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Don't Miss Out!
This Year's Final Vanbrugh300 Highlights



Welcome to this edition of The Georgian Group's Vanbrugh300 newsletter, where we round off a remarkable year with a final look at the events, exhibitions and articles celebrating Sir John Vanbrugh.

If you're looking for something to enjoy tomorrow evening, Thursday 15, there are two fantastic lectures taking place at Stowe House and Seaton Delaval Hall. Be sure to book your tickets!

There's still time to explore our featured exhibitions, including Staging the Baroque at Castle Howard and Rockstar of the English Baroque at Seaton Delaval Hall. You can also view the Vanbrugh300 panels at the Earl Marshal's Court in London.

In this edition, we share two articles exploring Vanbrugh's legacy: The Reputation of Vanbrugh by Jeremy Musson and Vanbrugh's Influence by Owen Hopkins – a fitting contribution to conclude our year of celebration.

We also look back at the final talk in our lecture series, featuring Nick Helm and Annette Rubery at Seaton Delaval Hall. Finally, don't miss our last event of the programme, with Charles Saumarez Smith discussing the interiors of Vanbrugh's houses.

To learn more about VANBRUGH300, visit our website and explore the What's On page to see upcoming events and activities.

Visit the VANBRUGH300 Website

Sir John Vanbrugh and the Making of Stowe

On Thursday 15 October 6.00-7.30pm, Michael Bevington will explore Sir John Vanbrugh's role in shaping Stowe, examining the archaeological evidence for his buildings at Stowe House and in the gardens. The lecture will consider how Vanbrugh and Charles Bridgeman helped Lord Cobham develop a new architectural and landscape vision, reflecting his political and philosophical outlook. **Tickets are £5.50.**



Book Tickets

Rory Fraser on Vanbrugh

As playwright, soldier, spy and adventurer, Vanbrugh is one of the most colourful architects in English history, yet relatively little is known about him. On Thursday 15 October 6:30-7.45pm, at Seaton Delaval Hall, Historian Rory Fraser will give a sense of the character that lies behind his legendary facades. **Tickets are £15.**



Book Tickets

Staging the Baroque: Vanbrugh at Castle Howard

Celebrating Castle Howard's beautiful Baroque architecture, this exhibition, curated by architect Roz Barr, explores Sir John Vanbrugh's visionary use of scale, shadow and light in the creation of one of Britain's most iconic stately homes. The exhibition traces the moment when an ambitious Vanbrugh with a teeming imagination encountered the equally ambitious Charles Howard, 3rd Earl of Carlisle in the confines of the Kit-Cat Club in London, and was commissioned to design the Earl's new house. **Exhibition End Date: 21 October**



Book Tickets

Vanbrugh: Rockstar of the English Baroque at Seaton Delaval Hall

Vanbrugh: Rockstar of the English Baroque is an exhibition that introduces visitors to Sir John Vanbrugh – architect, playwright, soldier, spy. Each participating venue explores Vanbrugh's life and work, as well as his relationship with his patron and the buildings he created at that site. At Seaton, Admiral George Delaval commissioned Vanbrugh to design the hall, which he did by combining elements of his English Baroque with his 'castle air.' One of the most striking features, and unique for Vanbrugh, are the oval-shaped spiral staircases that allowed guests to be shown the estate from the roof. The exhibition guides visitors to identify Vanbrugh-designed features in the house. **Exhibition End Date: 18 October**



Book Tickets

The Earl Marshal's Court Vanbrugh Panels

Visitors are welcome to explore three specially created exhibition panels in the historic Earl Marshal's Court. Don't miss this opportunity to discover a different side of Sir John Vanbrugh's remarkable career. Displayed alongside Jonathan Richardson's portrait of Vanbrugh, in a room that remains largely unchanged since his lifetime, the panels explore his work as a herald and his role as Clarenceux King of Arms. The exhibition also introduces the history and work of the College of Arms and examines the influence of heraldry on Vanbrugh's architectural designs, revealing how his official duties and creative vision were closely connected.



Find out more

The Reputation of Vanbrugh
By Jeremy Musson

The reputation of Vanbrugh's as architect is one of the most singular and unusual within British architectural history. He is, without doubt, the designer of some of the best-known English country houses. And yet at the same time these great houses don't quite fit the wider patterns of English domestic architecture. Professor David Watkin wrote in his book 'English Architecture that with Castle Howard 'the English baroque... [READ MORE]



Vanbrugh's Influence
By Owen Hopkins

When Vanbrugh died in 1726, his exuberant English Baroque style was already largely out of fashion, superseded by the calm restraint of the Palladians. Yet, like Wren, the sheer scale of Vanbrugh's achievement could not be ignored, in contrast to Hawksmoor who largely disappeared from view for two centuries following his death. Robert Adam and John Soane were unusual at the time in both being avowed Vanbrugh fans, but both had no time for Hawksmoor. Class undoubtedly played a part, with Soane, a notorious snob, referring to Hawksmoor only as 'the pupil' – whether of Vanbrugh, Wren or both, it's unclear. If Vanbrugh's reputation never sunk to the same degree as Hawksmoor's, neither did it match the latter's meteoric rise in the second half of the twentieth century... [READ MORE]



The Vanbrugh300 Free Lecture Series

Seaton Delaval Hall hosted the last talk in the Vanbrugh300 Lecture Series last Thursday. As it's focus, Dr Annette Rubery and Dr Nick Helm, experts in the theatre and theatrical architecture of the Restoration period (c.1660-1710), discussed Sir John Vanbrugh and the Queen's Theatre in the Haymarket, London.

The Vanbrugh300 Lecture Series – made possible by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and presented by The Georgian Group – explored the many areas of Vanbrugh's fascinating life and astonishing legacy. Variously described as a Whig, a wit and a wag, Vanbrugh made an alluring subject for the lectures. You can learn more about the lecture series on our dedicated webpage.

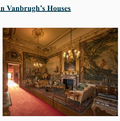


Read more about the Vanbrugh300 Lecture Series

The Interiors of Sir John Vanbrugh's Houses

How much was Vanbrugh involved in the layout of the rooms at Castle Howard? Was he responsible for the selection any of the furniture and tapestries at Blenheim? Did he have any interest in the way the interiors of his houses worked, including in his own houses, Goose-Pie House in Whitehall and Vanbrugh Castle in Greenwich?

Sir Charles Saumarez Smith, as part of the Furniture History Society's Annual Lecture on 20 October, will look back on what has been learned about Vanbrugh as a result of the festivities surrounding his tercentenary, with particular attention paid to the furniture and interiors of his houses.



Book Tickets

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