

From, *Abstracts of Papers Presented at the 63rd Annual Meeting of the Society of Architectural Historians*, (Chicago: SAH, 2010) , p.62.

PS13 - The Sources of the Soul: Water for Pre-Industrial Gardens and Villas

Katherine Rinne, California College of Arts, Chair

Juliet Odgers, Cardiff University, Wales.

Power, Trade and Philosophy in the hydraulic landscape of Wotton House.

John Evelyn (1620 -1706), virtuoso and founding member of the Royal Society, was chiefly known during his lifetime for his highly influential publications on gardening and forestry. For Evelyn, gardening - both the theory and practice - was framed by experimental natural philosophy. He saw his publications as a part of the collaborative endeavour to produce a 'History of the Trades', a plan for the advancement of learning proposed initially by Francis Bacon and taken up after the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660 by the Royal Society. The History was intended for 'Use' and for 'Philosophy' - the manual craft practices of 'Trade', providing the experimental data for the scrutiny and speculation of the philosophers.

Evelyn was actively engaged in the planning and execution of three gardens. The first of these was the Evelyn family estate, Wotton House in Surrey, designed during the 1640s and early 1650s by Evelyn, with his brother and cousin. Before the garden was reconfigured it was a working estate - the location of the wire pulling and gunpowder manufacturies on which the family fortunes were founded. These trades relied on the water power provided by the mill stream, the Tillingbourne, which runs through the estate.

We have records of emergence of the garden (which still exists in outline) from its previous manufacturing state in the form of sketches made by John Evelyn during the course of its construction during the 1640s and 1650s. We also have, in the unpublished manuscript for his great garden work the *Elysium Britannicum*, statements of his understanding of water as a generative 'principle' of nature - a species of 'the universal spirit'. Finally, appended to this manuscript are compendious notes on water as a motive force. The hydraulic landscape of Trade practice and the philosophical gentleman's garden exist side by side as interrelated demonstrations of human ingenuity, environments underpinned by an experimental understanding of Nature and directed towards both Use and Philosophy.

For fully developed paper see *Architectural Research Quarterly* 15/3 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011) , pp 237 - 247.