

VERSAILLES

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APRIL 22-23, 1988

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A CENTURY OF SPLENDOR!



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Humanities West invites you to travel the centuries and explore the political intrigues and artistic riches of Versailles. Savor the elegant music of Rameau and Couperin, the grace of costumed Baroque dancers, and the wit of Molière's drama. Hear distinguished speakers illuminate the glories of French art and culture during the Grand Siècle, as they served the growing political power of the Bourbon monarchs. Join us as we celebrate the artistic magnificence of Versailles' splendid century!

MUSIC

DRAMA

LECTURES

DANCE

VERSAILLES

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LECTURE

Moderated by Peter Pierson
Florence Gould Theater,
California Palace of
the Legion of Honor

FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 1988
8-10:30 PM

"L'Etat C'est Moi":
The Limits of Power"
Geoffrey Symcox of the
University of California at
Los Angeles delves into
the intrigues underlying the
Sun King's centralization
of political and social control
under the glorious banner
of the Versailles work.

DANCE AT VERSAILLES

Ballroom and theater dancing
was a focal point of life at
Versailles, and an indispen-
sible skill for any successful
courtier. Shirley Wynne of
Mills College combines
enticing slides and costumed
dancers to illustrate the
kaleidoscopic variety
of French baroque dance.

April 22-23, 1988

DESSERT RECEPTION

A champagne reception
featuring confections fit for a
king completes the evening.
Tickets \$15-\$28
Doors open at 7:30 PM

SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 1988
10 AM-12:15 PM

*A century of splendor
featuring music, drama,
lectures and dance.
Subscribe now!*

April 22-23, 1988
Florence Gould Theater,
California Palace of the
Legion of Honor,
San Francisco.

Humanities West gratefully
acknowledges the generous
support of the National
Endowment for the
Humanities in presenting
this program.

LECTURE

"Why Versailles?"
Guy Walton, art historian
from New York University,
traces the changing image of
Versailles as the palace was
transformed under Louis XIV
and his successors from a
hunting lodge into a symbol
of elegance, beauty, and
absolute power emulated by
architects and planners
throughout Europe.

LECTURE

"The Women of Versailles:
The Hidden Power?"
Stanford University's
Carolyn Lougee re-examines
Montesquieu's famous
assessment of female power
at Versailles — a power he
thought so great as to form
a "state within the state."
Tickets \$10-\$20
Doors open at 9:30 AM

SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 1994
1:45-4:15 PM

LECTURE

The Decorative Grandeur of Versailles: Only shadows of the splendour with which the Sun King surrounded himself have survived the ravages of time and Revolution. Gillian Wilson of the J. Paul Getty Museum includes several new discoveries in this illustrated lecture devoted to decorative arts under Louis XIV.

LECTURE-DIALOGUE

"Music and Drama in the Service of the State"
Music and drama converge in opera, a genre lavishly supported by Louis XIV, guided by the musical genius of Jean-Baptiste Lully. Nicholas McGegan, Music Director of Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, investigates the political circumstances attending Lully's monopoly on Court opera, and throws light on unauthorized performances in Paris. He then joins with Jean-Marie Apostolides, Chairman of the Stanford University Department of French and Italian, to offer their combined perspectives on the musical and dramatic arts.

DRAMATIC READING

Costumed actors under the direction of Peter Donat present excerpts from Molière's *L'Ecole des Femmes*.
Tickets \$12-\$25
Doors open at 1:30 PM

CONCERT

French Baroque Chamber Music
Judith Nelson, soprano,
Stephen Schultz, flute,
Martha McGaughey, viola da gamba, and Jillon Dupree and Elaine Thornburgh, harpsichord, perform music of François Couperin, Jean-Philippe Rameau, and Elizabeth Jacquet de la Guerre.
Tickets \$10-\$12
Doors open at 7:30 PM

Two reading and discussion groups, devoted to French Baroque dance (April 6) and music (April 19) are offered to participants under the leadership of Shirley Wynne and Nicholas McGegan. Please phone (415) 387-8780 for information.

Founded in 1983, Humanities West offers bi-annual programs designed to enlighten and entertain general audiences through lectures, performances, and discussions offering a rare combination of the fine arts, social history, literature, music, politics, and philosophy of a given era.

Design by William Horand

VERSAILLES BIBLIOGRAPHY

This following books have been suggested by the lecturers; most are available in branch libraries or bookstores. Although readings from this bibliography should enhance participants' enjoyment of the symposium, the lectures will remain accessible without this background.

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Suitable for secondary students are:

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- Goubert, Pierre. Louis XIV and Twenty Million Frenchmen. New York, 1970; paperback, 1972.