

# STUART ENGLAND

## 1603-1714

### 7. Charles II – the Merry Monarch?



- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JuHtLxxuJsY>

Henry Purcell : Trumpet Tune and Air Date: 1685





# Charles II: Key events

- Restoration of Charles II (welcomed into City of London, 29 May)
- 1666: Great Fire of London (2-5 September)
- 1667: Dutch raid on the Medway during Second Anglo-Dutch War
- 1670: Treaty of Dover with France
- 1679: Popish Plot, reveals that James, Duke of York, is a Catholic
- 1681: Charles begins to rule without Parliament
- 1685: Charles II dies with no legitimate heir, converts to Catholicism on his deathbed.





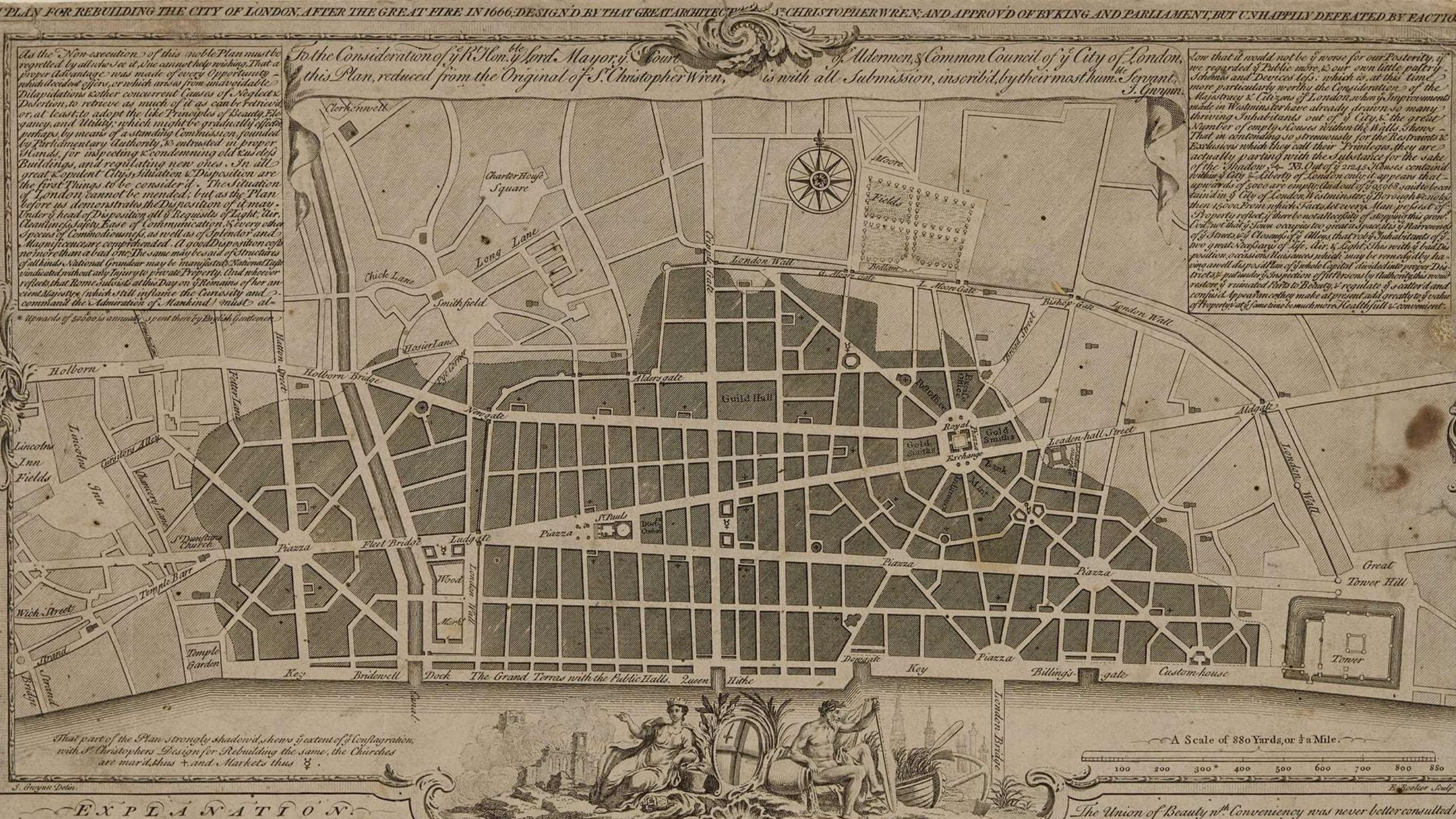
Hieronymus Janssens, Charles II Dancing at a Ball at Court (1660)



Charles was presented with the first pineapple grown in England in 1675. Painting by Hendrick Danckerts.

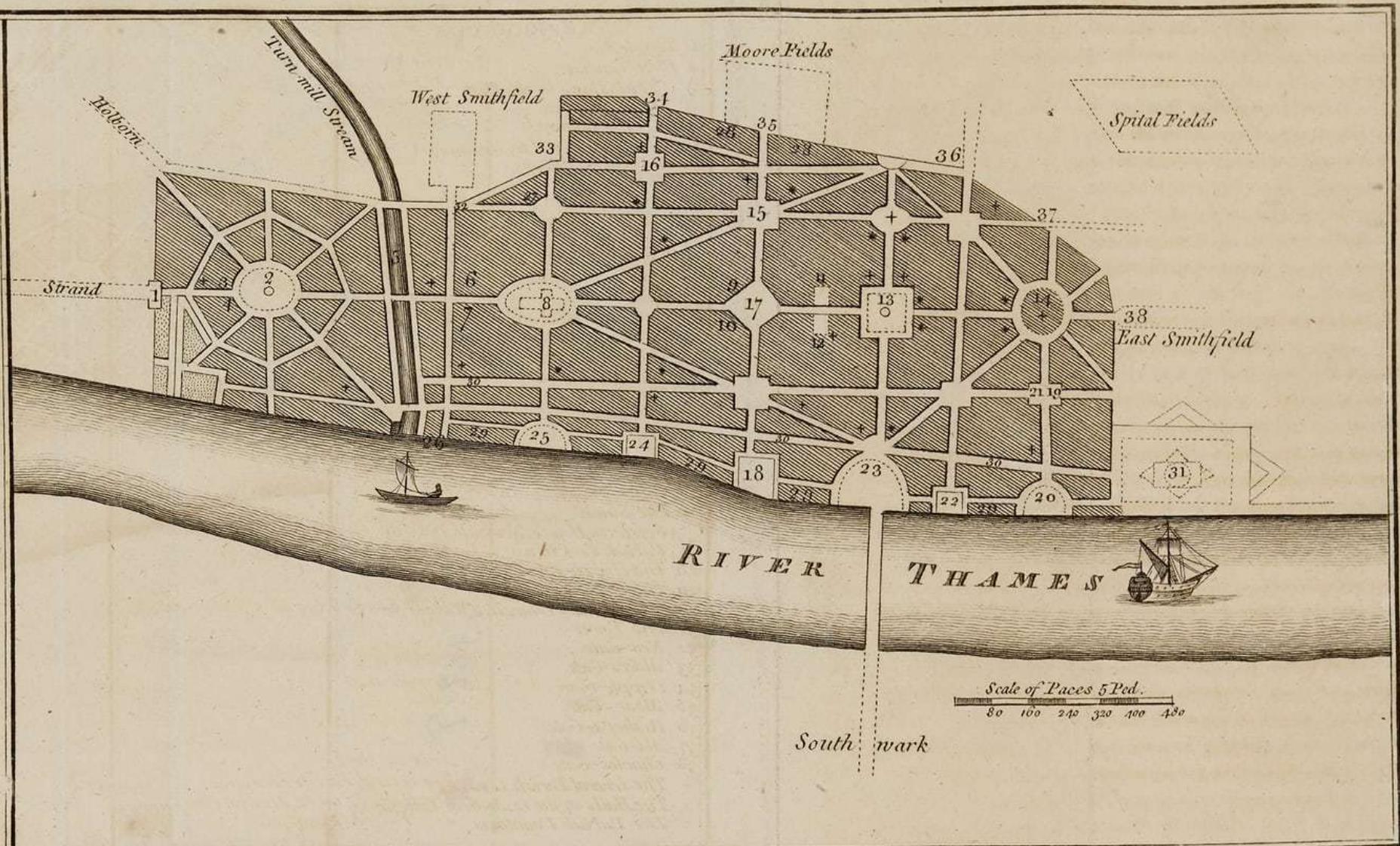






REFE RENCES

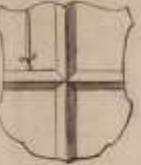
- 1 Temple Bar
- 2 Fleet Conduit
- 3 S<sup>t</sup> Dunstans in the West
- 4 Scargeants Inn
- 5 The New Channel
- 6 The College of Physicians
- 7 Doctors Commons
- 8 S<sup>t</sup> Pauls
- 9,10 Houses of the two Sheriffs
- 11 Mercers Chapel
- 12 Bow Church
- 13 The Fountain in Grace-church Street
- 14 S<sup>t</sup> Dunstans in the East
- 15 Guild Hall
- 16 Christ's Hospital and Church
- 17 The Lord Mayor's House
- 18 The Royal Exchange
- The Trinity House
- The Custom House & Admiralty Court
- The Navy Office
- 22 Billings Gate
- 23 The Fish Market
- 24 Queenhithe
- 25 Paul's Wharf
- 26 The Sluce
- 27 Sessions House, Newgate Prison  
Publick Workhouse & Bridewell.
- 28 The Church Yards
- 29 The Key
- 30 Blackfriars Church & Walling Street
- 31 The Tower
- 32 New-Gate
- 33 Alders-Gate
- 34 Cripple-Gate
- 35 Moor-Gate
- 36 Bishops-Gate
- 37 Ald-Gate
- 38 Charles-Gate
- + The several Parish Churches
- \* The Halls of the 12 Antient Companies
- The Publick Fountains.



Sir John Evelyn's Plan for Rebuilding the City of London after the Great Fire in 1666.



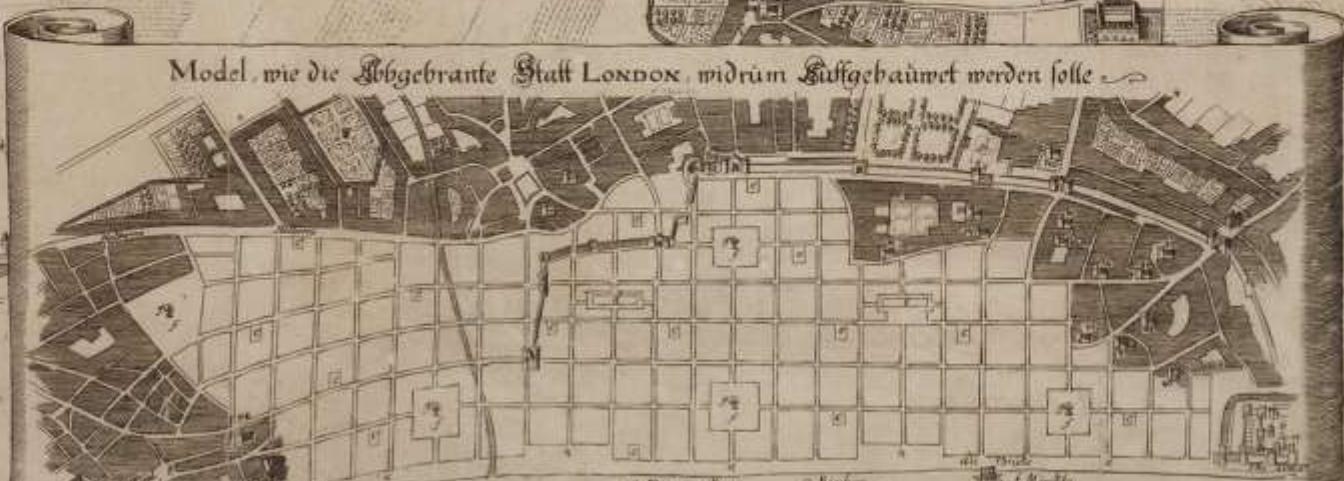
Scalae von einer halben Englischen Meile.  
oder  
einer halben Meile.

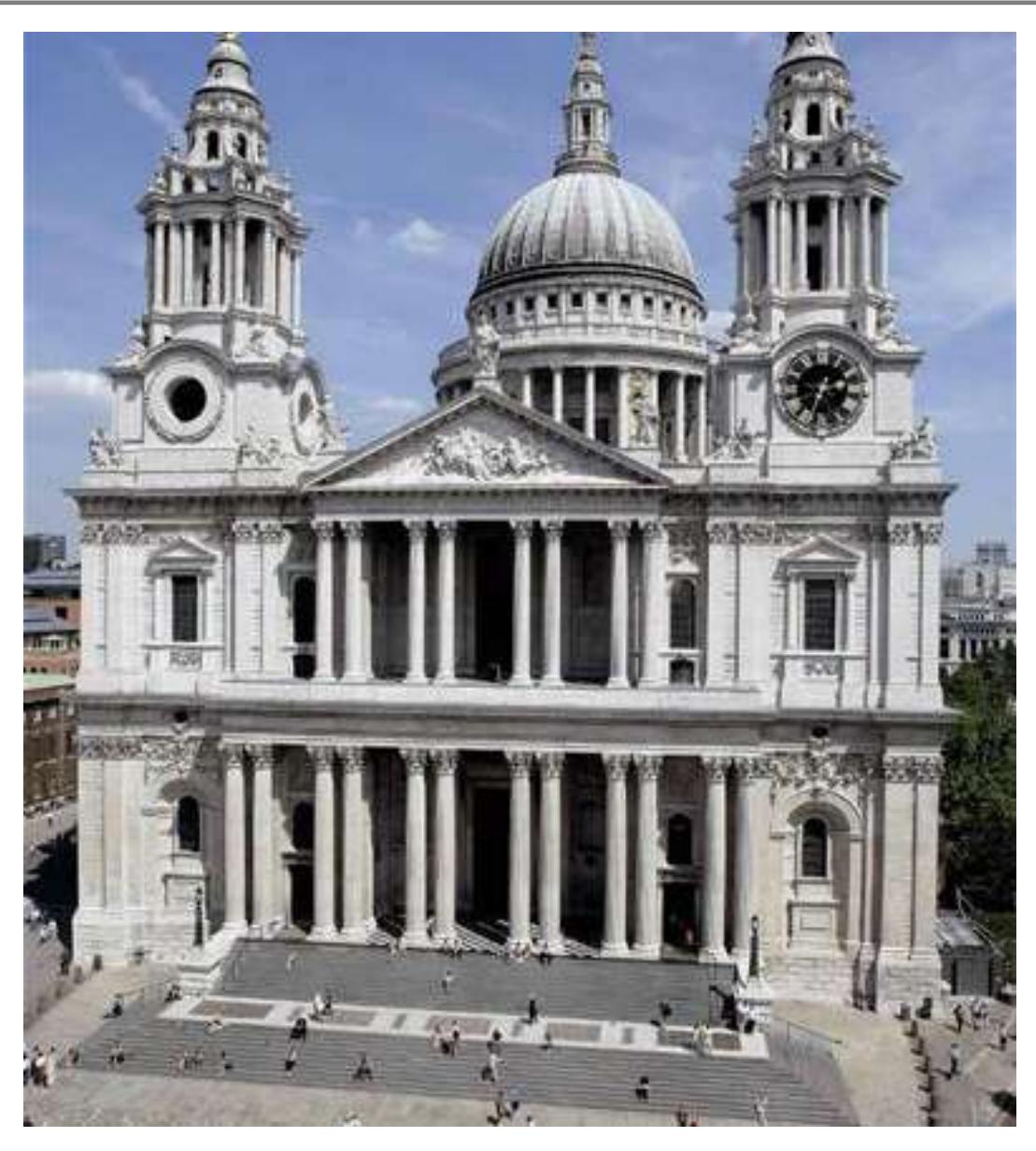
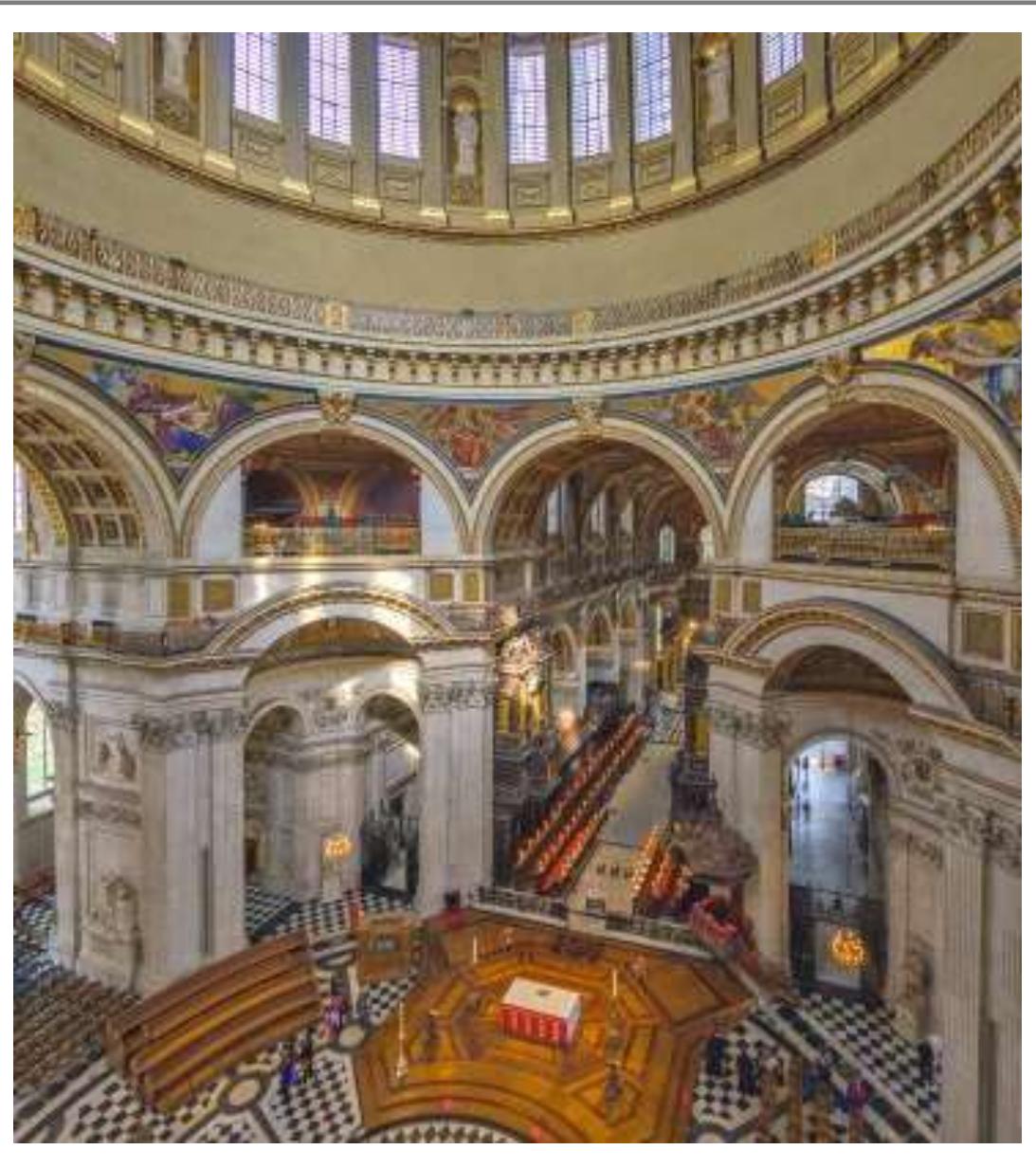


• Baß an dieser Zeichen so weit als 20°  
nach schaftet ist und der grond der baß  
wag gelassen ist so aller abgebrant.



Model, wie die abgebrante Stadt LONDON wieder aufgebauet werden solle

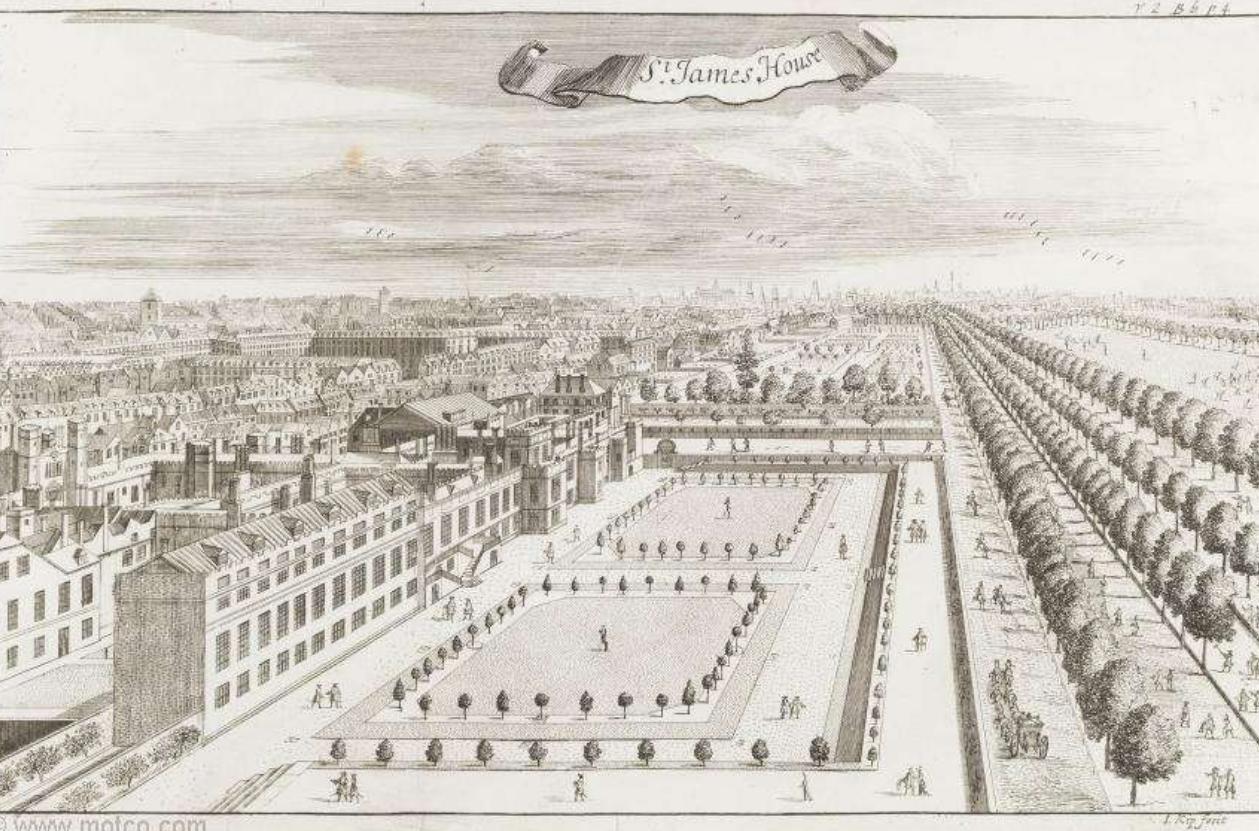


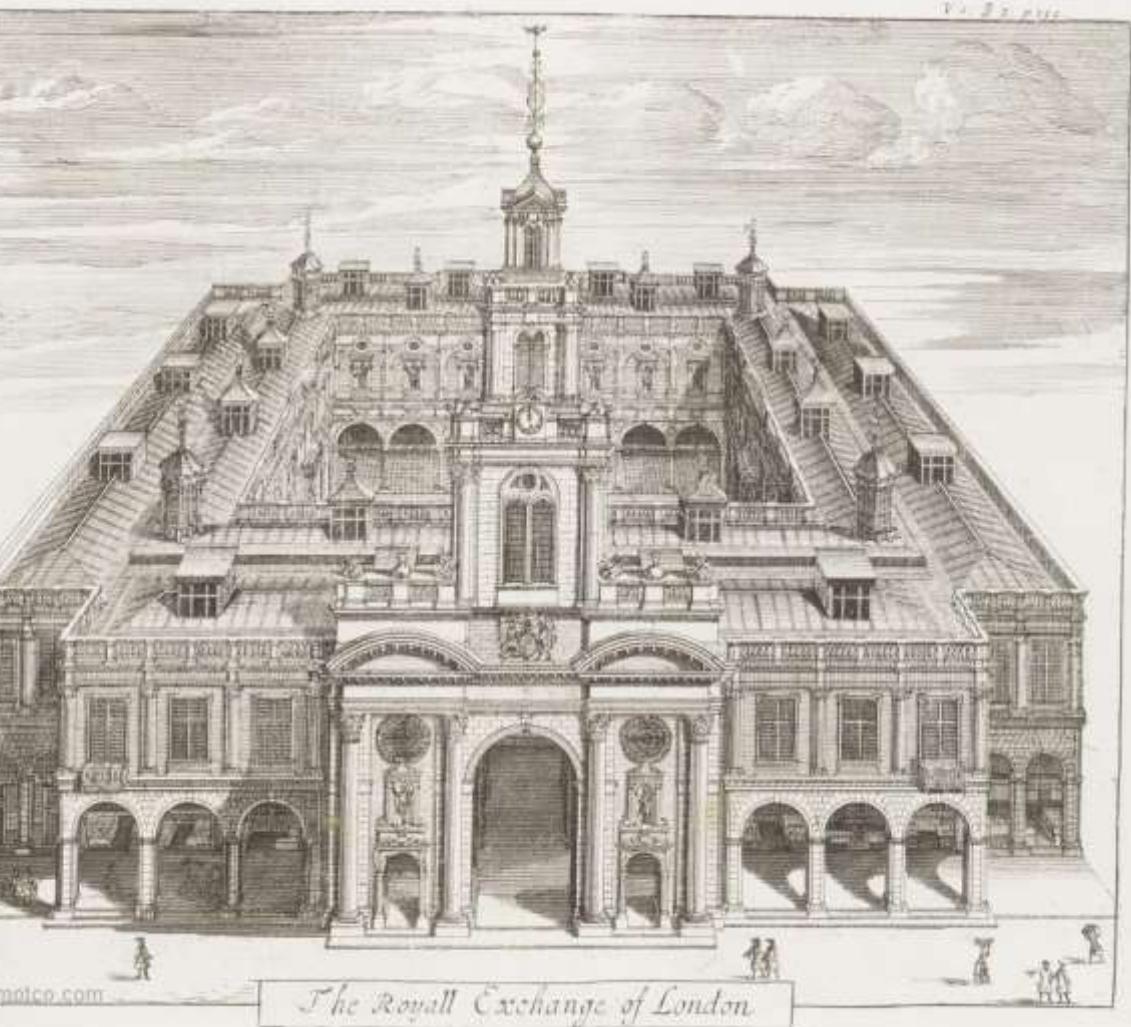


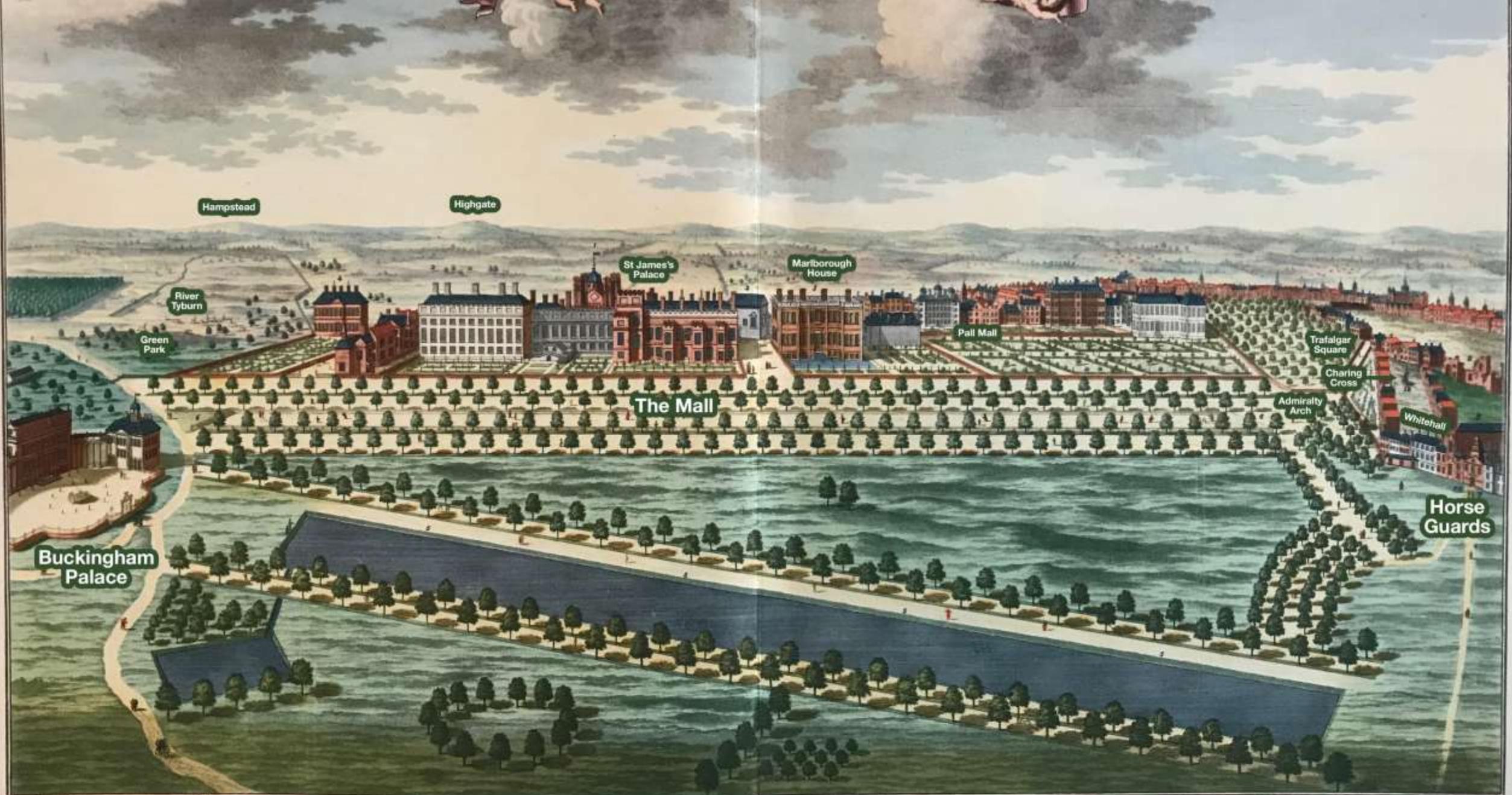


In 1668, anti-Catholic accusations were added:  
'Here by permission of heaven, hell broke loose  
upon this Protestant city....the most dreadful  
Burning of this City; begun and carried on by the  
treachery and malice of the Popish  
faction...Popish frenzy which wrought such  
horrors, is not yet quenched'









To Her most Serene and most Sacred Majesty Anne by y<sup>e</sup> Grace of God QUEEN of Great Britain France & Ireland &c.

1. Queen Palace. 2. St. James's Chapel. 3. Duke of Marlborough House. 4. The Lord Bute's House. 5. The Canal. 6. The Mall.



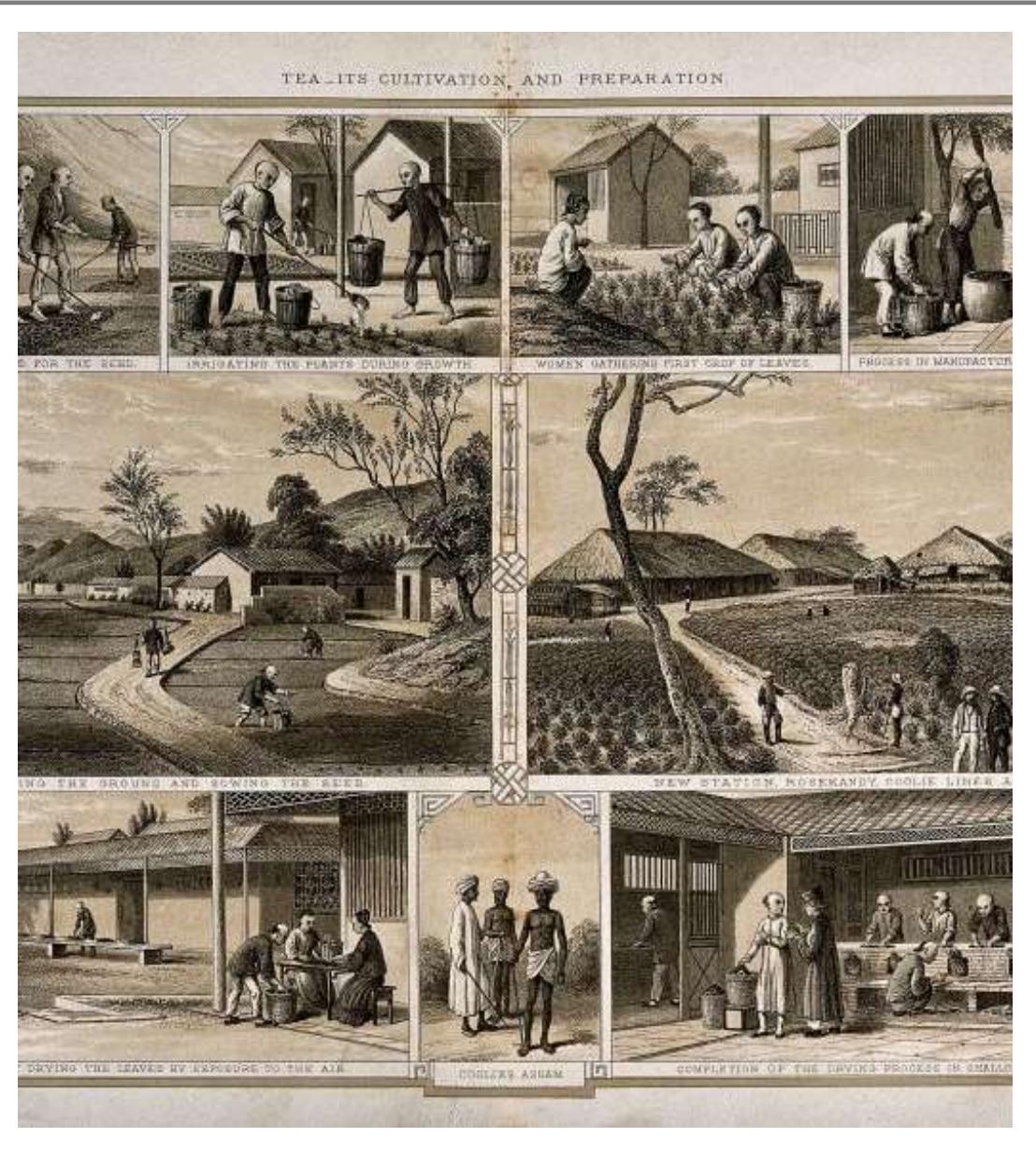
7. The Horse Guards. 8. The Banqueting House. 9. Whitehall. 10. The Admiralty House. 11. Spring Garden. 12. Charing Cross.

3. N. 4.



# The West End

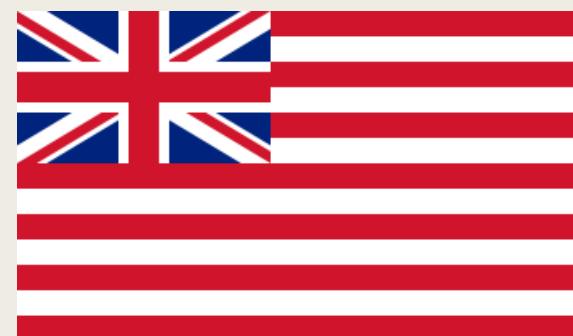
- The City became less dense, more made of stone – while aristocrats and the wealthy moved to the new suburbs of the West End, like the squares of Covent Garden and Bloomsbury, or the new developments of Pall Mall and St James Square in the 1660s
- Covent Garden, built by the 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Bedford, was ‘well inhabited by a mixture of nobility, gentry and wealthy tradesmen ... scarce admitting of any poor, not being pestered with mean courts and alleys (Strype, 1700)
- New speculators like Sir Thomas Bond and the Earl of Southampton built new streets and squares in the West End – Bloomsbury Square the first of its kind in London, 1661
- While Restoration aristocrats built palaces like Buckingham Palace in Pall Mall, Arlington House in St James, or Clarendon House in Piccadilly
- The new St James Park was open to the public, and Henry Jermyn builds a square nearby, close to Pall Mall (*palla a Maglio*, a game)
- The new West End estates were defined by broad pavements, elegant and large sizes, and standardised, regulated building – Piccadilly, Mayfair and beyond develop from the late 17<sup>th</sup> century

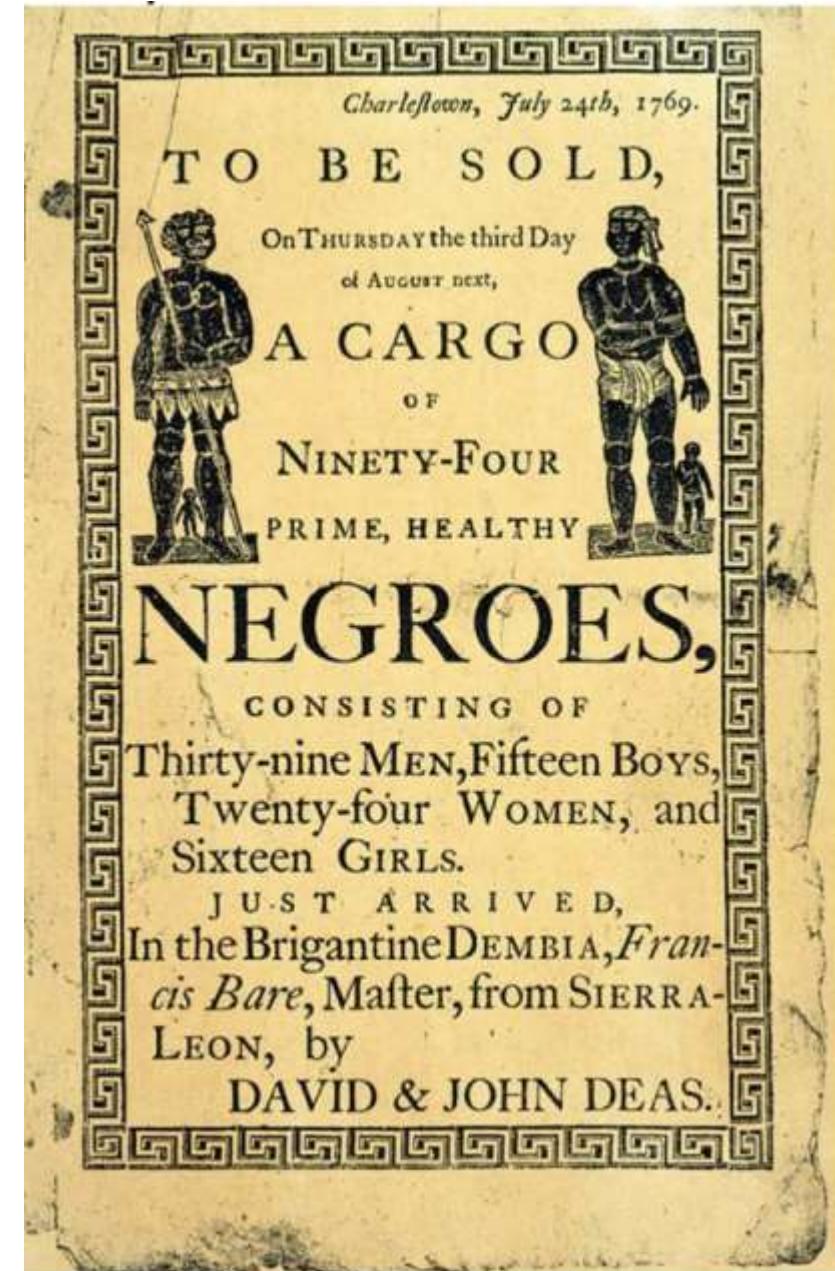


# East India Company



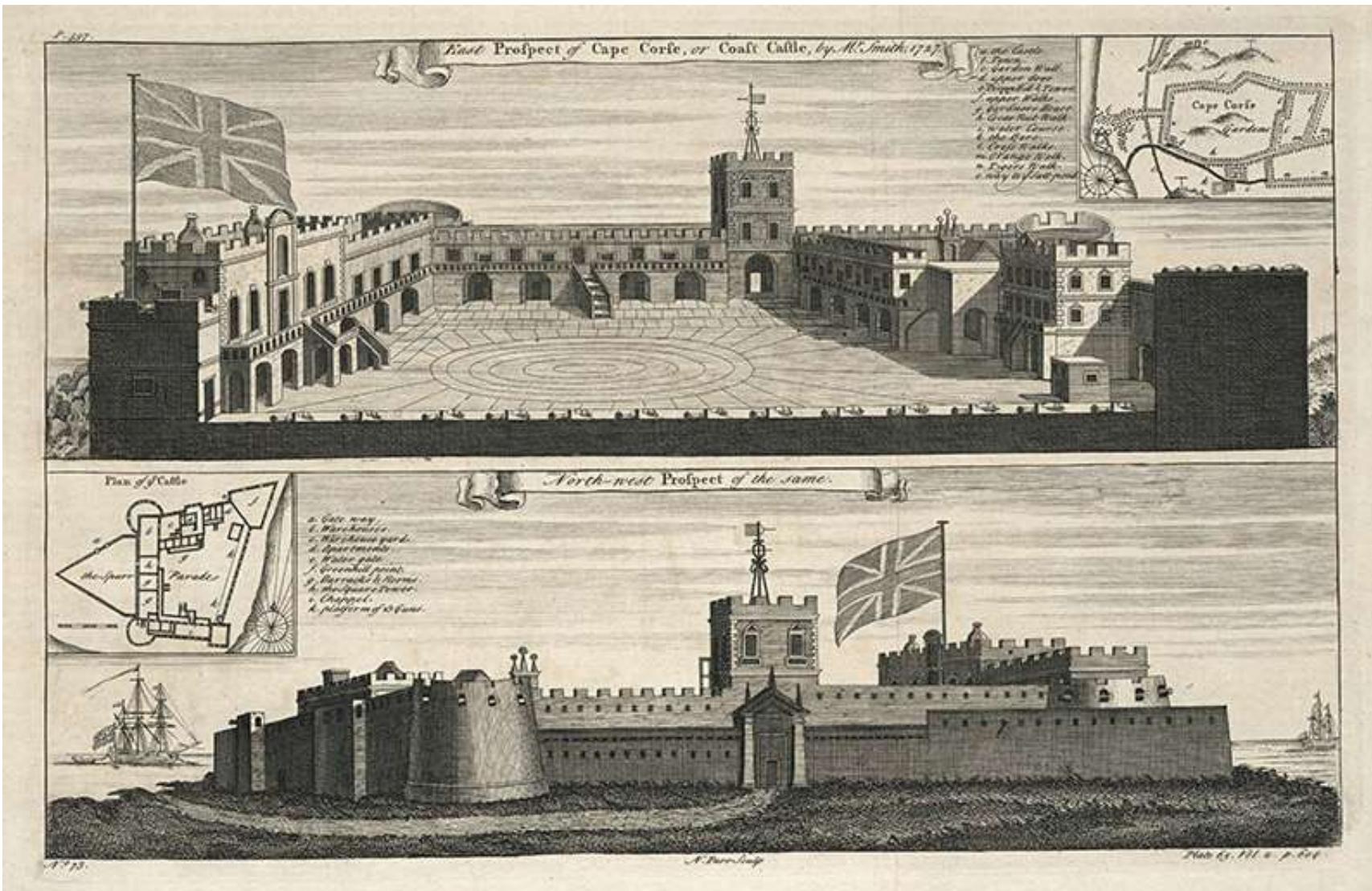
- Established in 1600, motivated by the pursuit of riches, through a mixture of piracy and establishing new trade routes for pepper, spice, tea, cotton and silk
- Charles II receives Bombay as part of Catherine of Braganza's dowry, and soon gives it to the EIC in exchange for £10 a year
- His 1668 charter also gives it the right to occupy places it wished to trade with, maintain an army, issue currency, acquire more territories, form alliances or declare war against other states
- Over the next 200 years it would be decisive in establishing British control over most of India, Hong Kong and surrounding territories











# The Royal African Company

- Prince Rupert and James, Duke of York, establish the Company of Royal Adventurers of England Trading in Africa in 1660, excited by rumours of gold and of challenging the Dutch stranglehold on the slave trade
- The RAC becomes one of the first joint stock companies, with Charles II a major shareholder. First it seeks gold and ivory, but from 1663 dominates in human trade
- Supported by the army and navy, it sets up forts and trading posts, initiates a costly war with the Dutch
- Over the 1680s, trade increases, with slaves branded DY (Duke of York) or RAC
- Its profits would be decisive for the City of London, and future slave-trade cities like Liverpool and Bristol

# The Bloody Triangle

How Royal African Company ships trafficked gold, guns and human misery

## Jamestown

The Royal African Company maintained a business agent in Jamestown, Virginia to oversee the sale of slaves to the colonists. In 1671, the eve of the company's birth, the slave population of Virginia was approximately 2,000. By 1700, and the end of the Royal African Company monopoly, it had reached about 16,390.

## 1. Outward Passage

Until 1698, London held the monopoly and the Royal African Company sailed to West Africa with British-made trade goods, such as guns, cloth and iron with which to barter for slaves and trading rights with local rulers.

## 3. Inward Passage

Finally the ships returned to London with the spoils of that slave labour: tobacco, rice and sugar grown on plantations, many of which were owned by the London-based worthies whose seals adorned the founding charter of the Royal African Company.

## James Island

A complex in the mouth of the River Gambia and originally used by colonists. Initially used as a waypoint in the trade of ivory and gold, it was under England that James Island obtained real infamy as the centre for RAC enterprise.

## York Island

The swampy Royal African Company base in the Sierra Leone River was fortified in 1686 as a reaction to harrying by the French and extortion and aggression from African neighbours. Slavery from York and nearby islands was deeply unprofitable, succeeding in curtailing this cruel trade where decency failed.

## Port Royal

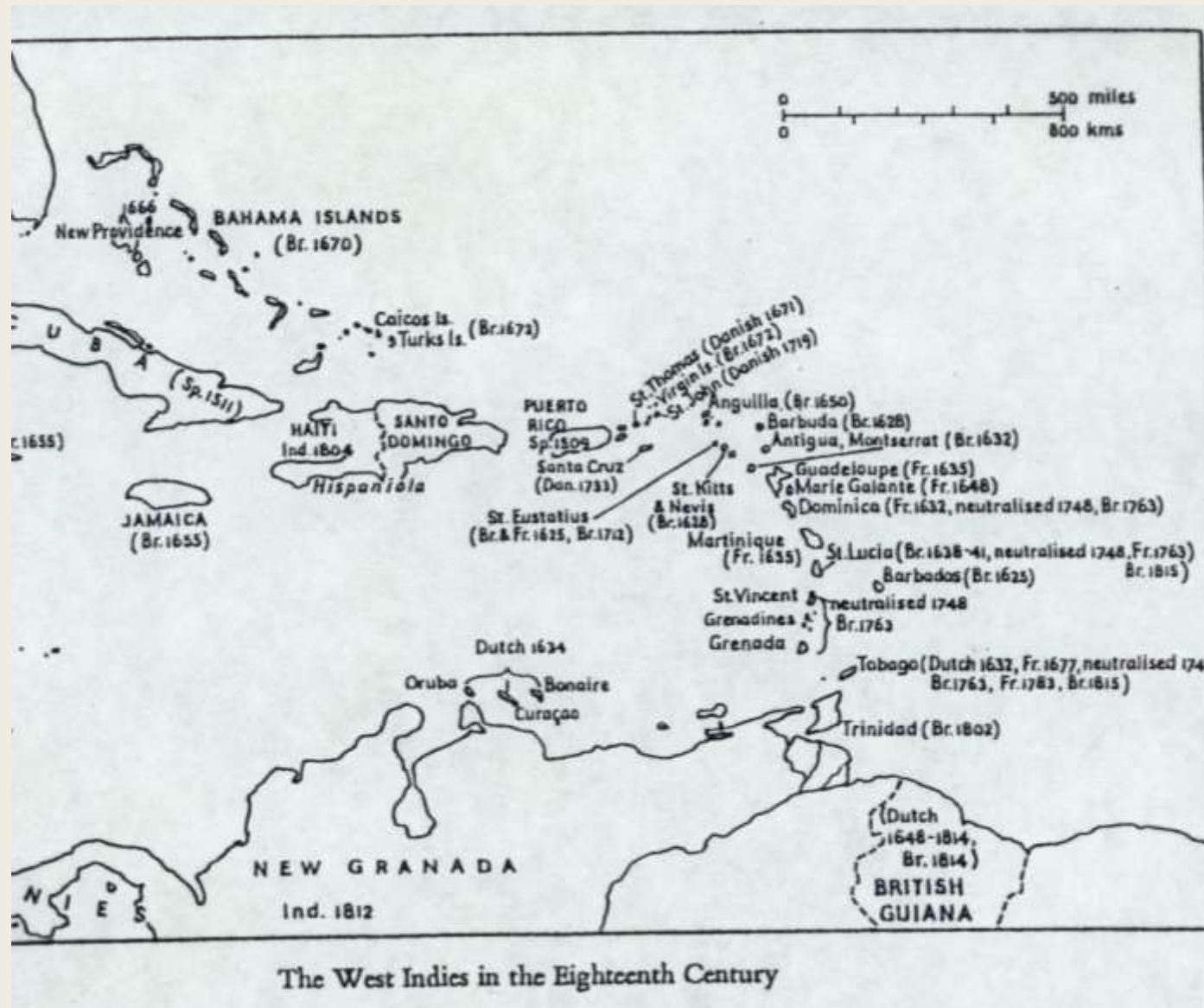
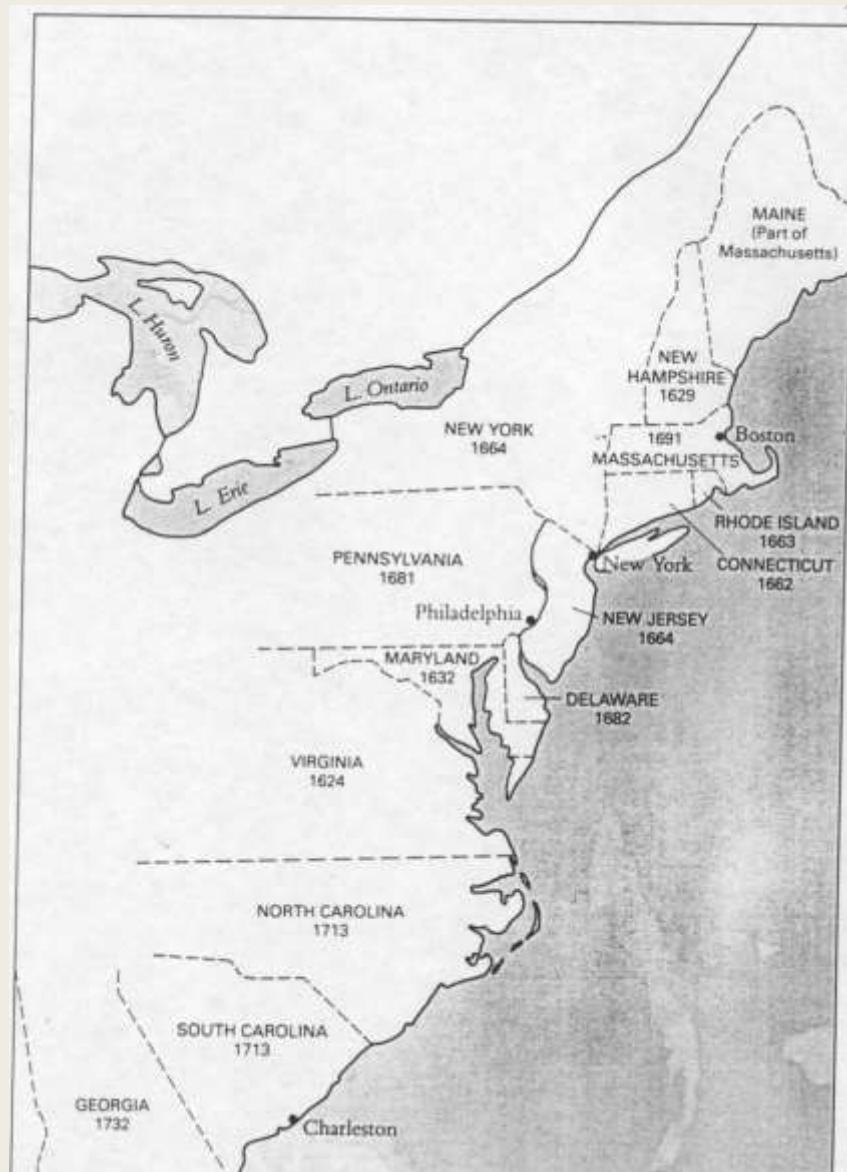
Formerly an underdeveloped Spanish colony, from 1664 Governor Thomas Modyford focused on the rapid growth of large scale sugar plantations and placed slave labour at the system's heart – the more slaves a planter owned, the greater his land grant. Not only this, but the geography made Port Royal the ideal berth from which slave ships could off-load their cargo.

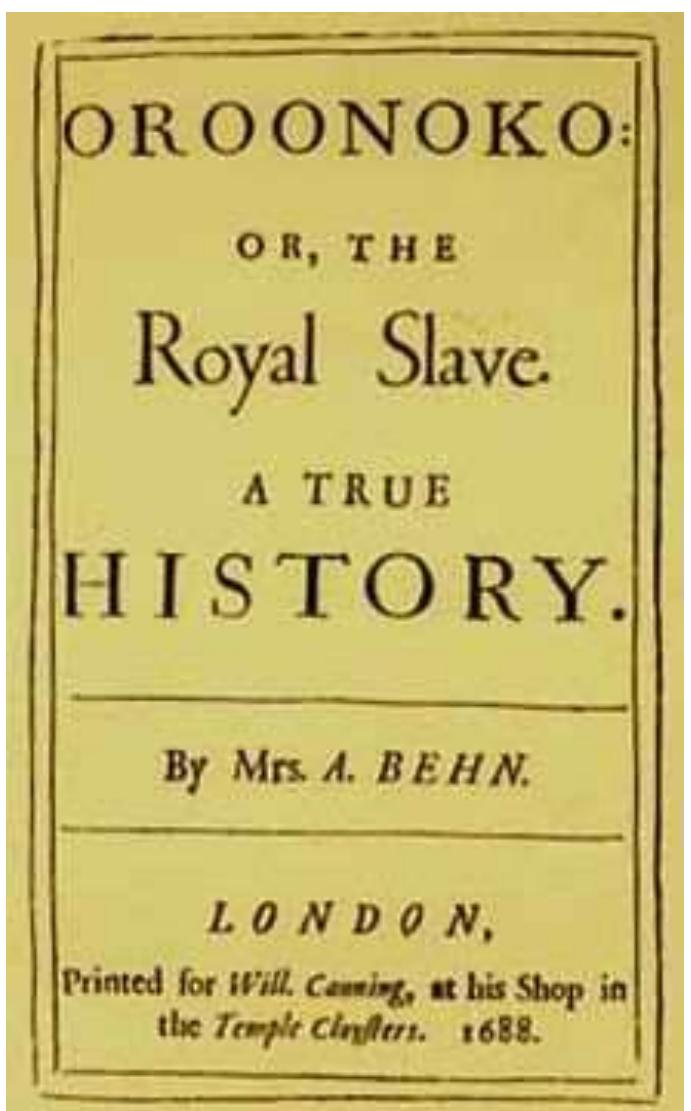
## 2. Middle Passage

Slaves were then marched aboard those trade ships and transported to English colonies in North America and the Caribbean. Seen as mere trade goods, between 1680 and 1688, 23 out of every 100 Africans transported on Royal African Company ships died in transit.

## Cape Coast Castle

Built by the Swedish Africa Company and captured by the English in 1664, Cape Coast Castle was significantly reinforced, becoming the capital of Royal African Company operations on the Gold Coast and centre for the trade in gold and slaves from forts up and down the shoreline.





# Aphra Behn and *Oroonoko*

- Alive from 1640-1689, Behn becomes one of England's leading playwrights and poets in the Restoration Era
- First employed as a spy by Charles II, then by necessity becomes a scribe then poet
- Part of the circle of the Earl of Rochester, she soon earns a living from her plays
- *The Forc'd Marriage* (1670), *Amorous Prince* (1671), *Dutch Lover* (1673), and many others over the 1670s-80s
- One of the first novel writers, works over the 1680s include *Oroonoko* (1688), the story of an enslaved African prince tricked into slavery in Surinam, and his love Imoinda...

# Over to you

In groups, discuss one of the two passages:

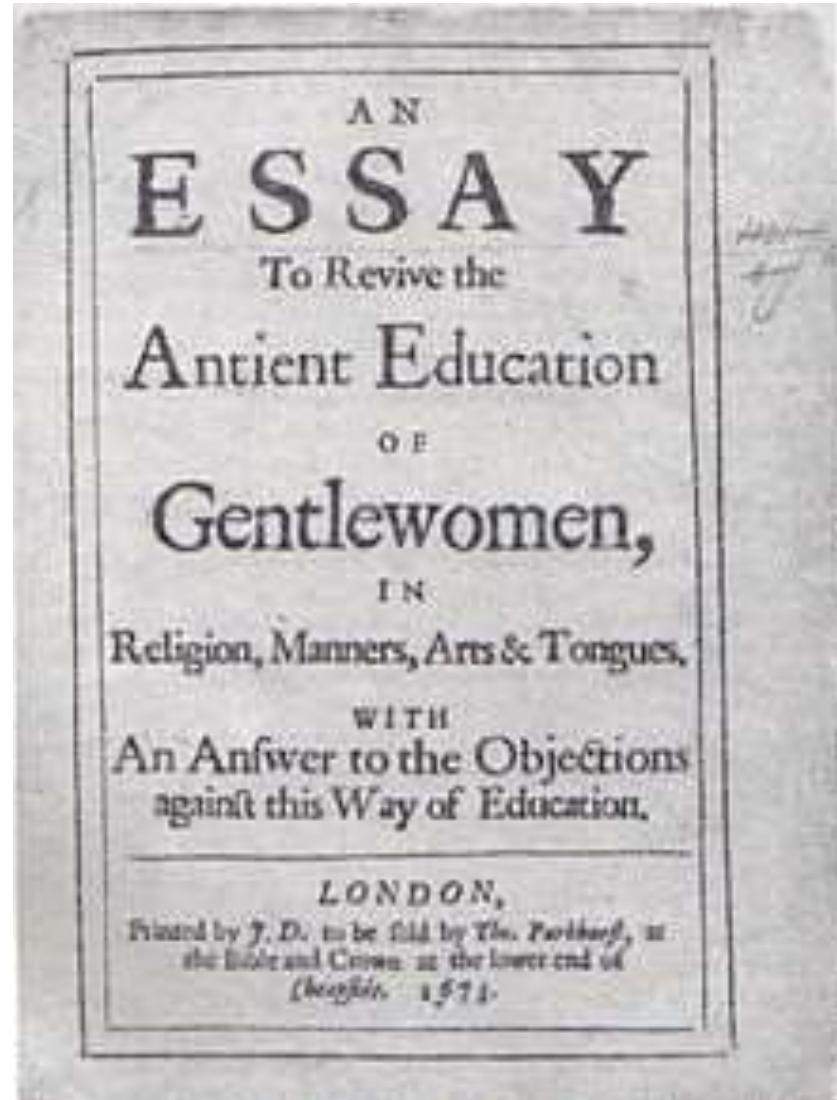
*What kind of view does Behn present of Prince Oronoko? How might her readers have responded to this kind of treatment of a rebel slave? In what ways does Behn try to enlist our sympathy?*

‘And why, my dear friends and fellow sufferers, should we be slaves to an unknown people? Have they vanquished us nobly in fight? Have they won us in honourable battle? Are we by the chance of war become their slaves? This would not anger a noble heart, this would not animate a soldier’s soul. No, but we are bought and sold like apes or monkeys, to be the sport of women, fools and cowards...Do you not hear every day how they upbraid each other with infamy of life, below the wildest savages? And shall we render obedience to such a degenerate race, who have no one human virtue left to distinguish them from the vilest creatures. Will you, I say, suffer the lash from such hands?’

*They all reply’d with one Accord, ‘No, No, No; Cæsar has spoke like a great Captain, like a great King.’*

# Behn's challenge to the establishment

- *Oroonoko* presents itself as a work of factual reporting, and goes on to describe both the African slaves and the indigenous peoples of Surinam in glowing terms
- Its villains are largely European: the slave ship captain, and Governor Byam, who are depicted as greedy, violent and dishonourable
- Behn's other works, like *The Disappointment*, also presented themes of female sexuality and subtle challenges to patriarchy
- Around this time other prominent women were appearing, like the painter Mary Beale, the poet Anne Killigrew, the writer Anne Finch, and the philosopher Margaret Cavendish, as well as the multilingual educator Bathsua Makin...



# Over to you

In groups, discuss the passage below:

*How does Makin challenge a traditional view of femininity held by many men?*

*What might be the significance of its mention of reason and education early in the passage?*

‘Had God intended Women only as a finer sort of Cattle, he would not have made them reasonable. Bruits, a few degrees higher than Drils or Monkies, (which the Indians use to do many Offices) might have better fitted some men's Lust, Pride, and Pleasure; especially those that desire to keep them ignorant to be tyrannized over. God intended Woman as a help-meet to Man, in his constant conversation, and in the concerns of his Family and Estate, when he should most need, in sickness, weakness, absence, death, &c. Whilst we neglect to fit them for those things, we renounce God's Blessing, he has appointed Women for, are ungrateful to him, cruel to them, and injurious to our selves.’

# Bathsua Makin: early feminist?

- Makin argues for the equal right of girls and women to education, against a prevailing view of women as naturally inferior and subordinate
- Key work: *An Essay To Revive the Ancient Education of Gentlewomen, in Religion, Manners, Arts & Tongues, with an Answer to the Objections against this Way of Education* (1673)
- Empowerment for women would come through rhetoric and reason
- Skilled in Greek, Hebrew, Latin, German, Spanish, French and Italian, Makin sets up her own school in the village of Tottenham Cross, outside London
- Tutor to Charles I' children, her work was dedicated to Princess Mary, her former student and later Queen Mary II



# The Royal Society

- Motto was *Nullius in Verba*: take no-one's word for it
- Oldest body of its kind, *Philosophical Transactions* oldest continuously published scientific journal
- Initial small meeting in 1660 of enthusiasts of experimental science, among them Christopher Wren and chemist Robert Boyle
- Gains royal charter in 1662 from Charles II, who enjoys carrying out experiments in his laboratory in St James' Palace
- Carries out experiments and hosts discussions – early paper on 'An easy way of taking a vomit'
- Later secretaries include Robert Hooke, Samuel Pepys and, significantly Isaac Newton over 1703-27

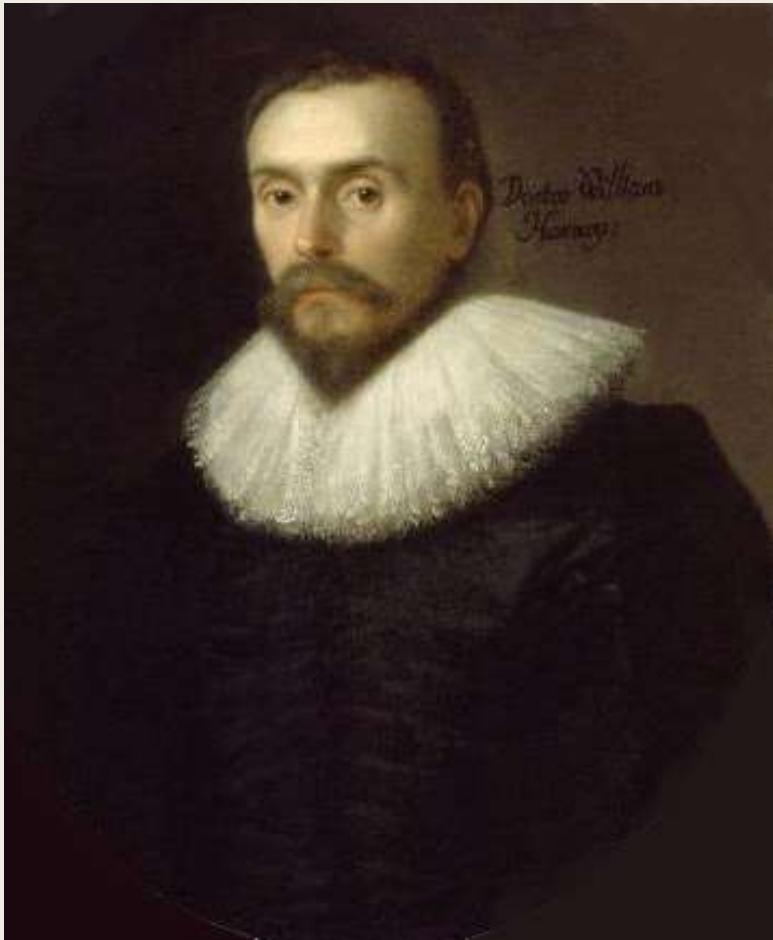


A decorative border featuring a repeating pattern of stylized flowers and leaves, with a central heraldic shield containing a heart. The border is flanked by large, ornate initial letters 'S' and 'G'.

Regina, St. Louis, or Duluth. The following is a **Summary** of **Quintuple** service preferred here, particularly when **Divide** is used.



On an autumn day in 1689, Hooke ducked into a London coffee shop to buy a sample of cannabis from an East India Company merchant who'd become an aficionado of the plant. Hooke tested the drug's effects on an anonymous subject and reported that it left the patient 'unable to speak a Word of Sense'. Despite this, the verdict was good: the consumer was 'not giddy, or drunk' and seemed 'very merry', laughing, dancing and performing 'many odd Tricks'. Hooke reported to his fellow members of the Royal Society that cannabis was a valuable sleep aid, and could even 'be of considerable Use for Lunaticks'. He predicted that London merchants might make a fortune selling it.



William Harvey (1578-1657)

'I profess to learn and teach anatomy not from books but from dissections, not from the positions of philosophers but from the fabric of nature.'

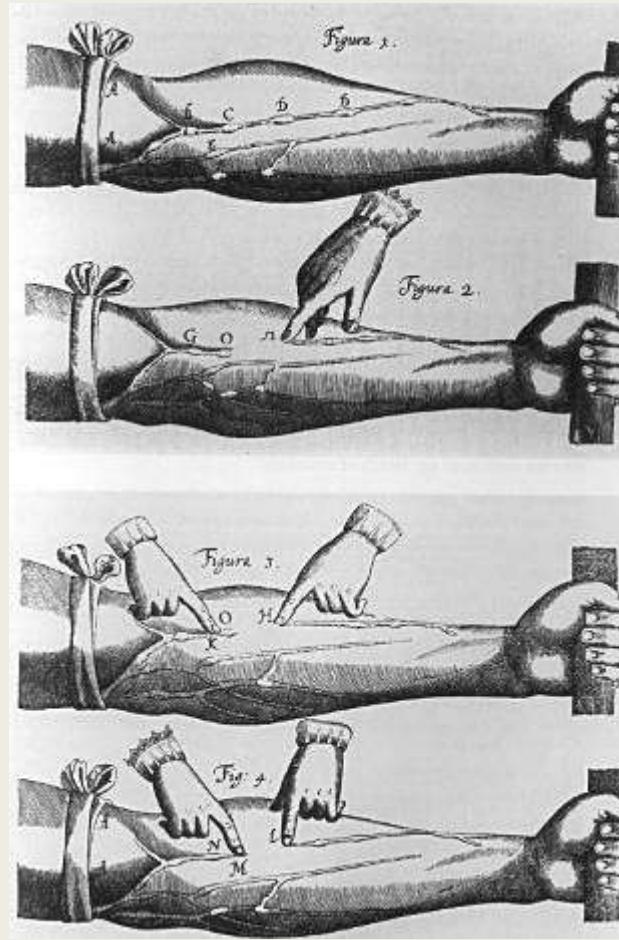


Illustration from Harvey's *Exercitatio anatomica de motu cordis et sanguinis in animalibus* (An anatomical exercise on the motion of the heart and blood in living beings) (1628), showing an experiment, with the use of a ligature, demonstrating that venal blood flows only towards the heart.



Anatomy lesson at Leiden; engraving from 1597



Rembrandt, *The Anatomy Lesson of Dr Nicolaes Tulp*, 1632





# Crackdown on Catholicism

- Charles II's queen, Catherine of Braganza, has multiple miscarriages and leaves no heir. Charles had at least 14 illegitimate children with at least 7 mistresses
- The 1660s-70s are marked by a costly war of Atlantic supremacy with the Dutch
- In 1670, Charles makes a secret peace with Louis XIV of France, offering warships and soldiers to help attack the Dutch (now his official ally) in exchange for £16k a year – and for openly converting to Catholicism
- While the war quickly fails for England, Charles makes a Declaration of Indulgence in 1672 that loosens restrictions on Catholics and Non-Conformists
- In reaction, Parliament insists on passing the Test Act, forcing all in public employment to accept Protestantism
- Anxieties grow that James, Duke of York, will become king, an open Catholic
- To assuage fears, Charles has James' daughter Mary marry the Protestant William of Orange

# POPISH DAMNABLE PLOT

AGAINST

Our Religion and Liberties, lively Delineated in several of its Branches,

With an Account of the Manner of the Execution of

WILLIAM Viscount STAFFORD on Tovver-Hill.

59 Dec. 1605



# Popish Plot and Exclusion Crisis

- Titus Oates announces a ‘Popish Plot’ to assassinate the king in 1678
- While false, it unleashes anti-Catholic hysteria across England
- The next year, Parliament introduces the Exclusion Bill to prevent James from becoming king
- Charles is forced to dissolve parliament to protect his brother and his chief minister, Lord Danby, from impeachment, which leaves him with little money
- The Rye House Plot to murder the king and his brother, is hatched by Protestant conspirators to ambush them on their return from Newmarket
- James and Charles live on, but similar plots and uprisings will bring down James shortly into his reign

Charles dies unexpectedly of a stroke in February 1685, leaving his unpopular brother, James II, as heir...

On his deathbed, he converts to Catholicism and apologises to his wife...

- *To what extent had ‘the Merry Monarch’ resolved the problems of his father’s reign?*
- *How effective was Charles II as a king?*



# Wednesday: The V&A

- We'll view the European collections of the Victoria and Albert Museum
- Nearest tube: South Kensington
- Let's meet at the ticket barriers of South Kensington at **2pm**
- We'll discuss Restoration culture, slavery, oversized beds, textiles, fashion and more
- If any problems, text me on 07784 084754 or email [dan.taylor@lawrence.edu](mailto:dan.taylor@lawrence.edu)



