



MUSE ~ NEWS

January, 2011

Downton Abbey, stories for the new generation and new age



From London comes news of **Downton Abbey**, a beautifully written TV series by Julian Fellowes about life upstairs and down in an English country house starting just prior to WWI. [Read More](#)



STOP PRESS: Float On... Brisbane Flood Relief Benefit

DETAILS <http://www.mucho-bravado.com/>



Great voices inspiring the ages

[The King's Speech](#) highlights just how important great voices have been in shaping the history of the world. [Read More](#)



Alexander in the East - from great to God, getting to the facts

Alexander the Great (356-323 BC), hero, adventurer, King and conqueror achieved 'godlike' status on a grand scale. [Read More](#)



Pavlovsk - the quest for beauty in a forever disordered world

The story of the destruction and incredible resurrection twice of Pavlovsk is at the heart of its fame today. [Read More](#)



At the Court of the Chinese Emperors - Jesuit Priest and Painter Giuseppe Castiglione

Painter and Priest Giuseppe Castiglione lived at the Court of Emperors K'ang'hsi, Yung-cheng and Ch'ien-lung. [Read More](#)



First Impressions - Art, Gardens, Monet, Pissarro, Sisley and Renoir

Claude Monet's home at Giverny in France offers a first impression of the relationship between art and gardens. [Read More](#)



Having 'the Angel in the House' meant a snug Victorian family life

A Victorian gentleman expected to arrive home to a warm welcome from his family in a flutter of excitement to see him. [Read More](#)



Australia - Fantastic Flora First Fleet to Federation

At the colonization of Australia the flora was so exotic many explorers thought they would find the original Garden of Eden. [Read More](#)



Costume, a footnote to culture in Downton Abbey and The King's Speech

In both *The King's Speech* and *Downton Abbey* egalitarian ideals were triumphing over aristocratic habits and the automobile was changing people's aspirations and ways of life. This is reflected in the costumes they wear, both upstairs and down [Read More](#)



Lasting Impressions, Paintings, Pools and Plants at Giverny

Light, Monet realized, transformed everything. He left us with a lasting impression of the beauty of creation. [Read More](#)



What Is: Art Nouveau, more than a tendril in time?

Turn of the 20th century European artists and architects produced sensuous, sinuous lines more eloquent than words [Read More](#)



Some Concerns and Benefits, Medical and Otherwise, during the Age of Elegance in England

John, Lord Hervey, observed Lady Portland, was wearing the finest set of Egyptian pebble teeth' she had yet seen. [Read More](#)

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RECENT CONVERSATIONS

[These are the times that try men's souls...flames, flood, nature and its fury](#) | [Costume, in Downton Abbey and The King's Speech](#) | [Architectural heritage - conservation, preservation or destruction](#) | [Composer Jean Baptiste Lully - noble simplicity and quiet greatness](#) | [Cycling in style at Melbourne - the anti-Lycra brigade](#) | [The festival of taking High Tea, restorative in every way](#) | [Costume as Art, at the National Gallery this Summer](#) | [Oh, I do like to be beside the sea side, I do like to be beside the sea](#) | [Brisbane - in the aftermath of nature's fury](#)

PROFILE OF THE MONTH

Ballet, every girl's dream, hasn't been about a Knight in shining armour in Australia, until now - [good on the Queensland Ballet](#)

BOOK OF THE MONTH

[Favourite Book: Linda Goodman's Sun Signs - New Books: The Gilded Stage](#) by Daniel Snowman "*the most comprehensive history of opera ever written...*" said Sir Charles Mackerras. [Apollo's Angels: A History of Ballet](#) by Jennifer Homans is a major new history of classical ballet

MUSIC OF THE MONTH

[Invitation - The Great Romantic Concertos, Lucas Parklands, Queensland](#)

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