



"I confess I have not at all
stuck to the original":
John Vanbrugh as translator
and adaptor

Dr Annette Rubery

Vanbrugh's translation of Edmé Boursault's *Les Fables d'Ésope*

“... had I been so complaisant to
have waited on his play word for
word, 'tis possible even that
might not have ensur'd the
success of it.”

Right: Aesop (W. Feales Et al., 1734), speaker's collection.





Left: Sir John Denham by William Dobson (Art UK);
Right: John Dryden by Godfrey Kneller (public domain).



“That servile path thou nobly dost decline, of tracing word
by word, and line by line”



‘The Triumvirate of Wit’

Left to right: John Vanbrugh, William Congreve and William Walsh;
all by Godfrey Kneller (public domain).

“The *Orders* are not only *Roman* and *Greek*, but *Phoenecian*, *Hebrew* and *Assyrian*; therefore being founded upon the Experience of all Ages, promoted by the vast Treasures of all the great Monarchs, and Skill of the greatest Artists and Geometricians, **every one emulating each other**; and Experiments in this kind being greatly expenceful, and Errors incorrigible, is the Reason that the Principles of Architecture are now rather the Study of Antiquity than Fancy.”

Sir Christopher Wren, ‘Tracts’ on Architecture.





“Truth springs from argument amongst friends”.

David Hume.

“Whiggism, if I understood it aright, is a defence of liberty, and a spirit of opposition to all exorbitant power in any part of the constitution”.

Sir Richard Steele.