

formance of *Romeo and Juliet* (ff. 98-9), one of three Shakespearean tragedies he managed to see. He then turned his attention to the Academy of Arts, the Society of Antiquaries, and the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, an institution that never failed to impress Russian visitors. He visited the studio of Benjamin West (f. 104v.) and, two days later, the studios of Sir Joshua Reynolds, Thomas Gainsborough, and George Romney, but expressed his disappointment at what he saw (ff. 106-108v.). If not impressed by English art, he greatly admired the classical buildings of Robert Adam by the Thames (f. 23). Other places he visited included Westminster Hall, the Chelsea Hospital, Woolwich dockyard, the Arsenal, Greenwich Hospital, and two further hospitals, St Thomas's and Guy's, but, interestingly, he refused to visit Bedlam, which was a port of call for so many foreign visitors, for "je n'aime pas à me rejouir des malheurs attachés à la nature humaine. C'est pour ces sortes de sujets que la curiosité me manque absolument" (f. 115). The Monument and the Foundling Hospital were among the last places he visited. He left London on 11 October for Dover, via the naval town of Chatham, and returned to France.

The diary is the record of a visit of astonishingly sustained activity and curiosity, much more detailed and precise than the published 'doctored' accounts of such as Malinovskii and Karamzin. The