The Montagu Monuments

Monument 01

John, 2nd Duke of Montagu

Look up at the monument of Duke John. He is displayed on a medallion in the centre, surrounded by the things that were important in his life.

Try and match the following parts of the monument to the things in John's life they represent. One has been completed for you:

Life
- His courage in fighting
- His sad death
- His career in the army
- His loving wife Mary

Monument
- The torch of life being put out by a crying child
- Woman looking up longingly at John
- Cannon balls, military equipment, flags and trumpet
- Military medals held by his wife

Duke John has a magnificent monument because he was very important in society. If you became famous and had a monument built to remember you by, what three items might be displayed on it to tell the story of your life?

Think about things you like to do and people that are important to you.

There are many other parts of John's personality that are not represented in the monuments:

- He had wonderful sense of humour and often played practical jokes on his friends!
- His gardening hobby gave him the nickname 'John the Planter' because he wanted to plant a line of trees all the way to London!
- He had a deep love of animals and often saved old and lame animals when others no longer wanted them - he even rescued a lion with no teeth from the menagerie at the Tower of London!

Read carefully through these instructions John left for the care of his pet lion. Some of the words are missing. Use the words from the box below to complete the instructions for John's manservant.

Lion must never be ______ at all, but to go where he will except into the ______, where he must not go for fear he should be drowned. He must be free of the Old Pantry & be fed there. To have Boyled Meat, no Horse Flesh, nor no ______ given him. To lye every night in his ______ by the Old Pantry. To have his ______ fill’d every morning with ______. And to have fresh straw in his House twice a week.

General Instructions

trough Bones locked up House fresh water garden

Helpful vocabulary

Military: relating to the army, war, or the life of a soldier

Menagerie: a collection of wild or unusual animals, usually kept for show - like a private zoo
Look carefully at the monument of Lady Mary Churchill. Every part has a story to tell. Match the clues in the speech bubbles with the numbered labels to unlock the hidden meaning of each symbol. Two have been filled in for you.

**Helpful vocabulary**

**Fates:** three goddesses in charge of birth, life and death in Greek and Roman Mythology

**Putto:** a child who looks like a cherub

**Putti:** more than one putto

**Family crest:** a unique symbol designed to represent a family surname

**Spindle:** the stick thread is wound around as it is spun

**Coronet**

1. I am one of the three goddesses of fate. The thread of life is wound around my staff because I am in charge of birth.

2. My job is to help the three fates by holding the spindle of the thread of life.

3. I am another of the fates. I spin the thread of life and decide how long it should be. My face is shocked because the thread of Mary's life has been cut short.

4. I am the oldest of the fates. I am in charge of death, cutting the thread of life with my shears.

5. I look like a small crown and am often worn on the head. Here, I am being used to hold up Mary’s family crest.

6. I am

7. I am

8. We are being arranged around an urn by some putti.

This monument is for Lady Mary Montagu, daughter of John and Mary.

The business of death was very expensive for someone as important as Mary. Her funeral alone cost her husband £270 (around £32,400 today!) and this monument cost even more. Use these bills from sculptor Peter Mathias Van Gelder to work out the total cost of the monument. Some of the working out has been done for you:

£1500.00
£91.18
£61.30
£1652.48

You can work out how much this would be today by multiplying your total by 120!

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On the right are the women and orphans that Mary helped during her life. They are all in mourning for Mary’s death but an angel is trying to comfort them by pointing upwards. What do you think she is trying to say?

Look carefully at the three frames behind the figures. Copy the design of each one into the blank frames below.

Sewing
One of Mary’s favourite pastimes was sewing and she loved fashion.

Death
The torch of life has been turned upside down, putting out the flame.

Painting
Mary loved to collect art from around the world.
1. Use the words in the box to label this monument of Lady Elizabeth Montagu.

- Crown of poppies
- Bible
- Hypnos (the angel of sleep)
- Torch of life
- Elizabeth
- Scribe (writer)
- Pot of scrolls

2. The dates on this monument are written in Roman numerals. The ancient Roman number system used letters to represent numbers. Use the code in the box to work out the date of Elizabeth's death, by adding all of the letters together like a sum. The year has been done for you as an example.

**Roman numerals codebreaker**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I</th>
<th>V</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>M</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Year:**
The monument says Elizabeth died in the year MDCCCXXVII:

- M = 1000
- D = 500
- C = 100
- C = 100
- X = 10
- X = 10
- V = 5
- I = 1
- I = 1

Total = 1827

Answer: Elizabeth died in the year 1827

3. Read through the other words carefully. Why do you think the torch of life is longer in this monument?

Clue: See if you can find her age!

Answer: