



Garrick's Temple to Shakespeare Newsletter



ISSUE 2 · SPRING 2009

Fire destroys Garrick's Villa

Restoration of historic house may take three years

The Trust's last Newsletter told of how David Garrick bought Hampton House (now Garrick's Villa) overlooking the Thames at Hampton, and how he had it transformed into a magnificent home, with Robert Adam adding the classical portico and Capability Brown designing the gardens and the grotto-like tunnel beneath the busy road. In recent years the building (now Grade I listed) was divided into nine apartments.

On the morning of October 25th 2008, while a workman with a blow torch was working near the top of the wooden pillars in a gale, fire broke out in the roof immediately in front of him.

The blaze rapidly spread, the roof collapsed and the upper floors of the mansion were destroyed by the flames, while the ground floor (including the room that was Garrick's library) was ruined by water from the hoses of the fire engines.

Several of the flat owners lost all their possessions. Among them was Sara Bird, who played a leading role in the conservation and subsequent management of Garrick's Temple. Fortunately the splendid blue and white Adam plaques in the first floor balcony room survived. The building is now shrouded in canvas, and restoration cannot begin until the Autumn of 2009 when it has dried out. Thereafter



Garrick's Villa in late 18th Century

the work may take two more years to complete. English Heritage and Richmond Borough's Conservation Department are involved, and will monitor progress. While the precise cause of the fire is subject to an official enquiry, this appalling tragedy, following similar disastrous fires at Windsor Castle and Hampton Court, raises serious questions about the use of blow torches, candles and other potentially dangerous incendiary devices in historic buildings.☺

Important Note

The disaster at Garrick's Villa does not affect access to the Temple. The cultural and educational programme will continue as usual. The Temple will be open to the public on Sundays from 2-5 PM from April to October inclusive, and also for special occasions.☺



Photograph by courtesy of John Inglis

“The Face and Figure of Shakespeare”

Major exhibition in Twickenham, April 18th-June 7th

From 18th April until 7th June, the Orleans House Gallery in Twickenham, Surrey, is mounting an Exhibition to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Roubiliac's statue of Shakespeare, which was commissioned by Garrick for his Temple to Shakespeare at Hampton. (The original is now in the British Library. A fine copy is in the Temple). The exhibition, originally planned for 2008, is sub-titled “How Britain's 18th Century Sculptors Invented a National Hero”. It follows on from the National Portrait Gallery's 2006 exhibition which took the search for the true face of Shakespeare up to 1719.

Busts and full length statues by the top sculptors of 18th Century Britain, including Rysbrack, Scheemakers, Cheere and Roubiliac, will be seen alongside each other for the first time. Also to be shown are major paintings by Mortimer, Hayman, De Quertenmont and Kaufmann, together with a copy of Gainsborough's double portrait of Shakespeare and Garrick (destroyed in the Stratford Town Hall fire of 1946), plus many engravings and artifacts.

The exhibition will be given added



Shakespeare by Louis François Roubiliac, detail of bust. ©The Art Archive / Garrick Club.

interest by the controversy over the recent claim that the “Cobbe Portrait” is the original from which all others were derived.

The exhibition is curated by Iain Mackintosh, a founder Trustee of Garrick's Temple to Shakespeare Trust and a theatre designer (whose work can be seen at Glyndebourne, the Cottesloe and the Orange Tree Theatre in Richmond), and Marcus Ridell, librarian and Curator of the Garrick Club. Admission is free.

Free Sunday shuttle bus between exhibition and the Temple

On Sunday afternoons (between 2.30 and 4.30PM) during the exhibition, an hourly shuttle bus will take visitors between the Gallery and the Temple. Light snacks will be available at both Orleans House and the Temple

Opening Hours

The exhibition will be open on Sundays from 2.00 until 5.30PM and on all other days (except Mondays) From 1.00 until 5.30PM. During the exhibition the Temple will be open on Sundays from 2.00 until 5.30PM. ∞



Detail of statue by Louis François Roubiliac (copy in Garrick's Temple to Shakespeare).



Garrick Club members in the Temple.

Garrick Club visit “a triumph”

On 20th June 2008, over forty members of the Garrick Club came by coach to visit the Temple. A large marquee had been erected beside the Thames, and the Club's catering department, using the Temple's kitchen facilities, served a magnificent lunch. Members showed great interest in the Temple exhibition of Garrick as an actor and in his private life. They also admired the new facilities for visitors, towards the cost of which the Club had arranged a major financial contribution. The visit was described by one enthusiast as “a triumph”. Subsequently a very generous private contribution was made to Trust funds. ∞

Other events in 2008

During the year, many organisations visited the Temple. These included The Society for Theatre Research, Arts Richmond, Hampton Riverside Trust and Inscape Fine Arts. A successful season of concerts and drama was held. Over 300 members of the public came during London Open House weekend. The Temple was also hired for a number of private events. In addition there were a number of Educational visits (see back page). ∞

The Huguenot Connection and the letter 'K'

On his paternal side, David Garrick's ancestry was French. His grandfather David Garric (no K), a merchant in Bordeaux, was a Huguenot (French Protestant). In 1685, the Edict of Nantes, which allowed limited rights and freedom of worship to Protestants, was revoked by King Louis XIV. This was not unexpected as Catholic extremists, including Louis XIV's second wife Madame de Maintenon, had long been urging him to end the rights granted to minority religious groups, and to enforce the national religion throughout France. Consequently there had been, for many years, increasing pressure on Protestants to convert to Roman Catholicism.

Radical as it might seem, France's attitude and actions were in line with those of other European countries where only the majority state religion was tolerated. While it may have been an uncomfortable decision for Louis to make, he clearly wished to please the extremists. The Huguenots now had to convert or be persecuted, and treated like foreigners in their own country. The King's decision was not only poor policy, and shameful to the Huguenots. It also led to a degree of economic decline in some parts of France, as The Huguenots, driven by the Calvinist work ethic, were

prominent in several key areas of the community such as banking, commerce, and many craft industries.

The revocation of the Edict of Nantes would have come as a bitter disappointment to David Garric, who would have been familiar with stories about the atrocities endured by Protestants during the Wars of Religion. Despite restrictions on Huguenots leaving France (for which they could be made galley slaves), he took the decision to emigrate and, in 1685, made his way to England, to be followed by his wife, and later by their son Peter (David Garrick's father). Many thousands of Huguenots also emigrated, taking refuge in a variety of non-Catholic European countries, and more distant places such as South Africa and America (so giving rise to the term "refugee"). It has been estimated that, in two main waves, 40-50,000 Huguenots fled to Britain, where they were to play a major role as silk weavers, silversmiths, clock makers and in many other skilled professions. One who quit France was the great sculptor Louis François Roubiliac who produced the magnificent statue of Shakespeare for David Garrick's Temple at Hampton (see opposite – Shakespeare Exhibition).

Although Huguenots were generally welcomed in England, Garric decided

that the family should complete their integration so, in 1695, he applied for and acquired English nationality, adding a K to the end of his family's name so as to Anglicise it. Like so many immigrants to Britain, he made a positive contribution to the community, as did his son Peter for whom David bought a Commission in the army in 1706. Peter was posted to Lichfield, where he married the daughter of a local vicar choral. In 1717, David, the third child out of ten, was born. He was to grow up to become not only a great actor but the personification of the witty, cultured, creative English Gentleman, and a great patriot. ☺



Roubiliac carving a bust of Garrick by Andrea Soldi. Courtesy of The Garrick Club.



"The Battle of Quiberon Bay, 21 November 1759, The Day After" (detail) by Richard Wright. ©National Maritime Museum, Greenwich.

1759-2009 Garrick the patriotic bard

This year is the 250th anniversary of "The Year of Victories". Among other triumphs, 1759 saw the victory at Minden, the capture of Quebec and Admiral Edward Hawke's destruction of the French fleet in Quiberon Bay

(see illustration). In the same year Garrick (a poet and playwright as well as a great actor) was inspired to write one of Britain's greatest patriotic songs with music by William Boyce. "Heart of Oak" is now the official march of the Royal Navy.

*Come cheer up my lads! 'tis to glory we steer,
To add something more to this wonderful year;
To honour we call you, not press you like slaves,
For who are so free as the sons of the waves?*

*Heart of Oak are our ships, heart of oak are our men;
We always are ready, steady boys, steady!,
We'll fight and we'll conquer again and again.*

Education



Sculpture competition prize-giving

The three main objectives of Garrick's Temple to Shakespeare Trust are conservation, Education and the use of the Temple for cultural events. The Trust's Education Committee, working closely with Richmond Borough staff, has developed programmes for educational visits by students of all age groups. In 2008, visits ranged from junior schools like Twickenham Prep School and Chandler's Field Primary School to adult groups such as The University of the Third Age.

The Temple, with its major Garrick/Shakespeare exhibition and wonderful riverside setting, provides an ideal teaching environment, and has been called "Britain's Most Beautiful Classroom". It is of particular interest to students of architecture, 18th Century art, stage history and Shakespearean studies. For Primary school students, visits can include quizzes and competitions. Teachers' guides to the Temple are available, and experienced guides are always on hand.

In 2008, to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Roubiliac's statue of Shakespeare (see page 2), a Sculpture Competition for schools was held. Some highly imaginative entries were received, and an exhibition of them was held at the Orleans House Gallery in Twickenham. Prizes

were presented by the Mayor of Elmbridge (see illustration).

The Trust is now working closely with Orleans House to use its Shakespeare exhibition (see page 2) April-June 2009 to generate added interest in the Temple among local schools, and to encourage their use of it on a regular basis.

Garrick and Peg Woffington

Among David Garrick's posthumous papers a little poem was discovered, addressed to Peg Woffington, the leading actress and his first love, after their three year affair was over. The last line summed up his feelings: "Flatter or pay, the nymph is yours!" He needed a wife on his terms, not hers. They each returned their presents, but he held on to a pair of diamond-buckled shoes and wore them frequently to the end of his life.

Her fame during these years frequently matched David's own, first at Drury Lane in 1742 where they met and she was acclaimed for her "breeches" parts, playing men, especially Sir Harry Wilder in "The Constant Couple", and with David on their



*"Peg Woffington" by Jean-Baptiste Van Loo, c.1738.
©V&A Images/Victoria and Albert Museum, London.*

two successful Dublin summer tours.

Peg was Dublin born, and had started as a child actress in poverty. She was generous, popular and wild. When her sister Polly tried for the stage and failed, they bought a house together in Teddington.

Peg's career flourished, she had many lovers, the last of whom was Colonel Julius Caesar who cared for her to the end of her life. At the age of 37 she had a stroke on stage and died eighteen months later, in 1760. She is buried in St. Mary's Church, Teddington, and her old house was, until recently, in use as a restaurant.

Open House Weekend

*The temple will be open on
Saturday and Sunday September 19th
and 20th from 11am - 5pm*

Volunteers needed

The Trust needs volunteers as Temple Guides for help with Cultural Events, concerts, education, the garden etc. Please contact Scott Mclean.

email: scott.mclean3@btinternet.com
Tel. 0208 977 8272

Charitable contributions needed

The Trust needs help towards the cost of Conservation, Education and Cultural events. Contributions to John Sheaf, Assistant Treasurer at 4, Thames St., Hampton, Middlesex, TW12 2EA

Hiring the Temple

The Temple can accommodate groups of up to 40 for private events. For information and costs contact Scott Mclean.

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