

Coplestone Warre Bampfylde. New Perspectives (Taunton, 6–8 Nov 20)

Hestercombe House & Gardens, Taunton, Somerset, UK, Nov 6–08, 2020

Deadline: Jun 15, 2020

Bill Balaskas

Coplestone Warre Bampfylde (1720 – 1791) constitutes one of the most distinct, yet largely overlooked cultural figures of 18th-century Britain. As an artist, architect and landscape designer, he epitomised the qualities of a polymath who did not hesitate to put his knowledge and vision into practice. This major international conference aims to shed new light on Bampfylde's multifaceted work and legacy, on the 300th anniversary of his birth.

The conference will take place at Hestercombe House and Gardens, in Somerset – a place of great importance for Bampfylde's life and diverse practice. After inheriting Hestercombe in 1750, Bampfylde designed an impressive landscape garden to the north of the House, which complements another three period gardens, including a world-famous Edwardian garden designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll.

Inspired by this unique historical setting, the conference invites papers from art historians, architects, landscape designers, cultural theorists, curators and artists, which look into the different areas of activity that define Bampfylde's creative life – as painter, architect, engineer and garden designer. At the same time, we welcome papers that explore other aspects of Bampfylde's life, which could illuminate the wider historical context of his work. Relevant subjects may include his role as colonel in the Somersetshire militia; his relation to the multifaceted political, social and cultural developments of the 18th century; and his extensive personal networks. Finally, a distinct section of the conference will focus on the history of the Hestercombe estate, from its role during the two World Wars to its contemporary art programme since 2014.

The conference will host papers, panel discussions, exhibition and garden tours, and a keynote lecture by Philip White MBE, founder and Chief Executive of the Hestercombe Gardens Trust.

Submissions

Potential contributors are invited to submit abstracts of up to 300 words, accompanied by their institutional affiliation (if any), and a short biographical note of up to 100 words.

Proposals should be submitted to bampfyldeconference@hestercombe.com by Monday 15th June 2020. All authors will be notified about the outcome of the selection process by Monday 6th July 2020.

Speakers will be exempt from paying a registration fee, and their accommodation and meals will

be covered by the conference organisers.

Registration fee

For non-speaking attendees, there will be a £100 registration fee, which will cover the following:

Tea and coffee breaks with biscuits and cake

Drinks reception with canapés on Friday 6th November

Buffet lunch on Saturday 7th November

Complete conference pack

The conference 'Coplestone Warre Bampfylde: New Perspectives' is co-organised by the Hestercombe Gardens Trust and Kingston University, London.

Reference:

CFP: Coplestone Warre Bampfylde. New Perspectives (Taunton, 6-8 Nov 20). In: ArtHist.net, Apr 18, 2020 (accessed Jun 17, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/22989>>.