*, *Casualty*, *Coronation Street*, *Crocodile Shoes*, *The Bill* and *Spy Trap*. Bill also directs theatre in the USA, the UK and France, where he runs a ranch with his wife Estelle Kohler. His other recordings for Naxos AudioBooks include *She*, *Tom Jones*, *Allan Quatermain*, *The Red & the Black*, *The Three Musketeers*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and the *Four Just Men* series.

Credits

Produced by Bill Homewood
Edited and mastered by Sarah Butcher

© Booklet: Naxos AudioBooks Ltd 2014

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. UNAUTHORISED PUBLIC PERFORMANCE,
BROADCASTING AND COPYING OF THESE COMPACT DISCS PROHIBITED.

Booklet and cover design: Hannah Whale, Fruition – Creative Concepts,
using images from iStockphoto

For a complete catalogue and details of how to order other
Naxos AudioBooks titles please contact:

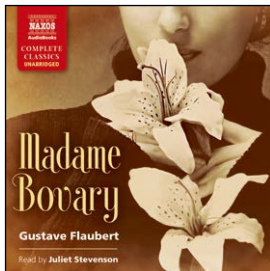
In the UK: Naxos AudioBooks, Select Music & Video Distribution,
3 Wells Place, Redhill, Surrey RH1 3SL.
Tel: 01737 645600.

In the USA: Naxos of America Inc.,
1810 Columbia Ave., Suite 28, Franklin, TN37064.
Tel: +1 615 771 9393

In Australia: Select Audio/Visual Distribution Pty. Ltd.,
PO Box 691, Brookvale, NSW 2100.
Tel: +61 299481811

order online at
www.naxosaudiobooks.com

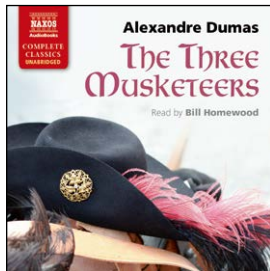
Other works on Naxos AudioBooks



Madame Bovary

(Gustave) ISBN: 9781843798477

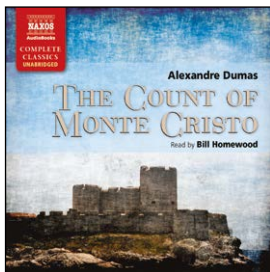
Read by Juliet Stevenson



The Three Musketeers

(Dumas) ISBN: 9781843797715

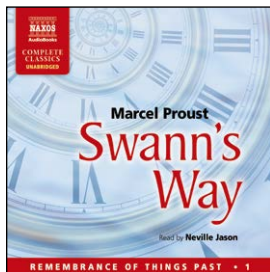
Read by Bill Homewood



The Count of Monte Cristo

(Dumas) ISBN: 9789626341346

Read by Bill Homewood



Swann's Way

(Proust) ISBN: 9781843796060

Read by Neville Jason

Alexandre Dumas

THE MAN in the IRON MASK

Read by **Bill Homewood**

The Man in the Iron Mask continues the adventures of the dauntless heroes of *The Three Musketeers* – Aramis, Athos, Porthos and d'Artagnan. In old age their swashbuckling ought to have been replaced by a more gentle way of life, but the veteran warriors find themselves at the centre of a plot in which both hearts and heads are broken, and the very throne of France is at stake.



Bill Homewood is well known for his innumerable television performances and leading credits in the West End and for the RSC. His other recordings for Naxos AudioBooks include *She*, *Tom Jones*, *Allan Quatermain*, *The Red & the Black*, *The Three Musketeers*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and the *Four Just Men* series.

COMPLETE
CLASSICS
UNABRIDGED

AudioBooks

NAXOS

© 2014 Naxos
AudioBooks Ltd.
© 2014 Naxos
AudioBooks Ltd.
Made in England.

Total time
20:46:13

NA0188D

CD ISBN:
9781843798699

Visit us online at naxosaudiobooks.com