



Garrick's Temple to Shakespeare Newsletter



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Welcome to Garrick's Temple

In 1754, the great actor-manager David Garrick (1717-1779) purchased Hampton House (now Garrick's Villa), overlooking the Thames at Hampton. He commissioned Robert Adam to improve the property, adding a classical portico and an orangery, while his friend Lancelot 'Capability' Brown laid out the riverside garden and designed a grotto-like tunnel beneath the busy road which separated (as it still does) the house from the garden. (Garrick had planned to build a bridge but Dr Samuel Johnson, his great friend and erstwhile tutor in Lichfield, advised him 'What may not be overdone can be underdone'.)

The riverside garden was laid out in typical mid-18th Century style with a serpentine path reflecting the 'Line of beauty' defined by Garrick's friend William Hogarth. There, in 1756 Garrick built, as a tribute to his idol William Shakespeare, an octagonal Palladian temple with a dome and eight Ionic columns. The architect is unknown but the design almost certainly derives from that of the temple at Chiswick House, the home of Lord and Lady Burlington, Garrick's close friends, who had acted as guardians to Eva Maria Garrick before she married David.

The Temple and garden formed the perfect setting for Garrick to cultivate his talent as a country gentleman. On May Day each year, seated on his special president of the Shakespeare Club chair, Garrick and his wife Eva Maria (once a Viennese ballet dancer) dispensed money and cakes to the poor children of Hampton. Zoffany's great paintings of the

Garricks in the Temple garden give an idea of the amiable style in which the couple enjoyed their country retreat.

For the Temple, in 1758, Garrick commissioned a life size statue of Shakespeare from the the great Huguenot sculptor Francois Roubiliac (c.1702-1762). (See page 2 for more about Roubiliac, the statue, the 250th anniversary celebrations planned for this summer and the major exhibition to be held in the autumn.)

Over the years the Temple was allowed to fall into disrepair until, in 1998/9, a Partnership between the Council of Richmond-upon-Thames (the owner), English Heritage, The Thames Landscape Strategy, The Temple Trust and Hampton Riverside Trust raised the funds to get the Temple

restored, and the gardens laid out again as in Garrick's day.

A copy of Roubiliac's statue of Shakespeare was installed in the Temple (the original was bequeathed by Garrick to the British Museum), together with a major permanent exhibition of Garrick's life and work. In 2005, a new Charitable Trust, Garrick's Temple to Shakespeare Trust, was set up. Its objectives are threefold – to assist with conservation, to develop use of the Temple for educational and cultural purposes and to improve facilities for visitors.

The Temple is open to the public on Sunday afternoons from April to October (2pm to 5pm) inclusive. The riverside garden is open daily throughout the year.☺



Photograph of Garrick's Temple to Shakespeare by courtesy of John Inglis



Roubiliac's Statue of Shakespeare

Roubiliac, like Garrick, came from French Huguenot stock, one of many thousands of protestants who fled France after the Edict of Nantes and the Massacre of St. Bartholomew's Day. A native of Lyon, he became, in London, a protégé of Garrick's friend Horace Walpole. He was regarded at the greatest sculptor of mid-eighteenth Century England and among his subjects were Handel, Newton, Hogarth and Colley Cibber.

In commissioning the Shakespeare statue, Garrick indicated to Roubiliac the pose which he wanted for the statue, striking an attitude and exclaiming 'Lo the Bard of Avon!', The resulting statue is perhaps more suggestive of Garrick impersonating Shakespeare than of the Bard himself.

Roubiliac's first version of the statue did not satisfy Garrick. The block of marble used was full of faint veins

which, crossing the face, gave it a sinister expression.

'What! Was Shakespeare marked with mulberries?' exclaimed Garrick. Roubiliac, admitting the justice of the criticism, hewed the head from the shoulders and replaced it with another of a purer marble.

The original statue, bequeathed to the British Museum, is now in the British Library (without its plinth). The copy in the Temple has recently been presented by the Museum to Garrick's Temple to Shakespeare Trust. ∞

London Open House Weekend

As usual, the Temple will be open on *London Open House Weekend* from 11am-5pm on Saturday & Sunday, September 20th & 21st.

This annual occasion normally attracts 350-400 visitors from all over the world

Shakespeare Celebrated

A major exhibition of work by Britain's greatest 18th century sculptors, opening at Orleans House Gallery in Twickenham on August 30th, 2008

Appropriately, in the 250th anniversary year of Roubiliac's statue of Shakespeare, this highly important exhibition will be held a few miles downstream from the Temple for which it was commissioned. The exhibition is of both national and local interest, and follows on from the National Portrait Gallery's 2006 exhibition which took the Shakespeare portrait story up to 1719 and George Vertu's confirmation of the Chandos portrait as the true likeness of Shakespeare.

The 2008 exhibition is built around a series of sculptures created between 1735 and 1790 by some of the 18th Century's greatest sculptors -Roubiliac himself plus Scheemakers, Rysbrack, and Cheere. Never before have they been seen side by side, their juxtaposition illustrating how it was that these sculptors came to give Shakespeare the face and demeanour of a National Hero that remains with us to this day.

The sculptures will be shown alongside a number of paintings, engravings and other supporting objects of great beauty. The statues, busts and studies are in marble, terracotta, plaster and lead, together with monuments and memorials represented by full-size photographs.

The evolving portrait of Shakespeare is also illustrated on the walls of the exhibition, with major paintings by Dawes, Mortimer, Carpentiers, Bernadus de Quertenmont, culminating in Kaufmann's 'ideal' portrait. Missing only is the double portrait of Shakespeare and Garrick by Gainsborough, destroyed in the Stratford town hall fire of 1946. However it is represented in the exhibition by the charming naïve copy from the Borough of Richmond's own collection.

Though complete in itself, the exhibi-

tion will terminate triumphantly two miles upstream at Hampton, where many new pilgrims will succumb to the charms of Garrick's Temple with its replica of the statue of Shakespeare by Roubiliac, and the splendid permanent exhibition over which it presides.

The exhibition is mounted by the Orleans House Gallery, directed by Mark de Novellis and curated by Iain Mackintosh (a Trustee of Garrick's Temple to Shakespeare Trust) and Marcus Risdell (Hon. Librarian of the Garrick Club). ∞
Orleans House Gallery, Riverside
Twickenham TW1 3DJ, Tel 020 8831 6000

Zoffany masterpieces pass to the nation

The two great Zoffany paintings of David and Eva Maria Garrick outside the Temple and entertaining on the riverside lawn will be accepted by the Nation in lieu of death duties on the estate of Lord Lambton. They will be assigned to Tate Britain. Full size copies of them form part of the permanent exhibition in the Temple. ∞



Education

'The most beautiful classroom in the country'

Garrick's Temple has been described as 'The most beautiful classroom in the country', a view endorsed by many of the school and college groups who visit the Temple with their teachers. Schools see it as a place not only relevant to history studies (local, architectural, and Cultural) but also as a setting for exploring the text of Shakespeare's plays or presenting work prepared beforehand or on site. For older students, specialist visits meet the needs of the 16+ Advanced Level and BTec Theatre Studies and Performing Arts programmes.

The well-known actor Clive Francis (now Chairman of Trustees) has conducted outreach visits for school parties. Staff from Orleans House Gallery hold regular workshops for special need pupils. Visits from local Preparatory schools resulted in excellent artwork. Performance events on the Temple lawn provide opportunities for young people to visit the Temple to play, sing and/or act – a tradition now built into the annual programme of Community events.

For several years, thanks to the enterprise of the Hampton Riverside Trust, the Thames Explorer Trust (an Education Charity) has run a number of successful sessions, some with a focus on Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

In 2004, to mark the 250th anniversary of Garrick's arrival in Hampton, a notable day of Shakespeare workshops was held for pupils from local junior and infant schools. This will shortly be repeated. In 2006, to mark the 250th anniversary of the Temple itself, the Trust, in collaboration with Orleans House, sponsored an art competition



on subjects from Shakespeare plays. This year there is a competition based on three dimensional work relating to the Exhibition 'Shakespeare Cast as a National Hero'.

While the Garricks had no children of their own, they delighted in welcoming young people to the Temple. They would be very happy and proud to see it so effectively used, not just as a museum and the home of a permanent art exhibition, but as a beautiful classroom and a highly appropriate stage for young acting talent. ∞

2008 Sculpture competition for schools

To celebrate the 250th anniversary of Roubiliac's statue of Shakespeare, a schools' art competition is being organised jointly by the Garricks Temple to Shakespeare Trust's Education Committee and Richmond Arts Service. This will tie in with the Autumn exhibition at Orleans House 'Shakespeare Cast as the Nation's Hero'. Children are invited to create sculptures of their own heroes. These can be made using any 3D media – clay, cardboard, wire, papier maché, carving etc. A selection of the entries will be displayed at

SUMMER PERFORMANCES AT THE TEMPLE

The Temple provides a perfect setting for performances by local musical and dramatic societies and groups. Here is the programme for May/June 2008

*Saturday afternoons
at 3pm*

May 17
Hampton School Jazz Band
Jazz classics

May 24
'The Rogues and Vagabonds'
Songs, prose and poetry

May 31
Merton Park Madrigal
Singers

June 7
Actors' Richmond Centre
'*Shakespeare for Good or Bad*'
Readings, poems and songs on
Shakespeare's thoughts on virtue and vice

June 14
St. Mary's Drama Group
'*More Statues in Shakespeare*'
including famous speeches from
The Winter's Tale
and *Julius Caesar*

*No tickets required. Admission free.
Most performances last about an hour.*

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Orleans House during the exhibition. A resource pack is available from the Gallery to help develop lessons around the 'Sculpting for Heroes' theme.

To enter the competition, please send photos labelled with the pupil's name, age, school, title of sculpture and approximate size to Miranda Stearn, Orleans House Gallery, Riverside, Twickenham TW1 3DJ by July 1st. Those selected will be notified before the end of term. Pupils and their families will be invited to a special celebration event at the Gallery in September. ∞



David Garrick as Richard III (detail), by William Hogarth 1697-1764

The Actors' Temple

Garrick's Temple has been called the 'Actors' Temple'. The greatness of Garrick's reputation has evoked generous and persistent support for the Trust from the Theatrical Profession. Sir John Gielgud led an eminent list of sponsors of the 1998/9 Appeal.

Sir Peter Hall CBE, Sir Donald Sinden CBE and Richard Briers CBE are among The Trust's Patrons. Dame Judi Dench, Jeremy Irons and others have recently given generous support. Clive Francis is the Chairman of the Trust. Liz Crowther serves on the Temple Management Committee. The Garrick Club has always been highly supportive.

In this way, Garrick's legacy lives on 250 years after he built his Temple in honour of the Bard whose works he did so much to popularise, and which, in the process, helped to make him the supreme performer on the 18th Century London stage. ∞

Garrick's Temple to Shakespeare Website

For details of events, local transport facilities etc refer to www.garrickstemple.org

The Garrick Exhibition in the Temple

This permanent exhibition is testimony to the unique status of Garrick in English 18th Century cultural life. Together with a bust by Van Nost, there are copies of many great portraits of him by all the leading artists of Garrick's time – Sir Joshua Reynolds, William Hogarth, Thomas Gainsborough, Zoffany, Hayman, Batoni and others. There are also a large number of contemporary prints of Garrick in some of his many famous roles, and of him and Eva Maria as a happily married couple. ∞

Volunteers wanted

To maintain and develop its service to the Community, Garrick's Temple to Shakespeare Trust relies totally on its team of volunteers. Help is needed for acting as Temple Guides during regular Sunday opening hours and at special events, with the education programme, catering, gardening, secretarial assistance etc. If you would like to help please contact Scott McLean. ∞
Tel 020 8977 8272
email: scott.mclean3@btinternet.com