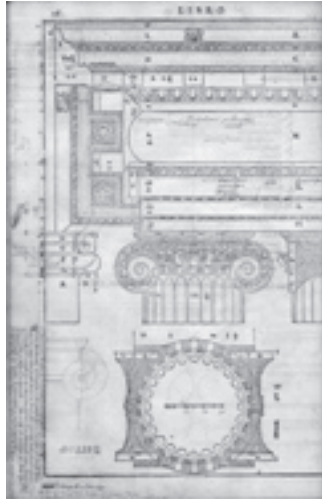


Burlington's Palladio

Book at the AA

By Edward Bottoms



C17 annotations on a page from the AA Library's 1581 edition of *I Quattro Libri Dell' Architettura Di Andrea Palladio*.

AA Members' Palladio Events

A private view of the Royal Academy's Palladio exhibition on 8 April 2009 will be followed later in the spring by a tour of Chiswick House with Dr Roger White and a grand cycling tour of London's Palladian architecture.

Further details can be found online and in the public programme. To book places contact Luisa Miller 020 7887 4034 or luisa.miller@aschool.ac.uk

From 31 January 2009 the Royal Academy of Arts will be presenting the first exhibition devoted to Andrea Palladio (1508–1580) to be held in London for over 30 years. See our Spring 2009 programme of events for information on special AA events associated to this exhibition, or log into aschool.ac.uk/members

One of the AA Library's most valuable books is an edition of the hugely influential *I Quattro Libri Dell'Architettura Di Andrea Palladio* that was published in 1581 and retains the same woodcuts and a virtually identical text to the first edition of 1570.

What makes the AA Library copy of this early edition so significant is the book's provenance. The title page bears the signature of Richard Boyle, 3rd Earl of Burlington (1694–1753). Burlington's trip to Italy of 1719 appears to have been the catalyst for

his life-long study of the works of Palladio, and it was whilst on this tour that he purchased and annotated his first copy of *I Quattro Libri* (1601 edition). The most influential of Burlington's buildings has proved to be his own suburban villa at Chiswick, begun in 1726, the very year that the AA Library's edition of the Four Books entered his collection.

A factor that would almost certainly have attracted Lord Burlington to this copy would have been the seventeenth-century annotations included within. As yet unattributed, these annotations are intriguing to say the least. Presumably done by an architect, the notes are most prevalent in the first and third books and are of a technical nature, including measurements of the entablature of the different orders and translations of various architectural terms into Greek, Italian and French. In a section of notes dated 25 June 1643, the writer even makes comparisons with Sebastiano Serlio's (1475–1554) five books of architecture. AA Members can view the book in the AA Library.

For more information on the Royal Academy exhibition and to book tickets call 0844 209 1919 or visit royalacademy.org.uk

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