

ILLUSTRATIONS

front Portrait of John Carr by Sir William Beechey, with a drawing of
Buxton Crescent and the spire of Horbury Church
in the background
National Portrait Gallery

inside Basildon Park, Berkshire, designed by John Carr in 1776
National Monuments Record

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The Life and Works of John Carr of York

285 x 210 mm, 248 pages, 256 illustrations

Hardback ISBN 0 9536574 2 6,
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THE LIFE AND
WORKS OF

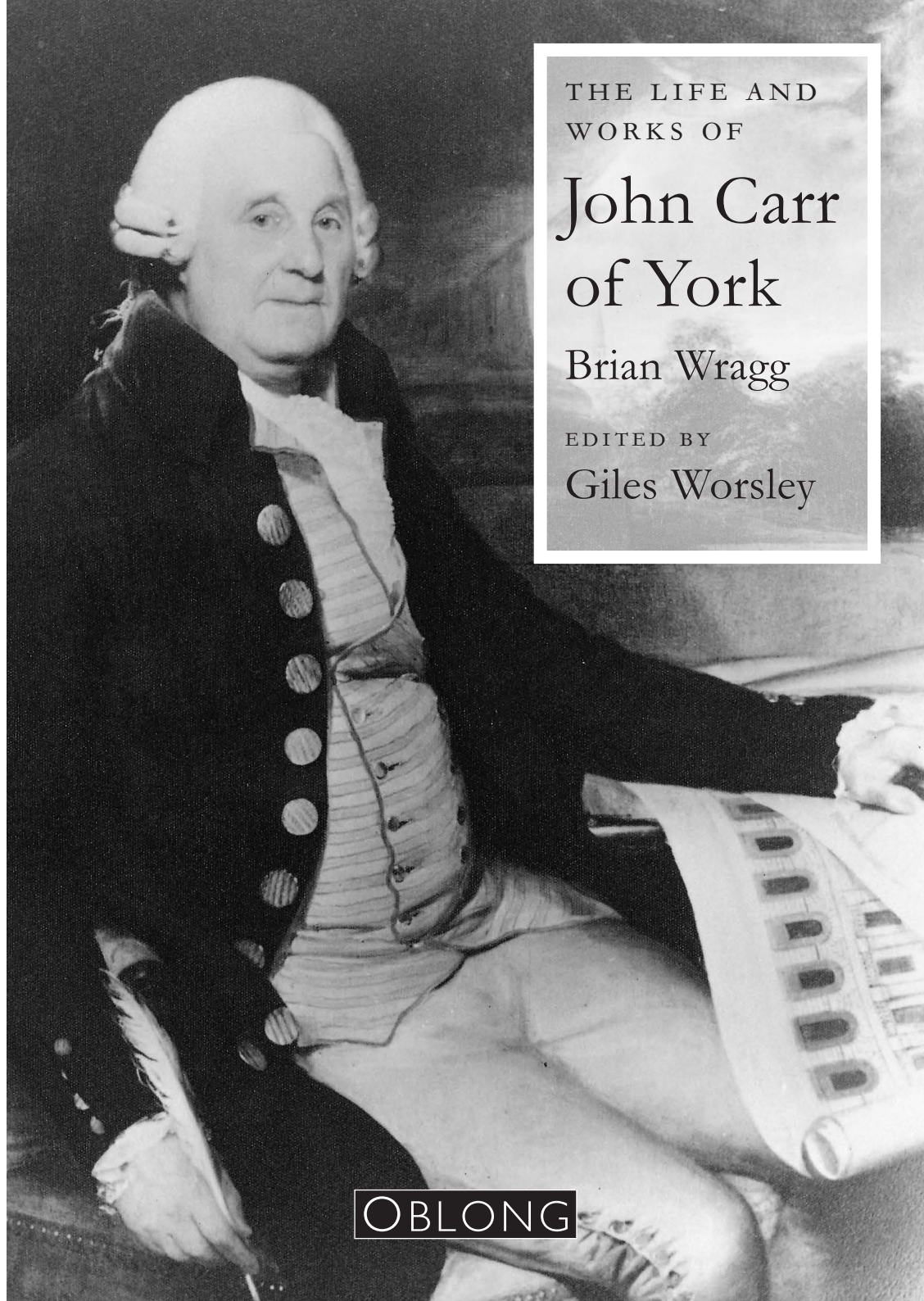
John Carr of York

Brian Wragg

EDITED BY

Giles Worsley

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The Life and Works of John Carr of York

by *Brian Wragg*

edited by *Giles Worsley*

JOHN CARR DOMINATED THE BUILDING WORLD in the North of England in the second half of the eighteenth century. Born into a simple mason's family in 1723, Carr rose to become the leading architect in the North, with several hundred commissions to his name, served twice as Lord Mayor of York, and amassed a great fortune which allowed him to pass his last years comfortably as a country gentleman. But despite being hailed in his own day as the only provincial architect of national importance, Carr has never been the subject of a comprehensive study.

The Life and Works of John Carr of York, written by Dr Brian Wragg and edited by Dr Giles Worsley, fills the gap. It spells out the compelling tale of Carr's rise from obscurity to honourable old age. The importance of politics and patronage is made clear, as is Carr's solid practicality as a designer and his repeated ability to reinvent his architectural language to keep abreast of metropolitan fashion. The painful reality of Georgian architectural practice — the endless travel, the constant drawing, the innumerable letters — is examined, but so are the pleasures that came with it. And for the first time the true tale of Carr's fortune has been unravelled. A delightful, rounded portrait emerges of a man as happy to be friends with craftsman as aristocrat, as committed to designing a watercloset or a bridge in a remote Pennine dale as a great country house or a vast Portuguese hospital, a man who epitomises the Georgian architect.

The late Brian Wragg taught architecture for many years at the University of Sheffield and pioneered Carr studies, but he never completed the monograph on the architect that he planned. It has been finished by Giles Worsley, architecture correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*. Formerly architectural editor of *Country Life* and editor of *Perspectives on Architecture*, Giles Worsley is author of *Classical Architecture in Britain: the Heroic Age*, which won the Yorkshire Post Art Award for 1995. With over 250 photographs and a detailed, comprehensive catalogue of commissions including many new discoveries, *The Life and Works of John Carr of York* is essential reading for anyone interested in eighteenth-century life, architecture, Yorkshire, or the North.



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