

Georgian Period

18th Century Britain

1700's

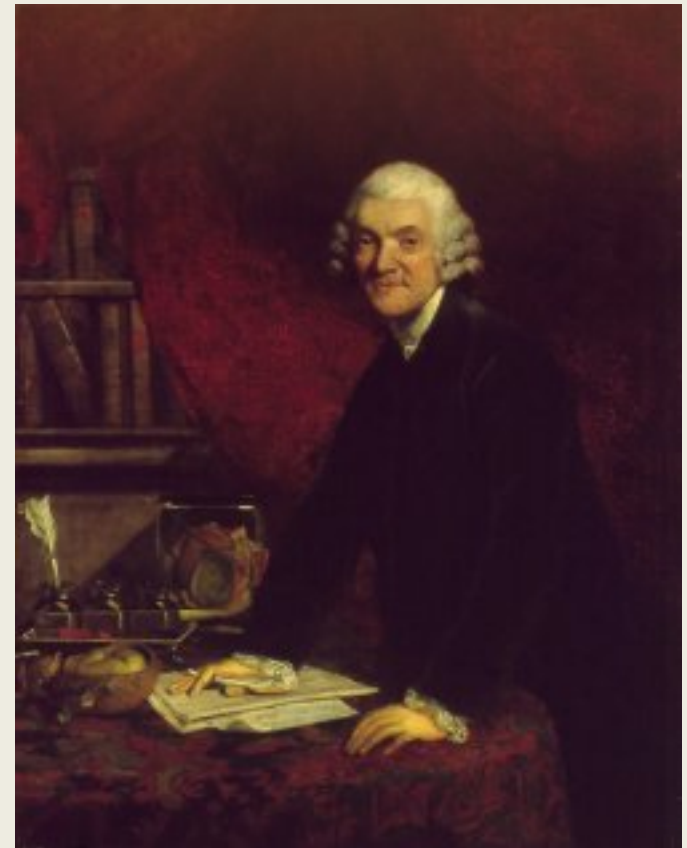
The Age of Reason and Enlightenment

- flourished across Europe and America from about 1680 to 1820.
- culminated in the American and French Revolutions, and the Industrial Revolution
- logic and reason
- the pursuit of knowledge, and the universe.
- changes in scientific thought and exploration.
- faith in nature and belief in human progress
- conflict between religion and the inquiring mind (that wanted to know and understand through reason based on evidence and proof).
- Thomas Paine radical propagandist and voice of the common man
- Enlightenment a movement within the age of reason
- Reflected Vaguely in art and literature but seen strongly in Philosophy
- Western Europe's worship of reason expressed in a set of philosophic ideas known collectively as the Enlightenment

Enlightenment in literature

- More than in art, neoclassicism in literature came closer to voicing the eighteenth century's fascination with reason and scientific law
- Poetic Alexander Pope(1688-1744). An Essay on Man (1733),
- the Frenchman of letters, Francois-Marie Arouet, better known as Voltaire (1694-1778).
- Jonathan Swift (1667-1745), English satirist ridiculed the pettiness of human concerns in Gulliver's Travels (1726),
- Robinson Crusoe (1719), by Daniel Defoe

Dr William Hunter (1718–83) By 1762, at the age of 44, when he was appointed Physician Extraordinary to Queen Charlotte, he had become the leading physician–man midwife of his day



Sir Joshua Reynolds' portrait of William Hunter, c.1787

Jan Van Rymsdyke illustrations
for book
The Anatomy of the Human Gravid Uterus.



Chalk drawing



Engraving

Plaster cast of gravid uterus

(Glasgow university and Huntarian museum)



Smugglerius 1854



- Dating from 1854, the College Smugglerius is a copy of an original écorché – a figure with the skin and fat removed to expose the muscles and tendons – made in 1776 at Royal Academy of Art in London. This earlier cast, now lost, was moulded from the body of a hanged criminal by the sculptor Agostino Carlini, following its dissection by William Hunter, the famous anatomist. Since its arrival at the College, the cast has been used in the teaching of anatomy to art students, much as the original cast would have been used by artists at the Royal Academy, among them William Blake.



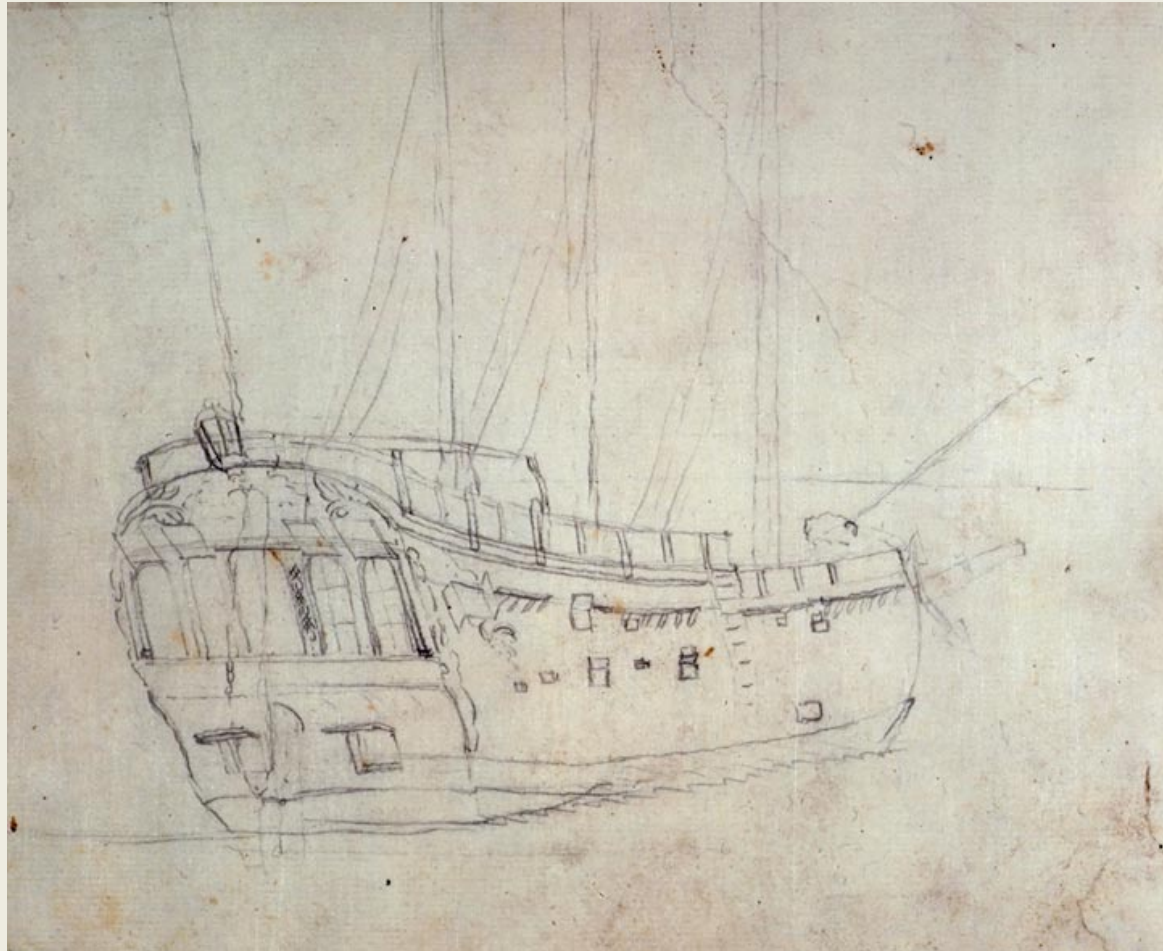
Australia “discovered”
by Captain Cook He
claimed the east
coast, which he
named New South
Wales, for Great
Britain on 22 August
1770

James Cook, portrait
by Nathaniel Dance, c. 1775,

Endeavour 1794 by Samuel Atkins



**“A View of the Endeavour River” the ship was laid on shore to repair damage. From Sketches made in Captain Cook’s First Voyage, 1768-1771
June 1770 Engraving by Will Byrne, probably after a lost drawing by Sydney Parkinson now in British Library collection**



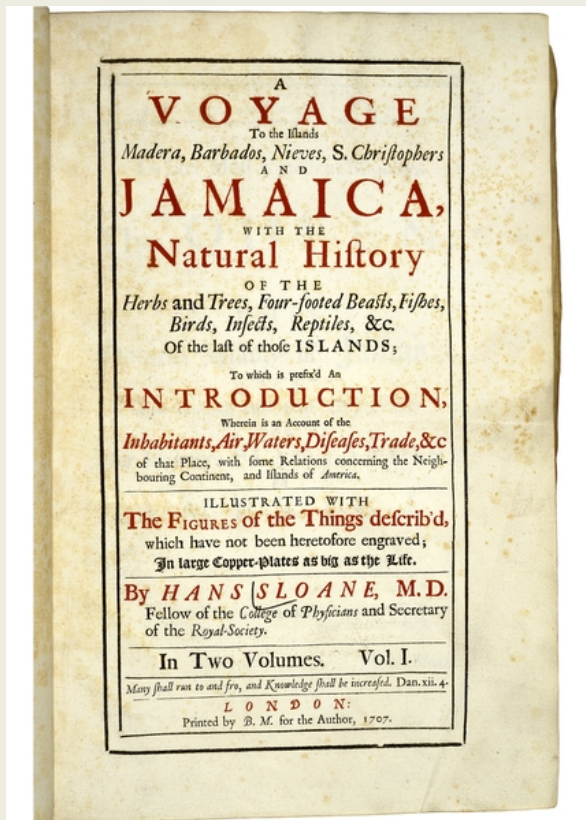
**Portrait of Poedooa, daughter of Orea, King of Ulaitea,
Society Islands c1782-85 by John Webber
Painting, oil on canvas 144.8 h x 93.5 w**



- *Poedooa, daughter of Orea, King of Ulietea, Society Islands is one of a number of works produced as a result of Captain James Cook's voyages to the South Pacific. John Webber first painted Poedooa's portrait in 1777 during the three days when she, her husband and her brother were hostages on board the Discovery as Cook pressured her father into returning two deserters. She was 15 at the time, and pregnant. (National Gallery of Art web site)*

Hans Sloane, Natural History of Jamaica.

This book provides a remarkable account of the travels and observations made by Sir Hans Sloane (1660-1753) while he was in Jamaica. When he returned to London, Sloane tried to bring back live animals, the 'guana' (lizard) fell overboard, the crocodile died, and a yellow snake escaped and was shot. (British Museum)



- Art reflecting society society reflecting art, with the growth of the middle classes in England the commissioning of works of art to reflect their status became common as this new class of people wanted to show off their status and wealth.

A group portrait of British middle-class men by Johann Zoffany from 1796. Their outfits indicate how 18th-century British men's fashion could be customized by using different colours, collar details, neckties, and waistcoats.



Mr. and Mrs. Andrews
Thomas Gainsborough 1759
oil on canvas



William Hogarth

The Graham Children 1742 oil on canvas 161.5 x 181cm



From the middle of the 17th century, the area around Stoke-on-Trent in central west England has been the centre of British pottery production. North Staffordshire had an abundance of coal, which was required to fire the famous bottle-kilns, and local clay was readily available.



- The neo-classical movement was gaining ground, and Wedgwood needed to respond quickly - in January 1771 he wrote to his Ornamental Ware partner, Thomas Bentley - **'I am makeing new experim.ts with several diff't. objects in view.....To make a white body, succceptible of being colour'd & which shall polish itself in burning Bisket.'**
- A recipe was not quickly found, and some three and a half years later Josiah, in his own words was a man in - **'...the midst of a course of experiments', adding at the end of his letter - 'Farewell - I am almost crazy.'**

Wedgwood experiments with colour

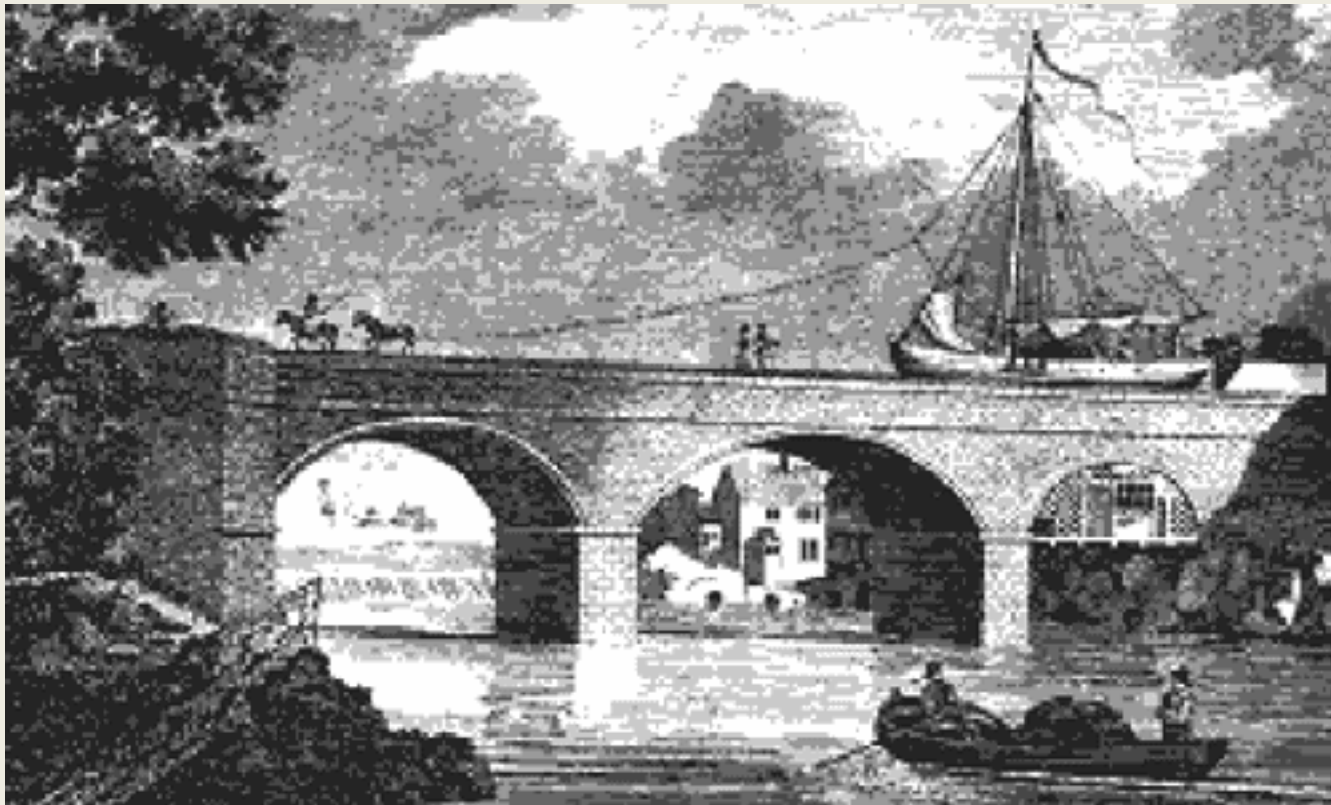


Right Joshua Wedgwood Jasperware vase copy of a Roman glass Portland vase (left) probably brought to England in mid 1700

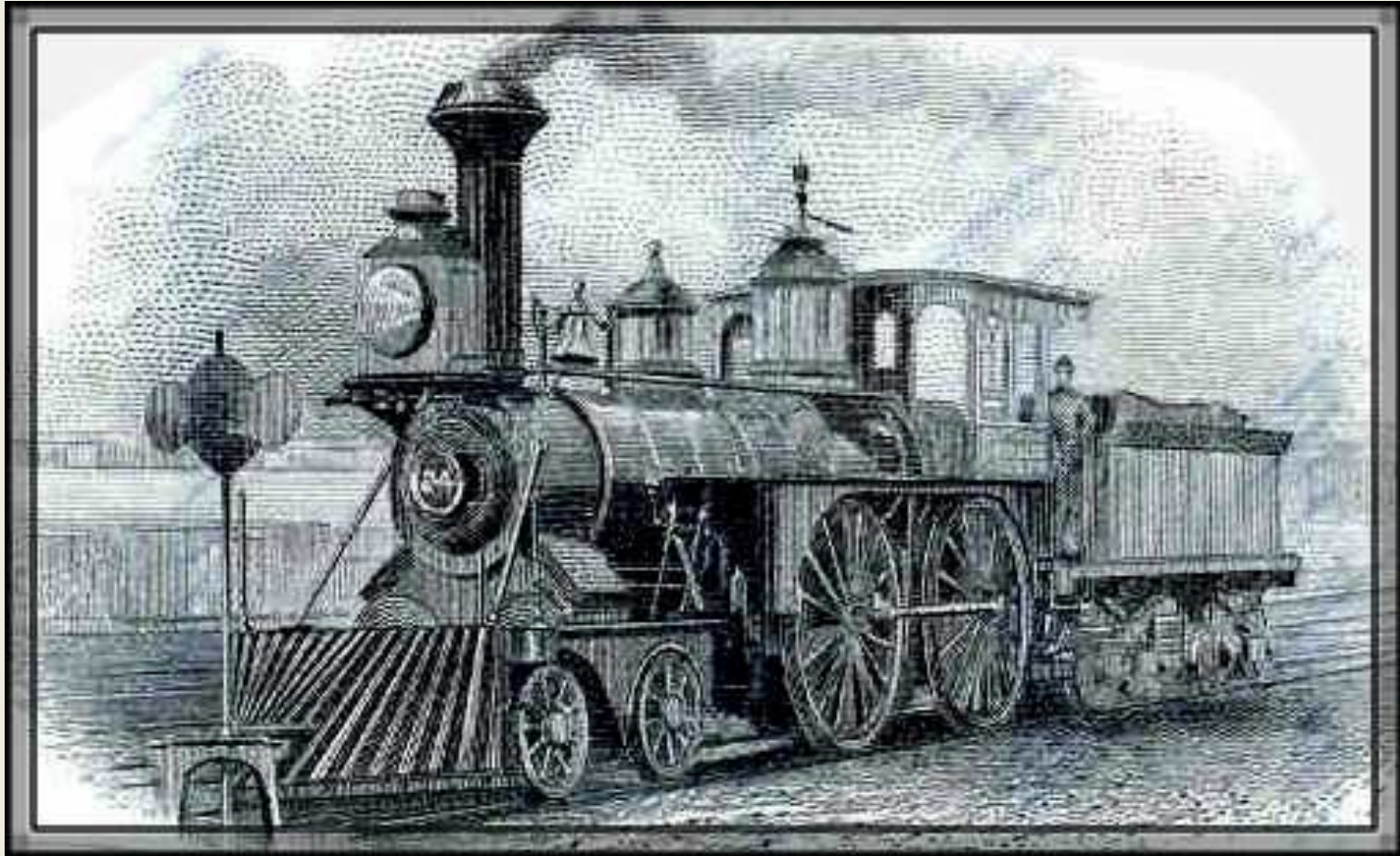


Jasper - perhaps the name which is most synonymous with Wedgwood. The triumphant outcome of several thousand experiments undertaken by Wedgwood between 1770 and 1774.

Bridgewater Canal, Manchester, 1767



Industrial revolution beginning late in the 18th century



1779 Coalbrookdale first iron bridge.
For half a century Britain lead the way in bridge building



Grand Tour

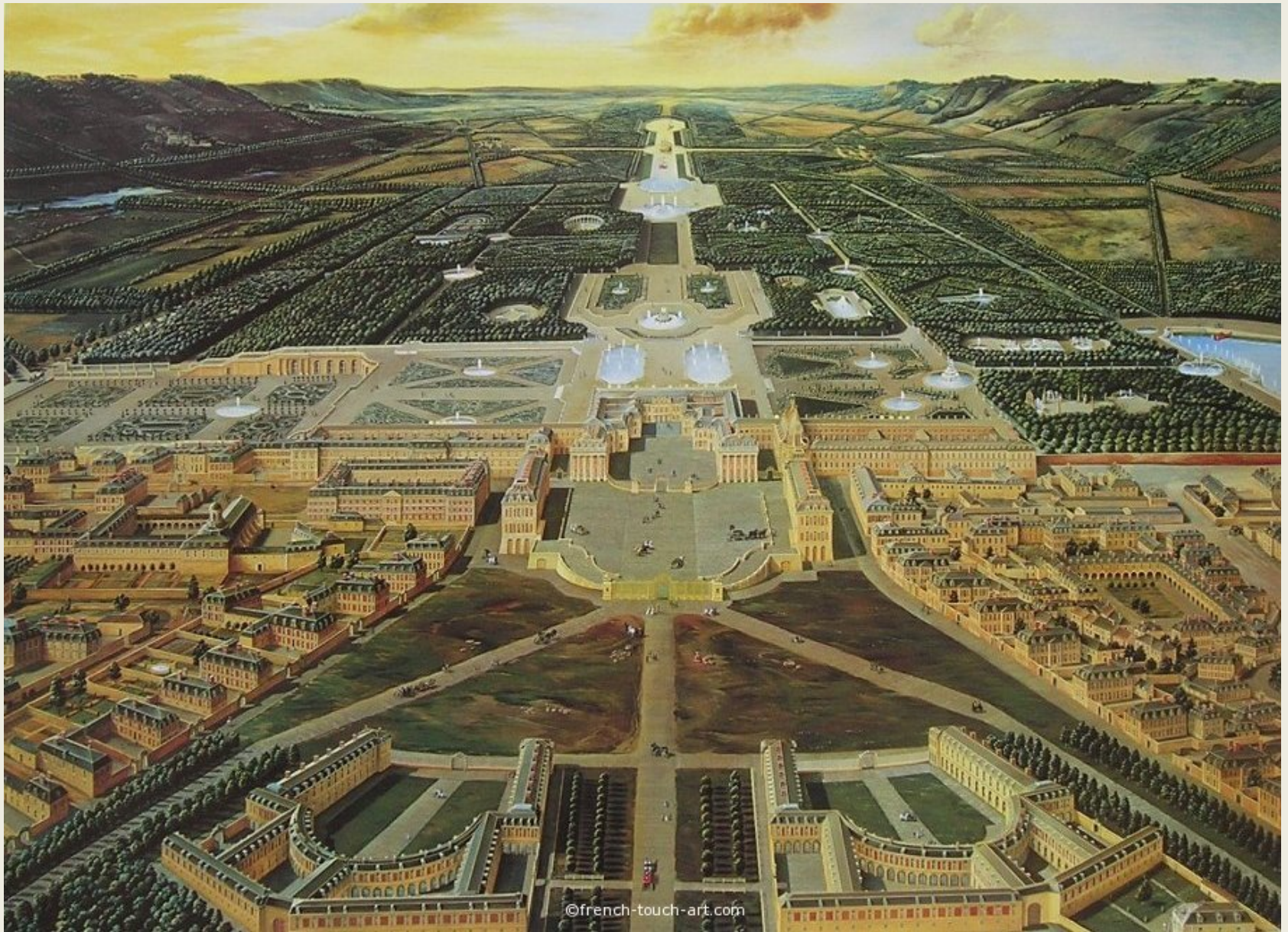


Richard Wilson,
made drawings
of Italian places
while traveling
with the Earl of
Dartmouth in
the mid-
eighteenth
century

View of St. Peter's and the Vatican from the Janiculum (Gianicolo), 1754 Richard Wilson Black and white chalks with stumping, on gray paper, colored with purple wash 72.1 x 107.7 cm

Grand Tour

- 1660 through the 18th and 19th centuries
- Young men for education and improvement
- Many travelers from Europe especially Britain due to it being the wealthiest nation during this period
- Many travelers took artists with them
- Many travelers kept sketchbooks and visited private collections of art as few museums existed until the end of the 18th century
- Pompeii discovered in 1748 and was visited during the Grand Tour and the young men took part in the excavation though some evidence of this being staged for them!
- Visited France, Austria and especially Italy



Versailles Palace France 1682 originally built in the Baroque architectural style but was added to during the 18th century

Chiswick House an examples of early 18th century British architecture in West London. The third Earl of Burlington, designed this noble Roman-style Palladian villa, drew inspiration from his 'grand tours' of Italy.



Kedleston Neo-classical mansion 1760s set in historic parkland. Designed for
lavish entertaining and displaying an extensive collection of paintings,
sculpture and original furnishings
The work of architect Robert Adam



Burlington house



Johannes Kip after Leonard Knyff,
Burlington House from Britannia
Illustrata, 1707. Etching.



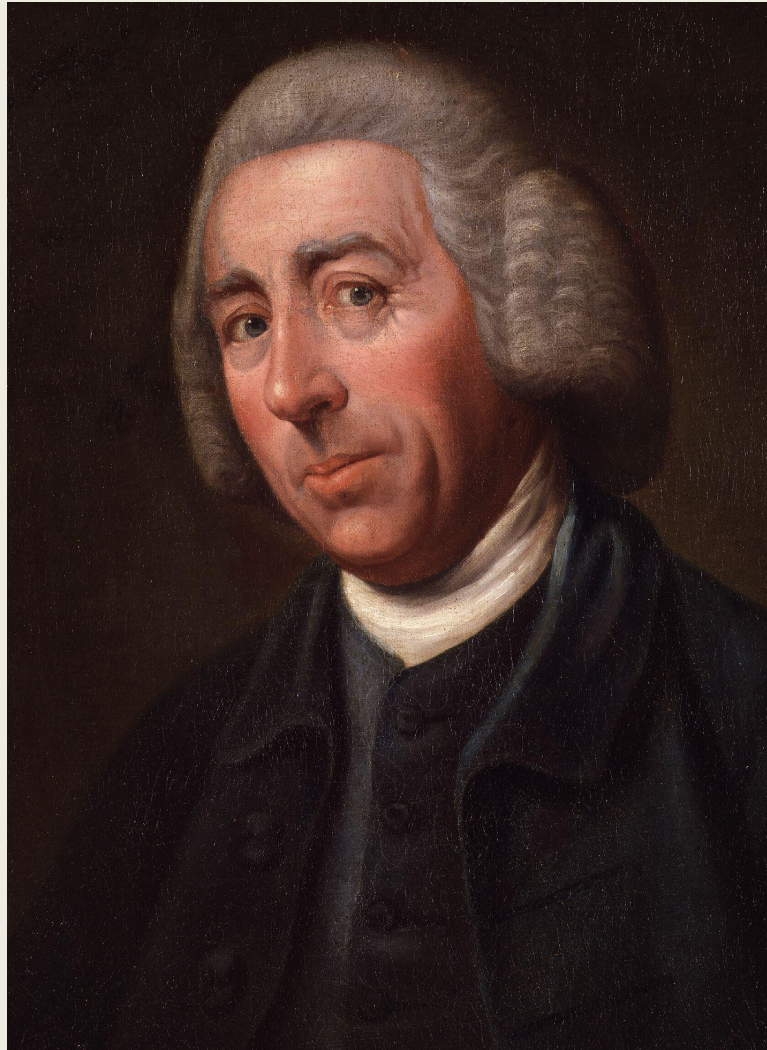
Colen Campbell, Elevation of Burlington
House from Vitruvius Britannicus III,
1725. Line-engraving.



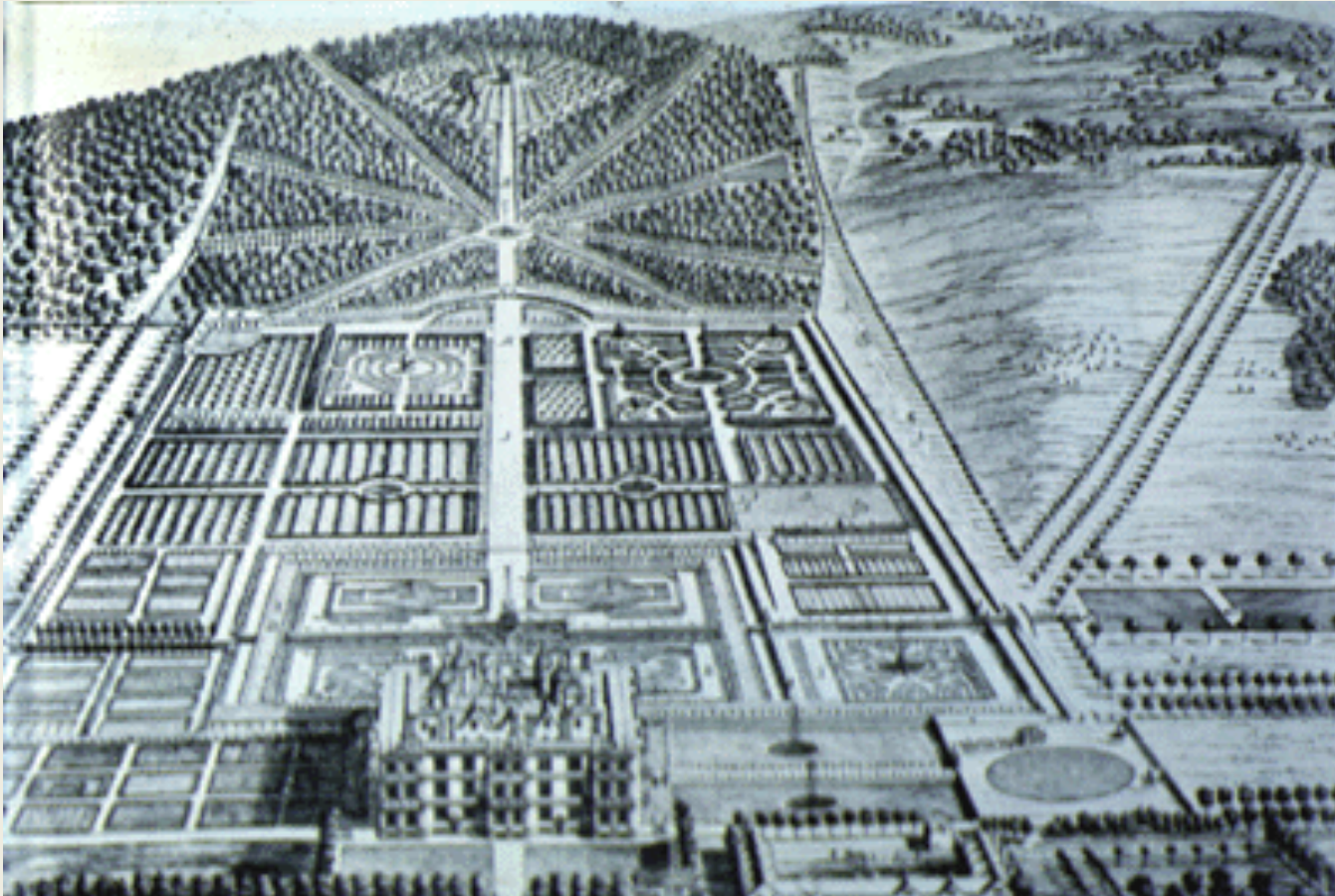
Burlington house today home
of Royal Academy since 1867

Capability Brown landscape gardens

Lancelot ('Capability') Brown by Nathaniel Dance, (later Sir Nathaniel Holland, Bt) oil on canvas, circa 1769 29 5/8 in. x 24 7/8 in. (752 mm x 632 mm)



Longleat before Capability Brown



**Longleat, Wiltshire (1757) Before Capability Brown:
Rigid Bi-Lateral Symmetry by Henry Wise and Gorge
London influenced by ad Andre Le Notre**

Longleat after Capability Brown



Capability Brown
- Longleat gardens (900 acres)

Brown created the effect of the appearance of unrestrained nature by planting a vast stretch of lawn punctuated by small clusters of trees or single trees irregularly placed in wavy belts. He shaped a formal garden into a naturalistic landscape undoing all that London and Wise had done before.

"All gardening is a landscape painting"

William Kent

(trained painter and landscape gardener died 1748)

Wars during the 18th Century

- French Revolution that shook France between 1787 and 1799 and reached its first climax in 1789 denoting the end of the ancient régime in France
- Seven years war 1763
- **The War of the Austrian Succession 1742 to 1748**
- **The Jacobite Rebellion 1745 to 1746**
- **The French and Indian War 1755 to 1763**
- **The American Revolutionary War 1775 to 1783**

Like many of his contemporaries Gillray hailed the outbreak of the French revolution with sympathy and expectation but by the time of this print his images of the Revolution had become increasingly depraved...and descended into the realms of garish nightmare.” National Portrait Gallery



A Family of Sans-Culottes refreshing, after the fatigues of the day (1792) by British caricaturist James Gillray a satirical print of the french Revolution (Hand coloured etching 25 x 35.2cm)

Royal Accademy of Art London founded in 1768 by a group of artists headed by Sir Joshua Reynolds



Johann Zoffany RA, The Academicians of the Royal Academy, 1771-72 oil painting

Aesthetics

- A branch of philosophy dealing with the nature of beauty, art and taste and with the creation and appreciation of beauty.
- New ways of seeing and perceiving the world
- Hogarth wrote “Analysis of Beauty” 1753

societies

- Foundling hospital place to exhibit art from 1746 (Hogarth)
- Society of artists from 1760
- Lunar society (Wedgwood)
- Kit cat society Political and literary –kit cat portrait
- Coffee houses place to meet
- society for the abolition of slave trade founded in 1787 by William Wilberforce the bill became law in 1807

Blake, William (1757-1827) - 1796 A Negro Hung Alive
by the Ribs to a Gallows (Victoria and Albert Museum,
London)

