

“Public and Private” Performer Journeys Across London

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In the summer of 2020, I set out to use ESRI’s ArcGIS system for creating and using maps to display geographic information, in order to spatially represent the events surrounding the wedding of Princess Elizabeth Stuart and Prince Frederick V of the Rhine in 1613. While ArcGIS is commonly used in environmental or data-driven projects, it also allows for the “geo-rectification” of historical maps, or the linking of points on the map to their accurate coordinate position. It also gives researchers the ability to add narrative to spatial analysis through “story maps”, with connections between maps, textual annotations, and images.

I first encountered the wedding of Elizabeth and Frederick in the REED London Inns of Court collection, where a letter by London gossip John Chamberlain described the *Memorable Masque*, which was performed Monday, February 15th, 1613, the day after the wedding. The description stood out, however, because Chamberlain dedicated far more of his description to the procession that took the masquers to the performance venue than the masque itself. Many other descriptions of the event are similar, and even the masque text itself has a hearty description of the journey of its performers from the Rolles in the center of the walled City of London to Whitehall Palace, which was outside of the City proper. This demonstrated a different perspective on audience and performance. While the masque itself was a closed performance that would have only been viewed by a privileged audience made up of the wedding guests and nobility, the procession was just as important to the descriptions of the masque and went through the streets of the city, therefore being viewed by the common people and not the royal family.

As I pursued further research into the wedding, I discovered an expanded set of entertainments that were not restricted to the venues in which they were performed. Following the *Memorable Masque* was *the Masque of Inner Temple and Grays Inn*, which attempted to outdo the street procession with an intricate water procession along the Thames staged by the shipwright Phineas Pett. Prior to the wedding was a fireworks show, a staged allegorical seafight, and a procession of the wedding party itself. All of these events took place throughout the space of London, and were thus visible not only to the nobles at Whitehall, but the common people.

Below is a link to an ArcGIS story map that spatially represents the performance and entertainment events surrounding the 1613 wedding, set on the Morgan Map of London (created

in 1682). Each day has its own visual representation, and Sunday, February 14th, Monday February 15th and Tuesday February 16th link to more detailed maps that show the procession routes and performances in more detail. These annotated historical story maps all reveal the relationship between space and performance, and the way performance locations were chosen.

Wedding Places

Introduction Thursday, February 11th Saturday, February 13th Sunday, February 14th Monday, February 15th Tuesday, February 16th Sources

On the 14th of February, 1613, Elizabeth Stuart, daughter of King James I, married Frederick V, Count Palatine of the Rhine. In order to commemorate the marriage, a week's worth of performances was arranged, centered around the Palace of Whitehall.

This project attempts to use place and historical maps to contextualize the performances and processions surrounding the wedding. The locations involved in these festivities paint a picture of a performance cycle that took place primarily to the west of the City of London proper (the area enclosed within the London Wall).

The days presented in this project are:

- Thursday, February 11th - A fireworks show to be viewed from Whitehall
- Saturday, February 13th - A sea fight viewed from Whitehall
- Sunday, February 14th - The wedding ceremony and the Lord's Masque
- Monday, February 15th - The Memorable Masque of Lincoln's Inn and the Middle Temple
- Tuesday, February 16th - The water procession leading up to the Masque of the Inner Temple and Gray's Inn (the masque was rescheduled for Saturday, February 20th)

The 14th, 15th, and 16th link to an external story map that provides more information on the places and people involved.

Hogenberg, Abraham. *Marriage Procession for the wedding of Elizabeth Stuart, daughter of James I, and Frederick V, Elector Palatine, 14 February, 1613*. Met Museum, New York City.

<https://arcg.is/1Pjvmr1>