

MUSICOLOGY GRADUATE SEMINAR

EDITING OPERA: ARNE'S *ARTAXERXES*

M9550B – Term 2, Wednesdays 9:30-12:30, TC 310

Dr Robert Toft

Arne's *Artaxerxes*, an opera in English based on Metastasio's libretto, was performed frequently on the English stage between 1762 (the year of its première) and the early 1830s, and yet this opera is not available in a performing/scholarly edition. The purpose of this seminar is to study the extant sources and to prepare such an edition.

Even though the autograph was destroyed in a fire at Drury Lane, enough material survives for researchers to resolve many of the problems associated with the opera. Specifically, the seminar will focus on the production mounted in Covent Garden in 1827, a production for which both George Smart's score (Smart was the musical director that season) and Oxberry's edition of the libretto (which contains various stage directions) survive. Early in the second decade of the nineteenth century, Henry Bishop composed new recitatives to replace those lost in the fire, and Bishop's score, along with Smart's copy of the first (1762) edition, which our Library owns, will form the nucleus of the musical material. [The pages below provide details of the sources.]

Participants not only will prepare the edition but also will study as many aspects of the production as time permits. When our work has been completed, the score will become the first publication in a series of editions produced at Western that focus on neglected operas composed and performed before 1830.

Requirements:

- 1) two presentations to the seminar (each worth 20% of the final mark)
topics: aspects of the sources
problems in editing the materials
performance practice issues
- 2) completed edition of one portion of the opera (worth 60% of the final mark)

SOURCES: Arne, *Artaxerxes* (1762)

Copies of the following sources are available at Western

I. SCORES

British Library

H.145.g (c.1780)

Artaxerxes, An English Opera, as it is performed at the Theatre Royal in Covent Garden, Set to Music by Dr. Arne. London. Printed for S.A.&P. Thompson.

E.100.b.(1.) (1792)

Dale's New Edition of Artaxerxes, a Serious Opera as Performed at the Theatres Royal, Covent Garden & Drury Lane, Composed by Dr. Arne. London. Printed for & Sold by J. Dale.

H.145.c (1815?)

The Overture, Recitatives, Airs & Duets, in the Serious Opera of Artaxerxes, composed by Dr. Arne, with an accompaniment for the Piano Forte. Arranged from the Original Scores by J. Addison. In this Edition are added the Quartet "Mild as the Moon Beams." Composed by Braham, and the Accompanied Recitative & Grand Finale, Composed by Henry R. Bishop, as performed at the Theatres Royal, Covent Garden & Drury Lane. London. Printed by Goulding & D'Almaine.

H.145.a (1820?)

Artaxerxes, a Grand Opera, as Performed at the Theatres Royal, Covent Garden & Drury Lane, Selected & Composed for the Voice & Piano Forte by Dr. Arne. A New Edition with the Tenor Cliff Transposed. London, Published by G. Walker.

MS Add. 30924 (c.1831)

"This was Bishop's first arrgt, produced at Covent Gdn, 30 Sept, 1814"

Western

MZ 40 (1762)

Artaxerxes, An English Opera, as it is performed at the Theatre Royal in Covent Garden, Set to Music by Dr. Arne. London. Printed for John Johnson

[Macnutt Catalogue 103, no. 40; copy owned by George Smart – some pencil marks: cuts, dynamics, pp. 16-39; p. 86, In G – Mad. Vestris]

<https://archive.org/stream/artaxerxesengli00arne#page/n5/mode/2up>

MZ 900 (c.1780)

A New Edition of Artaxerxes, a Serious Opera as Performed at the Theatres Royal, Covent Garden & Drury Lane, Composed by Dr. Arne for the Voice, Harpsichord and Violin.

London. Printed for S.A.&P. Thompson.

<https://archive.org/stream/neweditionofarta00arne#page/n3/mode/2up>

II. INDIVIDUAL AIRS

Adieu thou lovely	H.1650.f.(7)	?1805	emb. Billington
Fair Aurora	Corri II: 51	c.1781	
If o'er the cruel tyrant love	H.1650.f.(7)	?1805	emb. Billington
	Welsh, p. 38	1825	
Let not rage	H.1650.f.(7)	?1805	emb. Billington
Monster away	H.1650.f.(7)	?1805	emb. Billington
O too lovely	Corri II: 45	c.1781	
The soldier tir'd	Corri II: 48	c.1781	
	H.1650.f.(7)	?1805	emb. Billington
Water parted from the sea	?Philadelphia	?1797	emb. Trisibio*
	Corri II: 47	c.1781	
	Philipps, p. 8	1826	

* "Water parted from the sea. In Artaxerxes By D. Arne, and adorned with Italian graces By Mr. Trisobio." n.p/n.d. [?Philadelphia, 1797?] Library of Congress Shelf mark: M1621.A (Case)

III. WORD BOOKS

Dartmouth College

Oxberry's Edition

Artaxerxes; An English Opera . . . The only edition existing which is faithfully marked with the stage business, and stage directions. London: W. Simpkin and R. Marshall, 1828

Library of Congress

Cumberland's British Theatre, Vol. 19, no. 1

Artaxerxes. An Opera . . . printed from the acting copy. London: John Cumberland, n.d.
[BL gives the date of vol. 19 as 1829]

Western

The Augustan Reprint Society

Artaxerxes by Thomas Augustine Arne (1761). Los Angeles: William Andrews Clark Memorial Library, 1963

MZ 313 (1762)

Artaxerxes, An English Opera, as it is performed at the Theatre Royal in Covent Garden. The Music Composed by Tho. Aug. Arne, Mus.Doc. London. Printed for J. and R. Tonson.

<https://archive.org/stream/artaxerxesenglis00arne#page/n1/mode/2up>

MZ 1397 (1800)

Dramas and other poems by the Abbé Pietro Metastasio. Translated from the Italian by John Hoole. London. H. Baldwin and Son.