

FRIENDS OF LYDIARD TREGOZ

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Report no. 33

The FRIENDS OF LYDIARD TREGOZ was formed in 1967 with the approval and full support of St.Mary's Church and the Borough of Swindon.

The objects of the society are to:

- foster interest in the Church, the House, and the Parish as a whole.

- hold one meeting in the House annually, usually in mid-May, with a guest speaker. The meeting is followed by tea in the dining room and Evensong in the Parish Church. (The meeting in 1997 was held at Battersea.)

- produce annually *Report*, a magazine of articles which are concerned in the broadest way with the history of the parish, its buildings and people, the St.John family and their antecedents as well as more locally-based families, and the early years of the Sir Walter St.John School in Battersea.
Copies of *Report* are deposited with libraries and institutions in England, Wales, and the United States of America. The offer of articles for inclusion is always welcomed by the Editor.

- make occasional contributions from unexpended income towards the cost of projects in either the House or the Church.

THIS EDITION OF THE *REPORT*

Michael Gray is our speaker at the 2000 Annual Meeting. He has richly earned the thanks of his fellow-Friends in making available to us his report on the architecture of Lydiard Park, which is here reproduced. His measured drawings of the House are on A1 sheets. Here they have been reduced to A4, with an inevitable loss of impact. A full set of the drawings, both A1 and A3 size, are available for inspection at Lydiard Park.

This edition is belatedly dedicated to the memory of Arthur Flack who, as a Swindon Borough Council architect, worked on the House in the early days of their ownership. He was a founder member of the Friends and served on the Committee for many years. He never lost his deep interest in the House. He will long be remembered as a kindly, gentle, enthusiastic, knowledgeable man who was a good friend.

The Editor

Lydiarcf Park Wiltshire

*Analysis and Architectural Assessment
of a Palladian Country House*

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Introduction

In 1738 the disgraced Henry St. John, former Viscount Bolingbroke, made over his interest in Lydiard Park to his half brother the Hon. John St. John. Through money mainly provided by his wife's¹ inheritance John St. John undertook the remodelling and modernisation of the medieval manor house at Lydiard Tregoze. The emphasis of the project was to create the impression of a great house of wealth and fashion with the minimum of expenditure.

The house was mostly complete by 1743 although smaller elements of work continued to be undertaken. The entire scheme was never fully realised as both John and Anne St. John suffered increasing bad health until their deaths in 1747 and 1748.

Crawford & Gray Architects have undertaken to record and research the remodelling works carried out during this period. Documentary evidence is scarce so the built record has formed the basis of our analysis that we present here. Lydiard Park is a very successful piece of Palladian architecture. This must be in the main due to the ingenuity and skill of the architect who worked within the constraints of an existing building and to a tight budget.

¹ The plaque in the Roofspace is inscribed 'This house was Rebuilt AD: MDCCXLIII by Lord Viscount St. John who married Anne the daughter & Coheiress of Sr. Robert Furnese Barronet of Waldershare in the County of Kent.'

The decision to build

When John & Anne St. John took over at Lydiard Park in 1738 the house was old fashioned. The isometric view² (*see drawing 412-101*) shows a house built around a great hall on two levels³ with solar, bedroom accommodation and service wing⁴. To the South were formal parterres within an enclosed park and beyond were ponds for rearing fish. The drawing was probably made when an additional wing was added to the South corner in the latter part of the seventeenth Century.

In 1738 the family had already contracted Mr Shepherd, a builder, to complete their house at 75 South Audley Street, London, now partly the Egyptian Embassy, for £4,000. The architect for Lydiard Park is unknown and no documentary evidence exists for an attribution. The favoured architect is Roger Morris (1695-1748) who had carried out numerous commissions in the county, and details of the house bear his hallmarks⁵.

John St. John is known to have visited numerous country houses in Wiltshire looking for ideas for his new house during 1743. He visited Wilton, Doddington and Studley Royal⁶, of which he comments

'all three delightful in their different ways, ye 2nd is magnificent past all discription, its a Gold Palace not ye house of a Subject. Mr Hoare's is ye very counterpart of Studley, 40 acres of Clear Water in a Valley & ye hills Nobly planted with trees & Temples, falls of Water, Obolisks & without End.

By this date the majority of the work at Lydiard Park was complete and it is likely that these visits were in anticipation of further works.

Architectural background

Andrea Palladio (1508-80) was the greatest architect of his age. He developed an architectural style to cater for the increasing numbers of private country house commissions in and around Vicenza in Northern Italy. His approach was to take elements from sacred ancient classical architecture and to reuse them in a domestic context. His knowledge of classical architecture was learned from the careful study of surviving buildings from antiquity and *De Architectura*, the only surviving architectural treatise from the ancient world written by the Roman military engineer Marcus Vitruvius (circa 46BC).

In the Renaissance tradition Palladian houses were constructed from three storeys: *the rustics*, ground floor was dedicated to *hunters, hospitality, noise, dirt and business*. The *piano nobile*, the first floor was dedicated to *taste, expense, state and parade*⁷. The *attic*, second floor for bedrooms and stores. The entrance was always made into a feature often with a portico of pilasters or columns surmounted by a pediment approached by a grand staircase from ground to *piano nobile* level. Palladio's

² Original at Warwick County Record Office

³ Menus from Sir Walter St. John's time describe an upper and lower hall

⁴ Analysis of medieval house carried out by John Heward of the RCHM in 1994

⁵ Roger Morris was assistant to Colin Campbell the leading Architect of the first half of the 18th Century. His own commissions included works at Wilton House, Wilts; Marble Hill, Twickenham; Longford Castle, Wilts; Clearwell Castle Glos.

⁶ From a letter dated 4th August 1743 property of the Wotton Bassett Historical Society

⁷ Hervey of Ickworth, Baron Lord Hervey Earl of Ilchester

approach to house design was handled with great strictness and regard to proportion often including rooms of double or single cubes. Plans were always symmetrical, interiors were co-ordinated with the exterior through the projection of the internal form onto the facade.

Inigo Jones (1573-1652) imitated the work of Andrea Palladio at the court of Charles I with his designs for the Queen's House in Greenwich (1639) and the Banqueting House in Whitehall (1621). Interrupted by the Civil War and the Commonwealth, Palladianism was rediscovered in the eighteenth Century with the popularity of the Grand Tour often involving visits to the Veneto and Florence, culminating in a visit to Rome. Lord Burlington led the movement and designed his own villa at Chiswick (1729) incorporating many of Inigo Jones's designs from a century earlier. The movement's popularity was further promoted by the publication of Colin Campbell's *Vitruvius Britannicus* in 1715 and Palladio's own *Four Books of Architecture (Quattro Libri)* newly translated into English in 1721. Colin Campbell was the closest imitator of Palladio in England and carried out many commissions up until 1729 assisted by Roger Morris.

House planning

Architects of Palladian country houses in the first half of the eighteenth century were preoccupied with two organisational requirements whose emphasis changed and developed with fashion. Etiquette required that *piano nobile* rooms should be organised in a strict sequence arranged to reflect their usage and importance. The depth of penetration along the *enfilade* route by a guest indicated their status in the eyes of the host. The rooms became progressively richer and more exclusive the nearer they approached the inner sanctum of the bedchamber and closet. At Lydiard Park (see drawing 417-P01) the guest would have progressed from the Entrance Hall⁸ into the Dining Room, Drawing Room, Bedchamber and finally the Closet. The Closet was the place of greatest intimacy where the family's closest friends were received. It is likely that at Lydiard Park the Closet indicated on drawing 417-P01 was primarily for Anne St. John's use and the Anteroom adjacent to the Library was probably used by her husband forming two apartment wings.

This sequence of rooms is traversed through an alignment of double doors room by room. In other houses the *enfilade* made access to rooms out of sequence difficult without intruding on the inhabitants of intermediate rooms. Before the bell pull was invented servants needed to be within ear-shot to attend upon their masters. This problem is overcome at Lydiard Park by a hidden corridor accessed through jib (*secret*) doors that run behind the Dining Room and East apartments. The corridor is formed from the remnants of the older walls and in parts a cabochon floor shows that this space once formed part of a grand and larger room.

It is likely that the building that exists today is only half that originally planned. Drawing 417-P02 shows a reconstruction of how the layout may have been conceived. It is likely that the original project was for a larger building comprising an entrance on the North churchyard side involving a fourth tower and two further facades. In 1738 there was a roadway that ran in-between the house and the church⁹ and it was off this route that a grand arrival and porch may have been intended. The design may have been

⁸ The 1766 plan of the estate by Francis Willington shows an entrance porch on the North West side of the house which was probably used by guests arriving by carriage. It is likely that this was a temporary arrangement before the remainder of the design was built.

⁹ The 1766 plan shows a public roadway leading from a gate house on the South East side of the dam up to the house. This appears to have been the main carriage access to the house and church at that date.

arranged into four separate apartments each with a sequence of Withdrawing room, Bedchamber and Closet off a vaulted central Hall or Salon. The staircase locations provided secondary access to discreetly service the apartments similar in layout to Colin Campbell's Houghton Hall in Norfolk (1720s).

The South West elevation

It is likely that the original design for the building exteriors exhibited more architectural decoration and surface articulation than were built (*staccato*). Drawing 417-E01 shows the elevations as they exist and drawing 417-E03 shows a reconstruction of the South West Elevation as it may have been intended. The *rustica* storey and stairway flight up to the *piano nobile* shown in the reconstruction were probably omitted to save money¹⁰. The Tuscan Doric portico was never built and limited to a pediment and coat of arms at roof level¹¹. The omission of the pediment entablature as shown leaves a blank wall and necessitates three blind windows blanked by the vaulted ceiling to the entrance hall built behind.

The central section of the South West Elevation is given emphasis by a minimum four inch outstand and no quoins. An elaborate Tuscan Doric stone porch gives emphasis to the entrance door. The insignia of Zeus decorate the metopes on the entablature and capitals, carved ox-skulls (*bucrania*) woven with flowers symbolise the cycles of life and death. Both pediments are sacred symbols of entrance, conventionally the Doric order, the first order of architecture is used here.

The new areas of facade are built from red brick¹² faced in randomly coursed Bath ashlar up to cornice level. The quoin blocks of the towers do not match the ashlar coursing and have been applied afterwards when it became apparent that greater articulation of the towers was necessary. In order to save money the towers above cornice level are rendered and scored to imitate the ashlar below.

The reconstruction in drawing 417-E03 retains most of the house as built. A further exercise would have been to adjust the proportions of the flanking walls between the towers and centre bay to achieve a more satisfactory composition which would have involved alterations to the plan.

Drawing 417-P01 shows the extent of the walls retained and those constructed as part of the remodelling. In order to accommodate the existing walls and achieve elevations to comply with the rigours of Palladian geometry the elevations have been reduced in scale. This gives the impression that the house is far more substantial than it really is. A comparison with Houghton Hall, Norfolk whose South facade is 50 metres long compares to the Lydiard Park elevation of 30 metres.

The need to retain the existing walls leads to other eccentricities. Expectations of external expression and construction logic were abandoned on the South tower. It is to be expected that the single window of this tower should light a single room of similar plan depth to width providing structural walls to support the pyramid roof above. The resulting room size would not have been large enough for a grand reception room on the *enfilade* route. Consequently the two corner windows in the Drawing Room were

¹⁰ The servants' wing shown on drawing 417-101 remained until 1830s. It is likely that the *rustica* was never built as this accommodation already existed.

¹¹ Designs for the pediment appear on the back of a letter dated 4th June 1743.

¹² W J Parson's Volume 75 'Old Letters', sent to Goddard Smith 4th August 1743 (*Wotton Bassett Historical Society*). It is likely that Nathaniel Ireson was the builder for Lydiard Park. He had formerly been master mason to Colin Campbell at Stourhead 1720-24.

built blind and a contorted double roof truss installed with framing to achieve the top storey and roof to the South tower. This resulted in adjacent fenestration on both facades being compromised. If the reconstructed scheme had been built the same problem would have occurred at each tower. The reconstruction in drawing 417-P02 illustrates a corner room larger than the tower width can accommodate.

The South East elevation

Existing walls and the resulting layout caused the windows adjacent to the towers to be uncomfortably close. This elevation is vital to the three dimensional views seen from the park implying a larger house behind. The balustrade bottles are appropriately of the Doric Order, the building is roofed in a variety of dual pitches finished in natural stone slates¹³. Numerous chimney stacks are now missing some of which would have uncomfortably projected through the pyramidal roofs.

The project for a Classical House would have been conceived within the context of a landscape design. It is likely that the park was remodelled during this period to include many of the features that can be seen today. After the original formal gardens and tree lined approach to the South West front were swept away, the lakes, dam structures and woodlands were reformed¹⁴. As with the house it would seem that the scheme for the landscape was not fully implemented so that there is no evidence of a replacement approach road, gate house or garden monuments.

The Entrance Hall

The Entrance Hall is formed from the remnants of the medieval walls which are not square to one another in plan. From drawing 417-P01 it can be seen that no internal walls are parallel although this is not discernible insitu. A consequence of the re-scaling is that the hall is also smaller. In Colin Campbell's *Vitruvius Britannicus* he illustrates a proposed hall of 40 feet long, at Lydiard Park the hall measures 30 feet. The hall does not comply with any Palladian ideals for room proportions.

The main entrance is opposite the chimney breast which is terminated below the entablature level. This is a typical Roger Morris detail (see drawing 417-H01). The chimney piece made of limestone is copied from a drawing by Inigo Jones made for Somerset House in 1636¹⁵ and also installed by Lord Burlington at Chiswick Villa. The overmantel contains Jacobean details combined with a classical pediment, urns and a bust thought to be of Marcus Aurelius.

The Hall has a continuous 'Composite' eaves entablature and cornice with shell and acanthus motifs. The shell motif was a popular emblem of the period denoting an invitation to inner knowledge associated with Venus the goddess of love and lust. The original design would have involved painting the mouldings gold to highlight their details in the candlelight. There is no evidence that this work was carried out. Above is a plain coved ceiling vaulted¹⁶ into a panel with a central circular motif banded by a Vitruvian scroll pattern and filled with diminishing panels to imitate the inside of a cupola or lantern.

¹³ The South East elevation has a Welsh slate covering which probably first appeared in the 1830s.

¹⁴ Lydiard Park restoration Masterplan December 1992.

¹⁵ RIBA drawings collection, it was not unusual for chimney piece designs to be copied.

¹⁶ The vault obscures three blind windows similar in design to Roger Morris's Great Room at Marble Hill

There are seven doors in the hall, two of which are cupboards and one a false door to complete the symmetry of the room (*see drawings 417-H02 & 417-P01*). The doors are six panelled with an incised centre to suggest double opening. Architraves have ears to emphasis the importance and formality of the Hall with stylised leaves to entablatures. The main entrance doors are probably replacements surrounded by an ornate architrave (*see drawing 417-H03*), surmounted by a broken pediment supported on consoles carved with the St. John falcon head and claw. The consoles are decorated with guilloches (*continuous interlaced patterns*) and supported by a shell motif.

Wall panels formed from plaster reliefs are designed with festoons of flowers, fruits, laurel, berries and ribbons, in the upper four corner panels is the head of a lion with paws peering over the decorative swags as a defensive gesture. Fixed into the larger panels are brackets carved with winged griffons supporting busts¹⁷ from classical mythology which were probably chosen from favourite stories and displayed the family's knowledge of antiquity to the visitor. Within the reconstructed design (*drawing 417-P02*) this room would have been the Salon.

The Dining Room

The Dining room was entered through two doors panelled and adjusted to make up the angles of the old walls behind. The inner door opens in the customary English manner of covering the room. To one end is a colonnade consisting of two Ionic columns and two engaged ionic columns to screen servants in attendance on the dining table. This was a favoured device of Roger Morris¹⁸. Within the colonnade is a door with direct access to the corridor behind leading to the kitchens.

The Ionic order is the second order of architecture and synonymous with the feminine. Here the entablature is convex and covered with oak leaves and acorns bound with ribbons symbolising abundance and plenty. The door architraves are without ears but the entablatures are decorated with laurel leaves bound with ribbons. The chimney breast is again terminated below cornice level and faced with a marble chimney piece and mirror decorated with garlands of flowers and framed with continuous fretwork patterns, (*see drawing 417-D01*)

The dominating pattern of the ceiling is an oval surrounded by decorated panels of shells, acanthus, fruits and flowers. The downstand beams are finished with continuous Vitruvian scroll patterns. At the four intersections of the oval are four different carvings of the face of a 'green man'. This unusual Celtic symbol is more usually found in churches and is a remnant from pagan times. His presence in the dining room would be to placate the God of nature by whose grace the table is filled.

The walls have fielded timber panels edged with leaf and tongue enrichments painted gold¹⁹ (*see drawing 417-D02*). The dado rails and skirtings are more elaborate than in the Entrance Hall and are decorated with anthemion and palmette (*stylised lotus & palm leaves*).

¹⁷ Busts are named Antinous, Venus, Zingarella, Gladitor & Cornelia.

¹⁸ Similar arrangement appears at Wilton House & Marble Hill

¹⁹ The gold paint may have been applied as part of the Swindon Corporation renovations during the 1950s.

The Drawing Room

The structure for this room had been built at the end of the seventeenth Century probably including the cross ceiling beams festooned with fruits and leaves with angel masks at each beam intersection. It is likely that this room received the minimum of alterations.

The plan measurements of the Drawing Room comply with the preferred Palladian room proportions of *square plus a half*. Palladio's penultimate formula for a beautiful room is *square plus two thirds*. The room height according to Palladian principles should be *half the breadth plus the length*, this was not possible at Lydiard.

As drawing 417-R01 shows, the room has three doors one of which is a cupboard. Whilst this door completes the symmetry about the fireplace, the bedroom door is now centred denoting the final room in the sequence. The chimney piece²⁰ is based on a popular model first used in the gallery at Chiswick Villa and designed by Inigo Jones in 1637²¹.

Investigation has shown that this room originally had a hand painted Chinese wallpaper with a white background. The present heavily patterned flock wallpaper was installed *circa* 1824. The door entablatures are carved with oak leaves bound with ribbons. The dado rail²² and skirtings become more decorative with anthemion and palmette decoration and fretwork patterns with flower insets.

The Bedchamber

In 1592 Sir John St. John had entertained Elizabeth I at Lydiard Park, and it is likely that the Queen had slept in this very room. The St. Johns chose this arrangement of rooms culminating in the Bedchamber even though it was unfashionable and monarchs no longer visited private residences in the same way. It may have been to retain an arrangement to which their family were accustomed or as a memory of past associations. Whatever the reason the Bedchamber was designed to be the most opulent and luxurious room in the house. Family members, friends and important guests would have been received here after parading through the main rooms. Suitably the largest, newest portraits of John St. John and his wife were hung in this room showing them wearing his parents' coronation robes.

The theme of this room was of bounty and fertility. The room is planned in a similar way to the Dining Room with the same overall proportions, with a colonnade at one end to support the bed centred opposite the entrance door. The columns are carved in the most decorative order of architecture: Composite. The entablatures and soffits are further heavily embellished with fruits, flowers, shell motifs and pattern bands. Within the central soffit panel over the bed is an effigy of Apollo set into a sun burst, in antiquity Apollo was the 'solar phallus', god of light and promoter of impregnation.

There is no dado or wainscoat in this room and the skirtings and wallpaper match the decoration of the Drawing Room²³. The chimney breast is terminated below the

²³ The chimney pieces have been attributed to Sir Henry Cheere by Philip Dumthorne (Fr/enche of Lydiard Report)

²⁴ RIBA drawings collection, RA Inigo Jones complete architectural drawings 1989-90

²² The dado rail may be a Regency addition

²³ Remnants of a blue wallpaper have been found below the flock wallpaper which may have formed the original decorative scheme.

entablature with a marble chimney piece and timber over mantle with broken pediment and carved basket of fruit (*see drawing 417-B01*).

The main ceiling is set within the framework of a square and circle incorporating shell motifs, horns, amidst foliage and bound reeds. At each quadrant the faces of Venus's handmaidens look down, framed within scalloped shells. The finishing of the plasterwork is less coarse than the other rooms no doubt due to reinstatement by Italian craftsmen in the 1950s. The entablatures to the doors are carved with guilloche and flower motifs, with a concealed jib door for servant access.

The Closet

This room was the most private room in the sequence continuing the richness of decoration and the floral theme from the Bedchamber (*see drawing 417-C01*). The basket of fruit and flowers on the Bedchamber overmantel are repeated in the ceiling panels of this room with festoons of shells on the marble chimney piece, the emblem of Venus. The apse ceiling is decorated with diminishing panels set with flower motifs and incorporates a window by Abraham Van Linge probably reclaimed from the original house. The dado rail incorporates a simplified wave scroll moulding (*cauriola*).

The Library

The Library is lined with bookcases contemporary with the remodelling. These consist of vertical bays edged with egg and dart moulding without grounds²⁴. The bookcases are mounted on a plain plinth capped with a cornice and Vitruvian scroll band. Centre bays have a broken pediment without entablature with the bust of a philosopher above (*drawing 412-L02*). The pediments are supported on consoles to the same detail as the Entrance Hall main door, onto panels decorated with festoons of flowers.

The chimney breast is built up into the ceiling and finished with a Corinthian cornice (*drawing 412-L01*). The overmantel is decorated with garlands of flowers, ribbons and fruits, at the sides these are headed by winged putti of Jacobean detail. Above is a scrolled pediment depicting Venus within a large shell. The chimney piece is a copy of a William Kent design *circa* 1725. This does not match the overmantel or the bookcases and is too wide for the chimney breast projecting into the bookcases behind. It is probable that the breast, overmantel and chimney piece were from earlier alterations that had been too expensive to discard.

The ceiling is formed of ellipses and octagons with intersecting mouldings²⁵ a popular design of the time. The door entablatures are carved with oak leaves and acorns bound with ribbons. In the centre is a raised panel with stylised palm fronds disposed in a fan shape representing the harvest of knowledge.

The Anteroom

The Anteroom ceiling indicates that this room was originally smaller. The chimney piece was moved from the corner chimney position probably during alteration works in the 1830s. The rams' heads on the chimney piece (*see drawing 417-D02*) suggest the male emphasis of this room and the likelihood that it was used as John St. John's closet.

²⁴ From discussions with John Hewings a typical detail of Roger Morris

²⁵ The gold painting of mouldings was partially begun by the 5th Viscount and reinstated during the 1950s restoration.

Back of house

The decision to build only half the project was most probably driven by finances. It is likely that almost all the St. John's available money was expended on the house. In a letter dated 1745 from Viscount Bolingbroke to his half sister commenting on the works at Lydiard Park he describes his half-brother and sister-in-law as having *'made ymselves a proverb in the country already for their stingyness'*²⁶.

This decision led to make-shift arrangements on the North side cobbled together from components taken from the existing house. Window heads, masonry, roof timbers²⁷, stone floors and dormer windows remain from the old house²⁸. A secondary entrance was now installed on the North West side linked to the main staircase by a series of hallways. Minimal classical ornament was used in these areas except outside the Entrance Hall onto the main staircase and on the upper landings where Ionic columns and archways were installed. It is likely that the main staircase also came from the existing house.

Conclusion

John and Anne St. John were fortunate to come into the ownership of Lydiard Park at about the same time as benefiting from a substantial inheritance. The family had, over six generations developed the house and now it came to John St. John to make his contribution. To rebuild the family seat in the style of the ancients would enhance his prestige as the second son, and establish his presence in the County.

It would have become apparent from early design work that although the family wanted a house of the size and grandeur of their peers they simply could not afford this despite Anne St. John's recent inheritance. It is likely that they undertook to remodel the existing house rather than building a new house on a different site for reasons of finance. As the project developed more money became available and additional features were added such as the towers and the central pediment. John St. John's visits to great country houses in the vicinity during 1743 suggest that the project was on-going and it is likely that further works to the house and park were only stopped because of the patron's ill health.

The rules of classical ornament were carefully observed throughout the house although the inclusion of some Celtic motifs is unusual. The use of the classical orders follows convention whilst the emphasis of the masks and motifs is feminine probably reflecting the influence of Anne St. John. Enrichments are from Greek, Roman, and Renaissance precedents reflecting fashions from the 1730s. The main chimney pieces are copies from designs by Inigo Jones and reflect the Palladians' preoccupation with this Architect's works.

Classical geometry is based on a single organising module of an 'Order of Architecture' that can be varied so long as the size of all components is varied by the same proportion. Contemporary books did not usually prescribe a module dimension but illustrated measured drawings of buildings from classical antiquity. Generally these examples were of temples and public buildings of large scale.

²⁶ Letter from Henry St. John to his half sister Henrietta dated 10th August 1745

²⁷ John Heward believed that the entire roof structure was reclaimed from the old house. I believe that the trusses on the South East & West sides were new, the north side formed from remnants

²⁸ The rear elevation is a jumble of window styles and roof pitches. The original North East wall is still visible with no attempt to disguise changes in the wail planes.

With some exceptions most Palladian country house designs imitated the scale of the buildings published. The exterior architecture of Lydiard Park was reduced in scale and decoration to accommodate the existing walls and budget. The viewer is accustomed to certain conventions of scale and although not entirely misleading, expectations are of a house considerably larger. The deception, if indeed it is a deception, is not so discernible as to cause the altered sense of scale that is apparent at Chiswick Villa. This combined with the anticipation of a four sided building achieved maximum effect for a reduced outlay.

The remodelling of Lydiard Park was no doubt a difficult undertaking for John St. John, his wife Anne and their architect, taking some five years to complete. Their legacy has endured the steady decline of the St. John Bolingbroke family over two hundred years until in 1943 it was acquired by the then Swindon Corporation. The Borough Council have since restored the house and reinstated many of the original contents.

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RIBA Drawings Collection

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the Keeper and staff at Lydiard Park for their warm reception and assistance during our survey. My thanks to Canon Brian Carne for sharing his great knowledge of the family and his advice on avenues of research. Many thanks to John Hewlings of English Heritage for information concerning Roger Morris. Thanks to the Egyptian Embassy for their help, and Ken Perceival who checked archives in Dover and Maidstone.

(Hewlings)

1985

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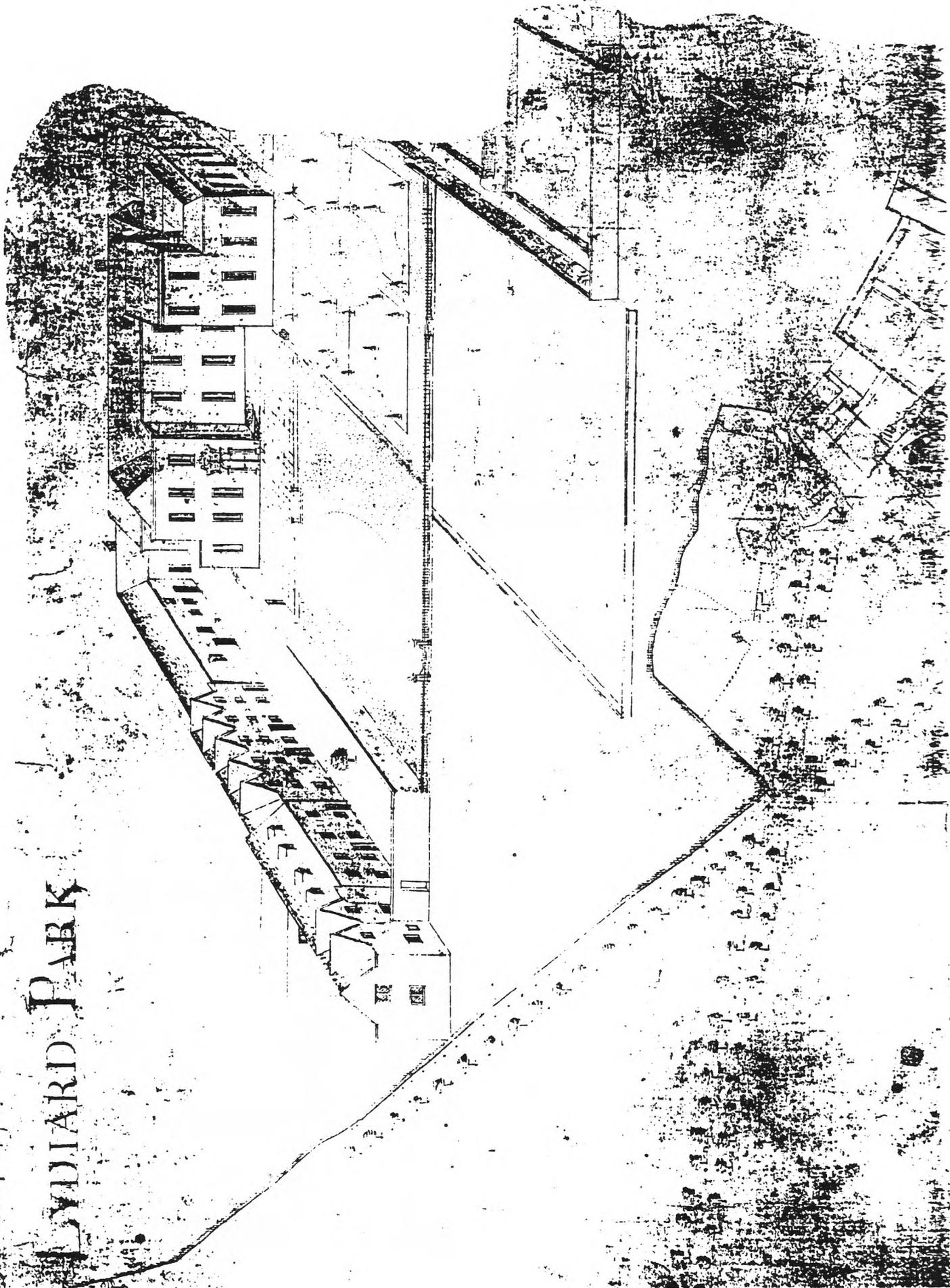
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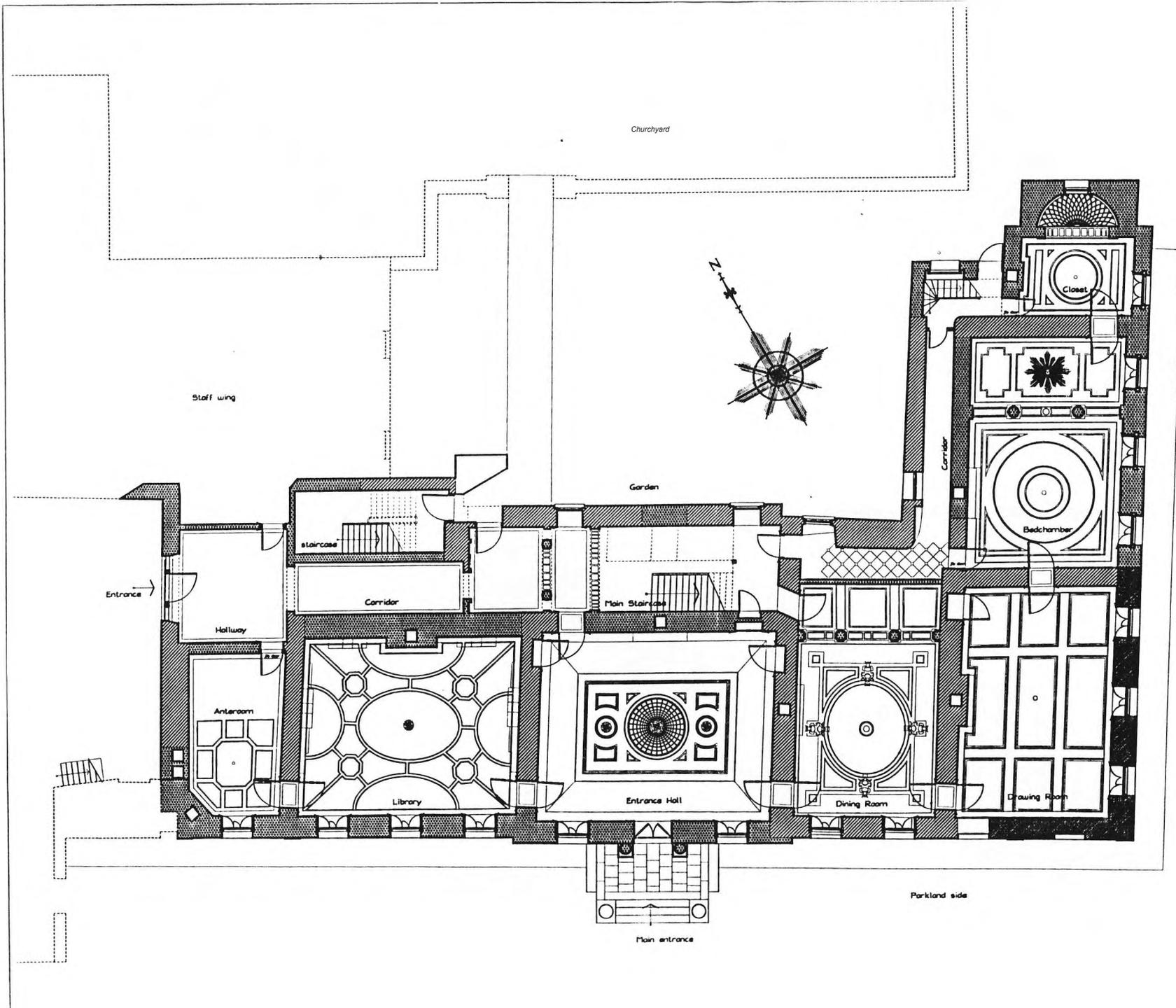
1985

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1883 Kebley & Co. Fr.

LYDIARD PARK





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Key:
 [Diagonal hatching] Pre 1700 construction
 [Solid black] 1700 alterations
 [Grid hatching] 1740s alterations

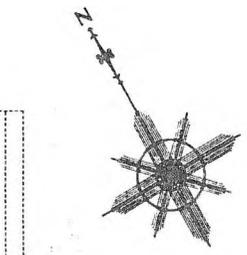
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Project: Lydard Park Wiltshire

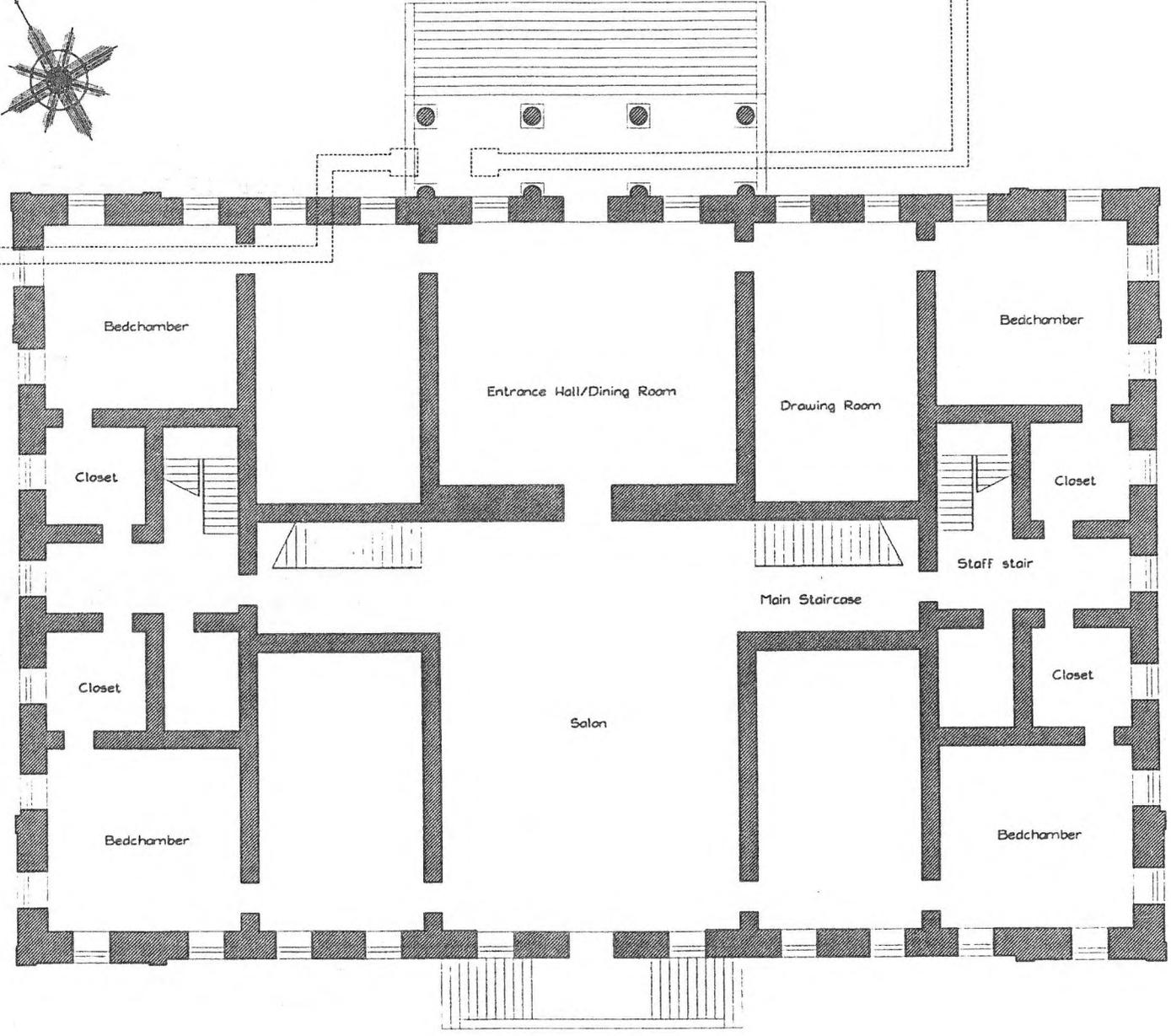
Drawing: Ground Floor Plan (Part) & reflected ceiling plan

Drawing No:	417-PO1	Drawn:	m.jg
Scale:	1:70	Date:	14/2/99

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Churchyard



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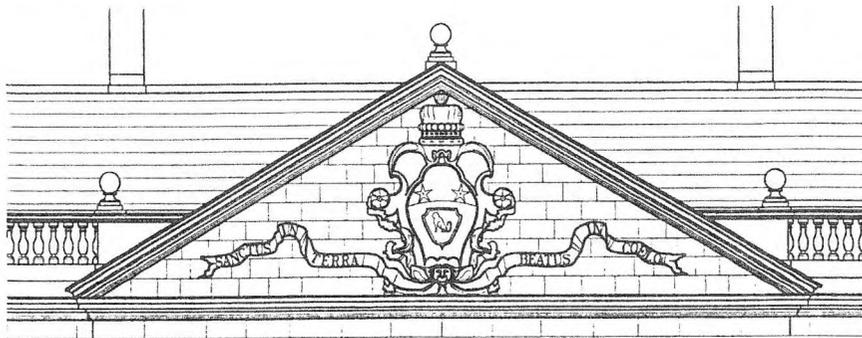
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Project: Lydkirk B&K WitUhrs

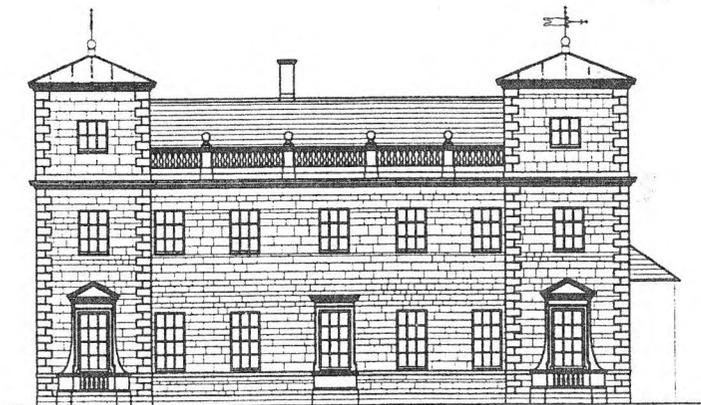
Orcaji: **Reconstructed** Floor Plan

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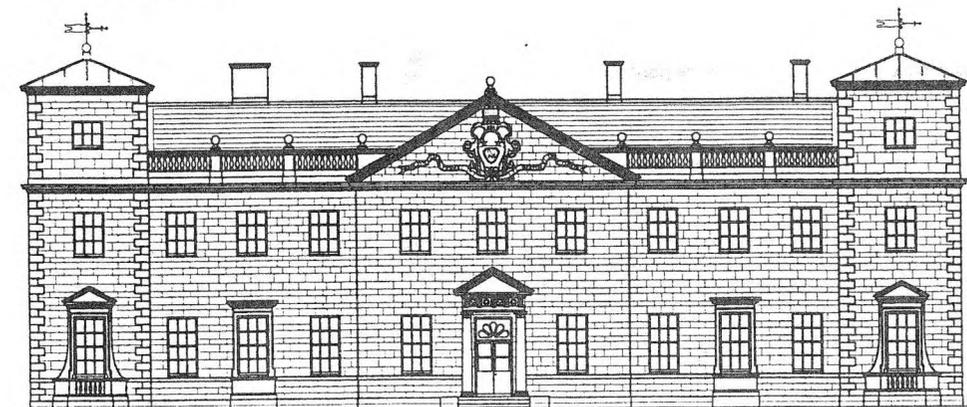
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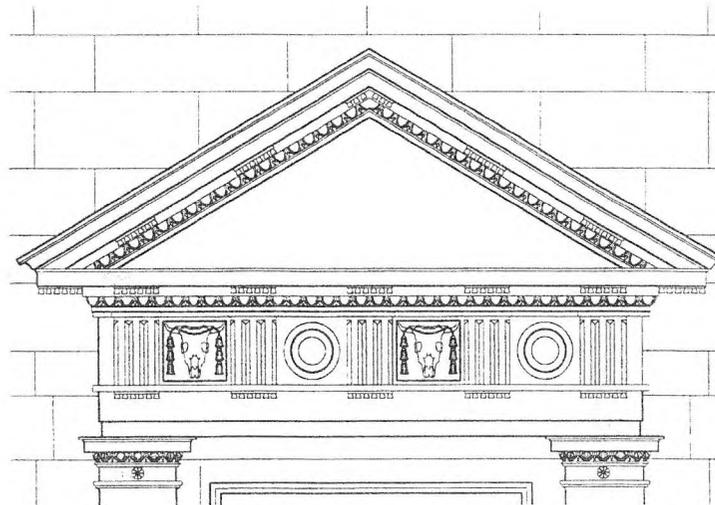
Pediment Detail



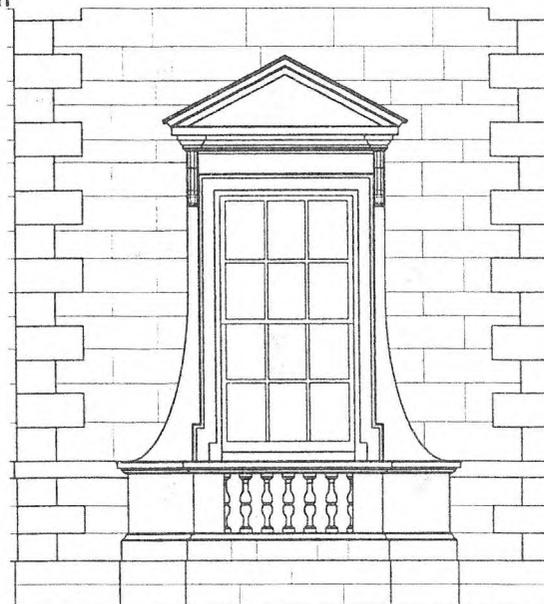
South East Elevation



South West Elevation



Entrance Porch Detail



Window Detail

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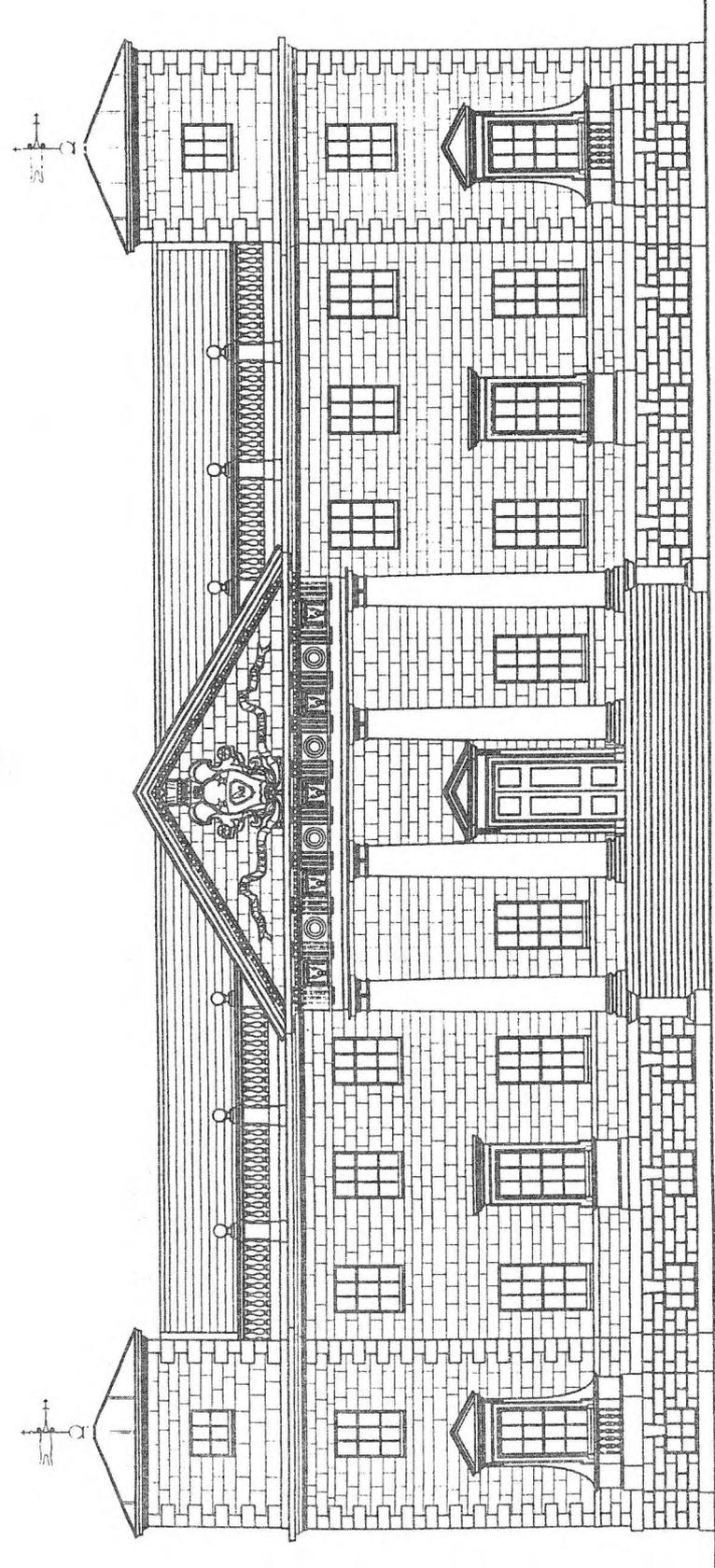
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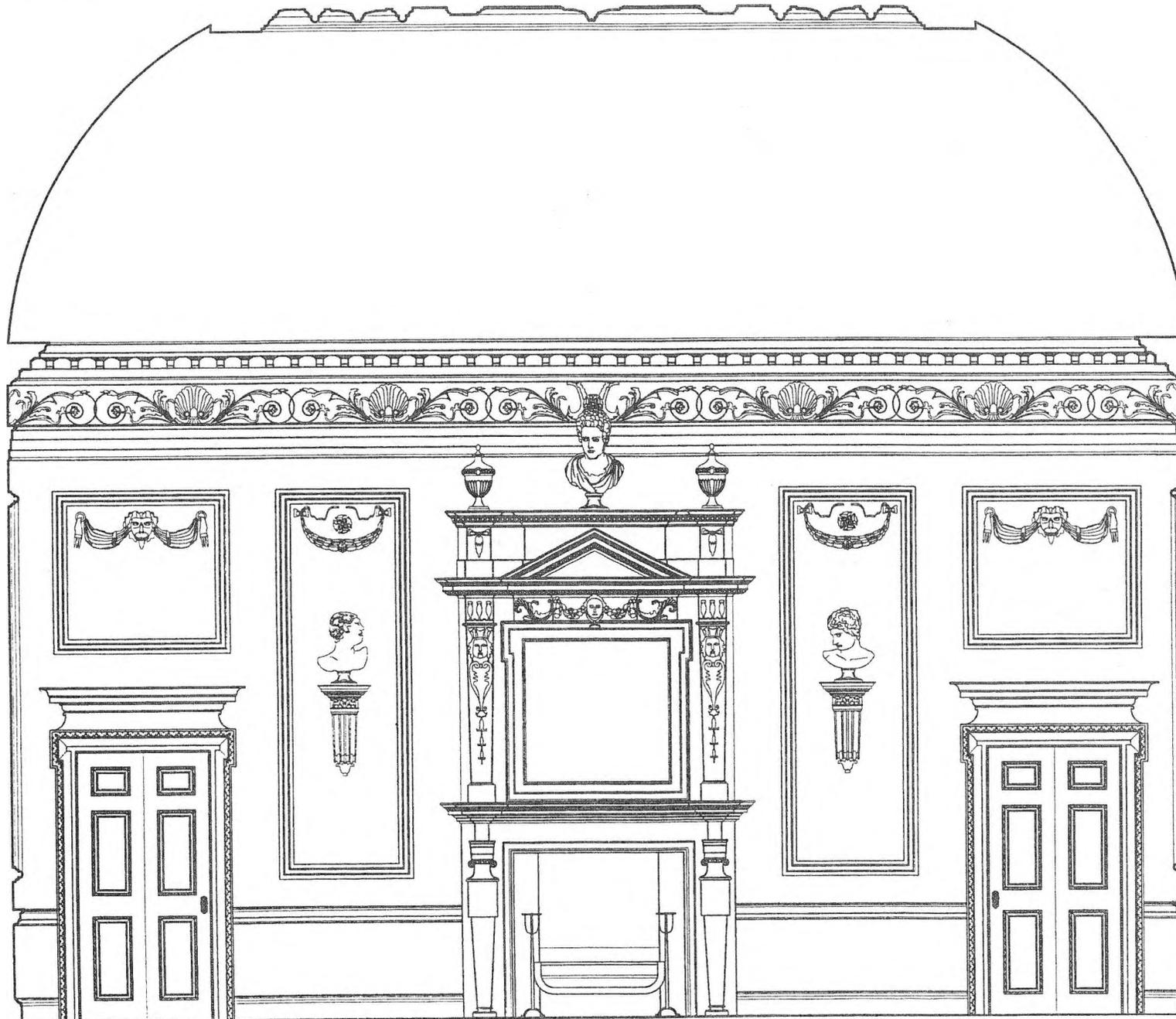
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Project:	Lyndard Park		
Drawing:	External Elevations		
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 Revisions:

Client: Friends of Lyndard Troop
 Project: Lyndard Park
 Drawing: South West Elevation Reconstruction
 Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"
 Date: 4/17/08
 Drawn by: M
 Checked by: J
 Project No: 080208
 Sheet No: 5 of 5



South West Elevation Reconstruction



Entrance Hall Elevation

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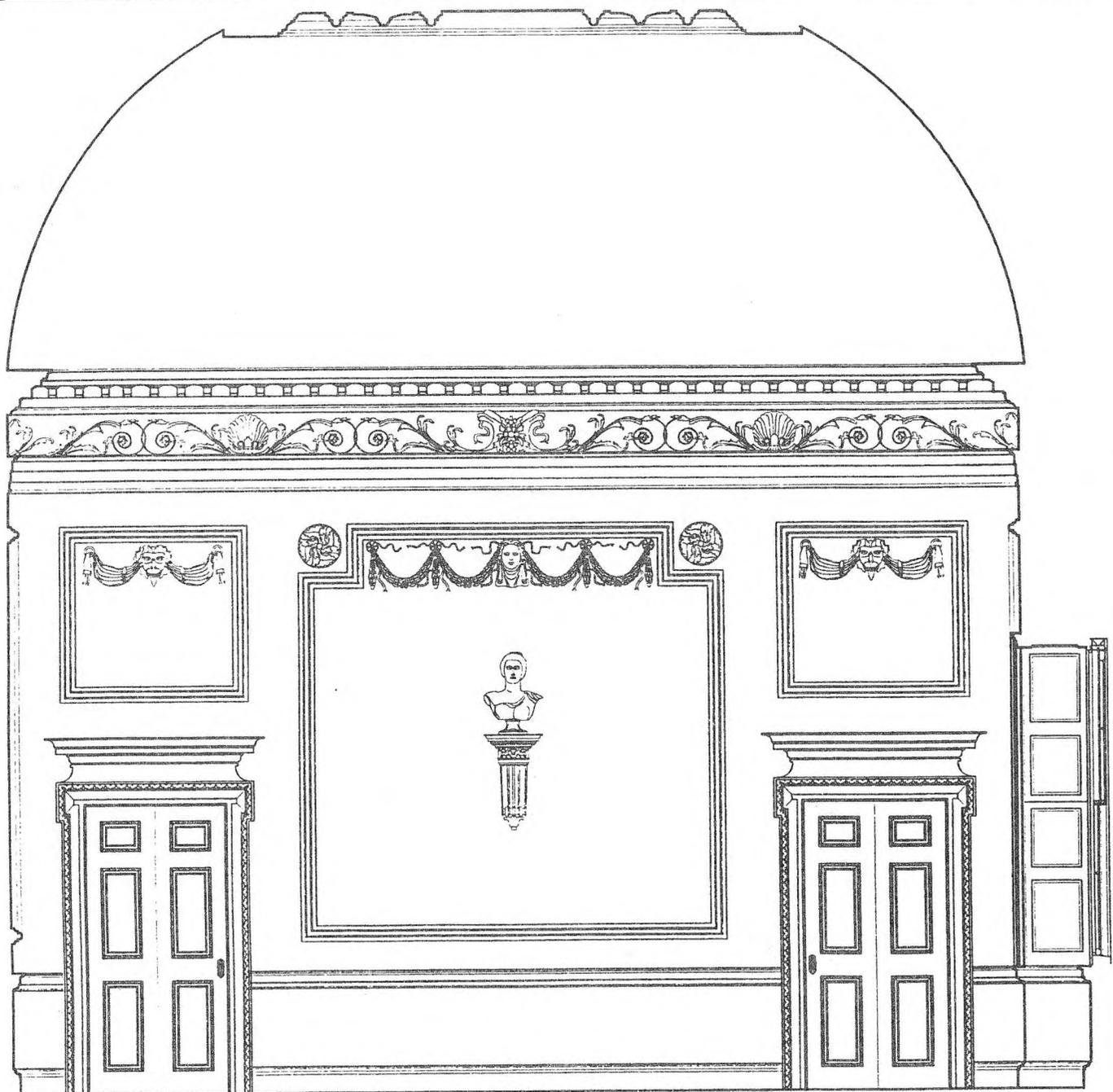
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Date: 05/04/00

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Entrance Hall! Sicks 0@vatto

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Photo: **Lyellard Perk**

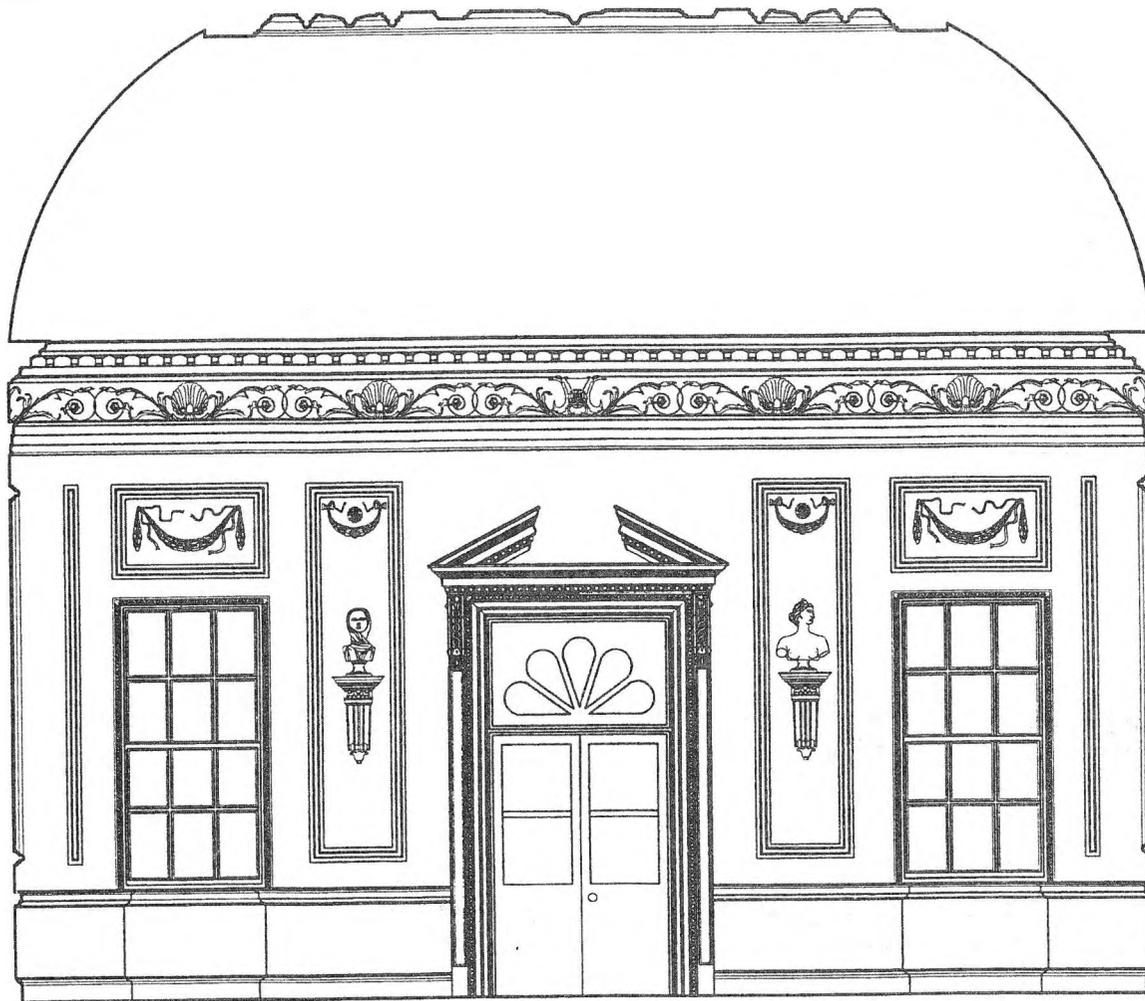
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Scale: **1:20** Date: **04/qq** Rev: **Ynjq**

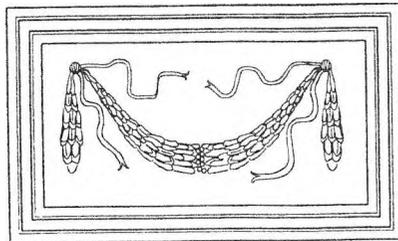
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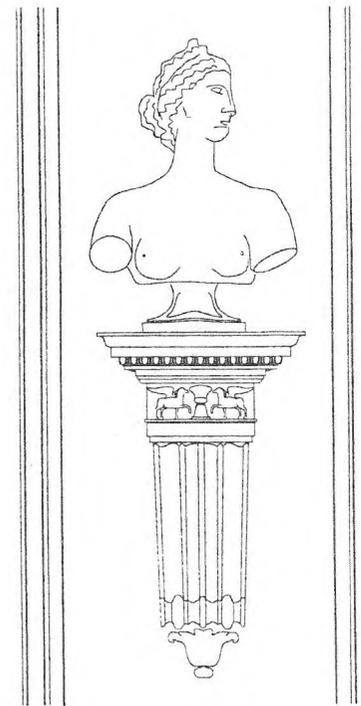
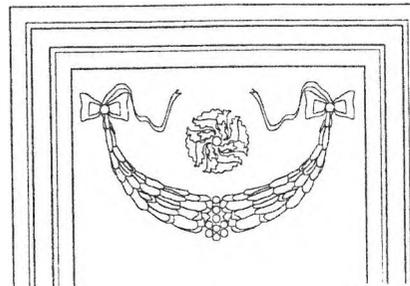


Elevation

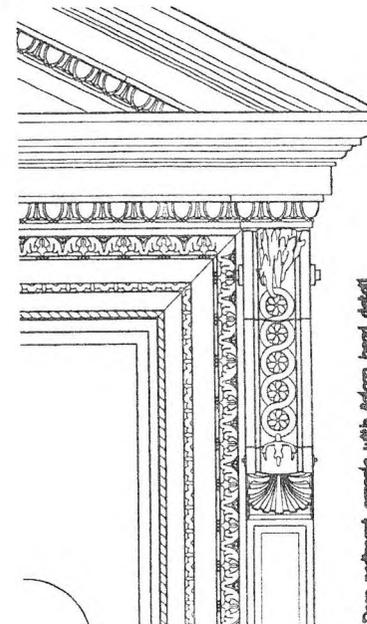
mm # decorative panel



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Bust of Venus on wall bracket

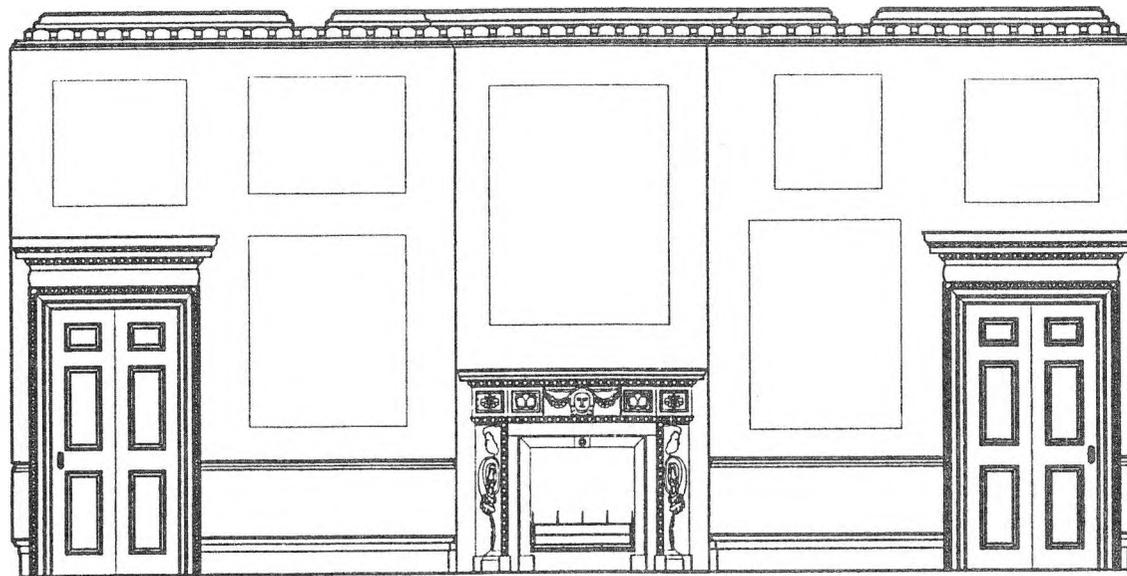


Door pediment cornice with ribbon head detail

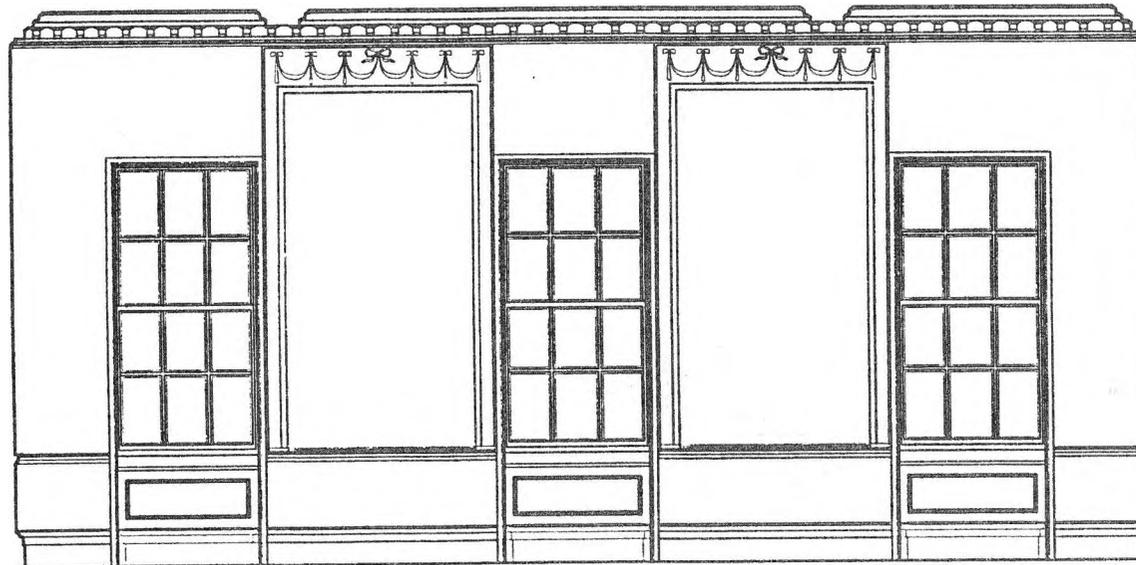
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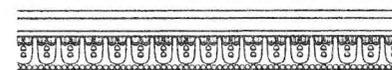
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Project:		Lyford Park	
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Drawing No:	417-403	Drawn:	th
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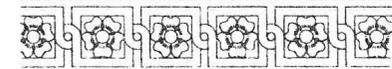
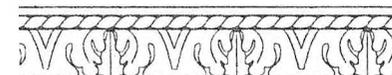
Chimney Piece Elevation



Wfust Elevation



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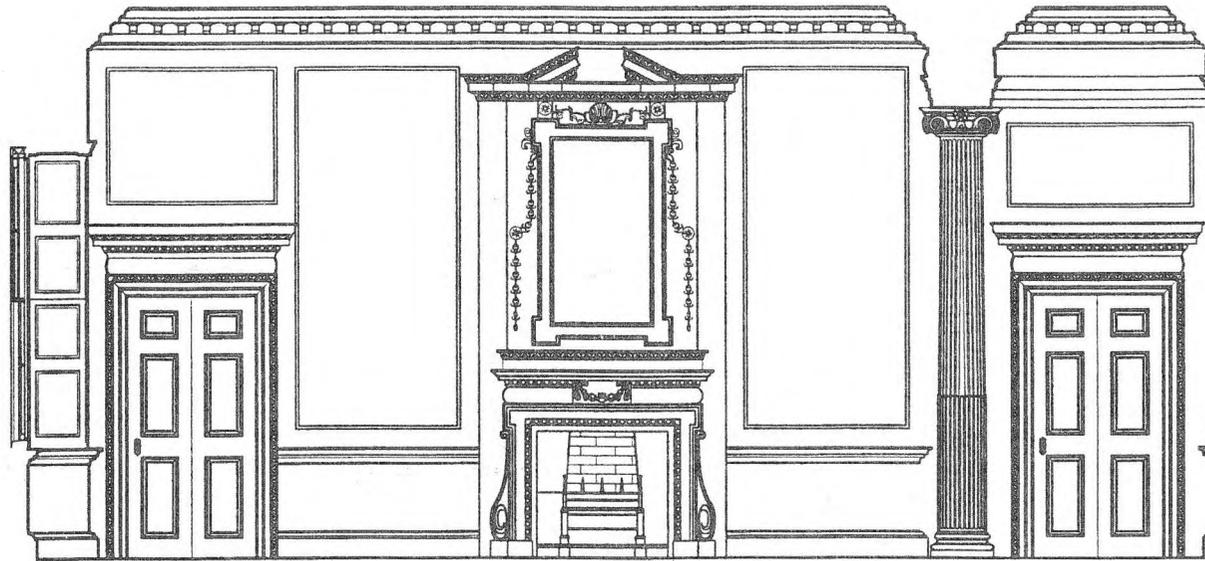
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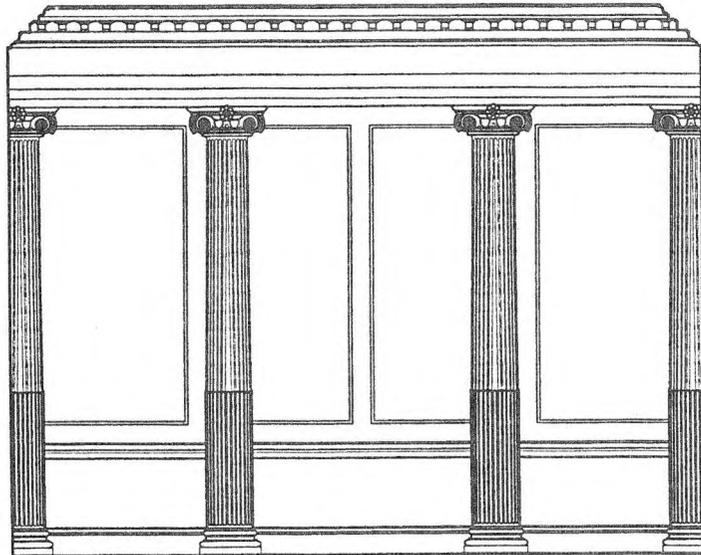
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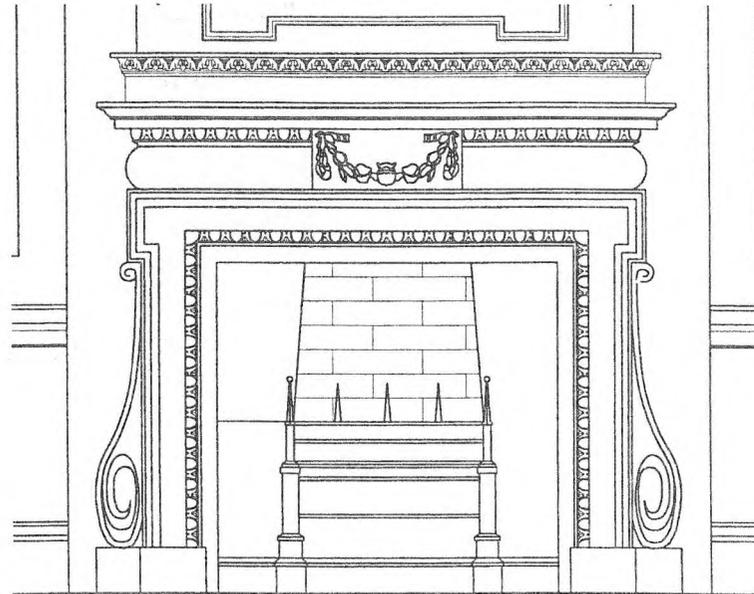
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Chimney Piece Elevation



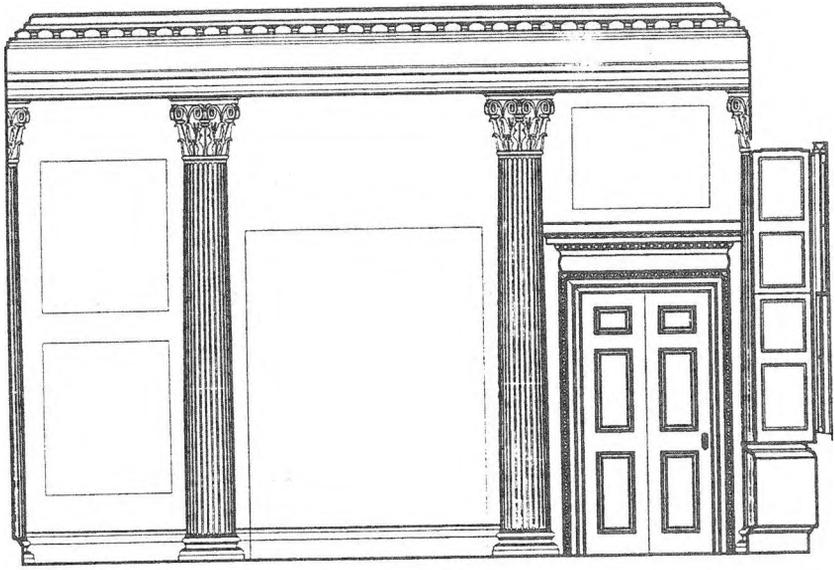
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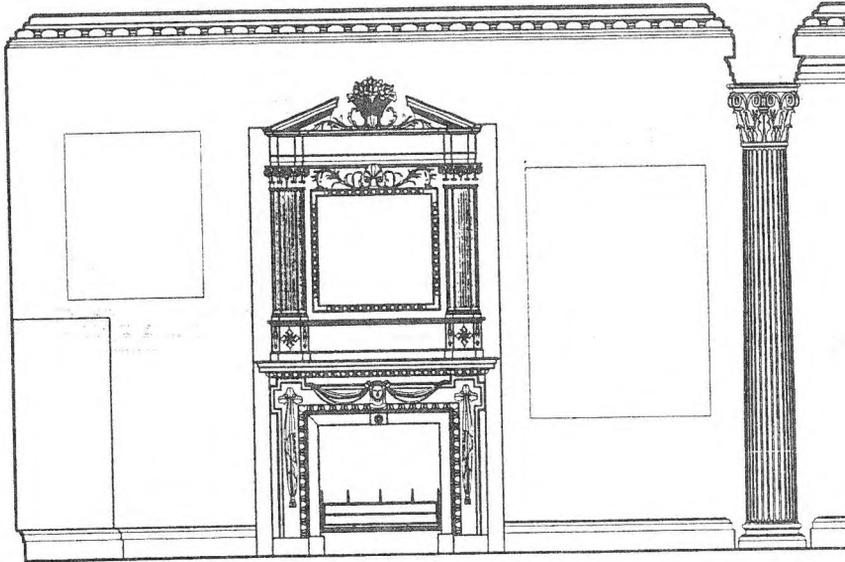
Chimney Piece Detail

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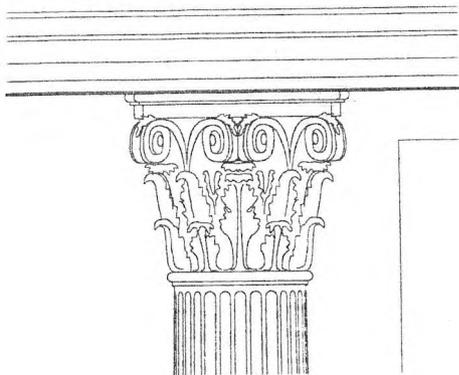
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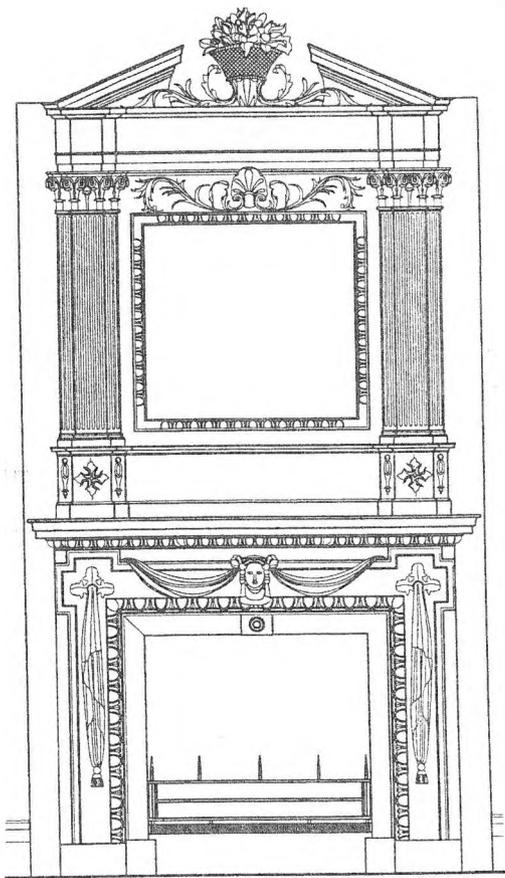
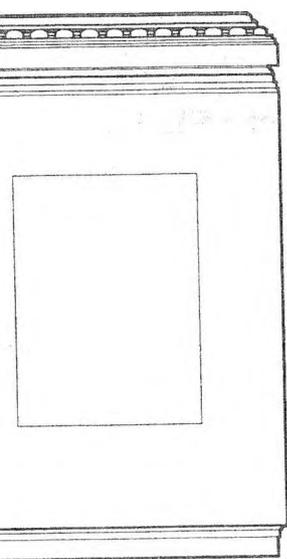
Elevation



Elevation



Composite Capital



Chimney Piece Detail

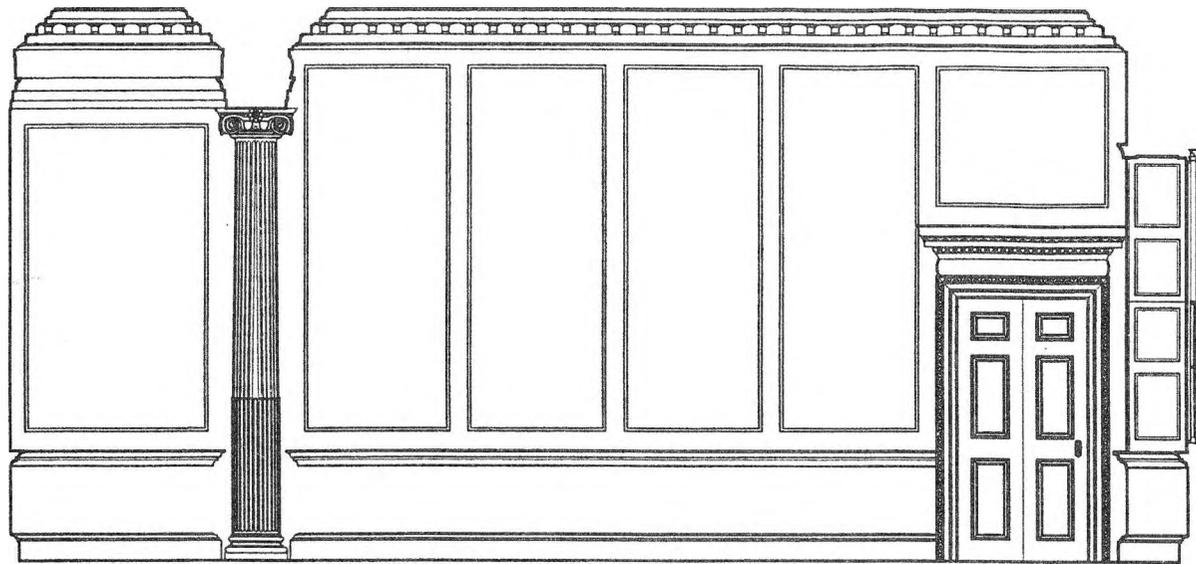
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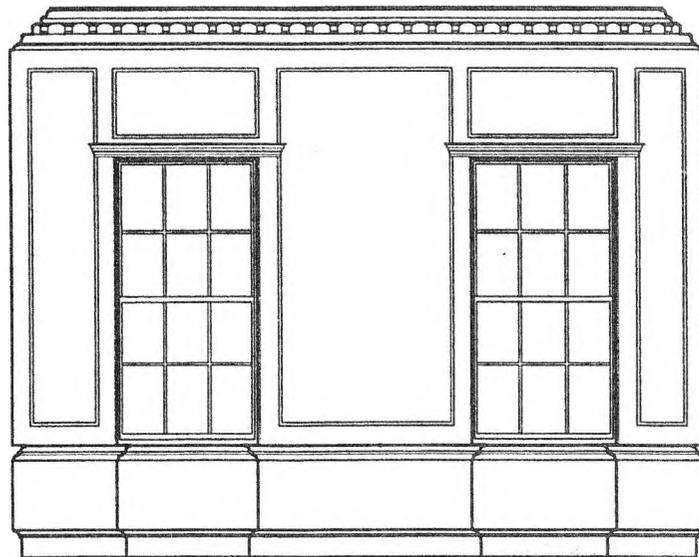
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Drawing: Bedchamber Elevations			
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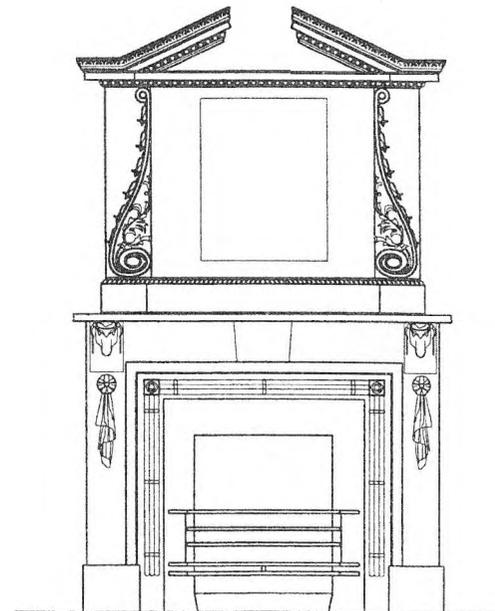
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Elevation



Elevation

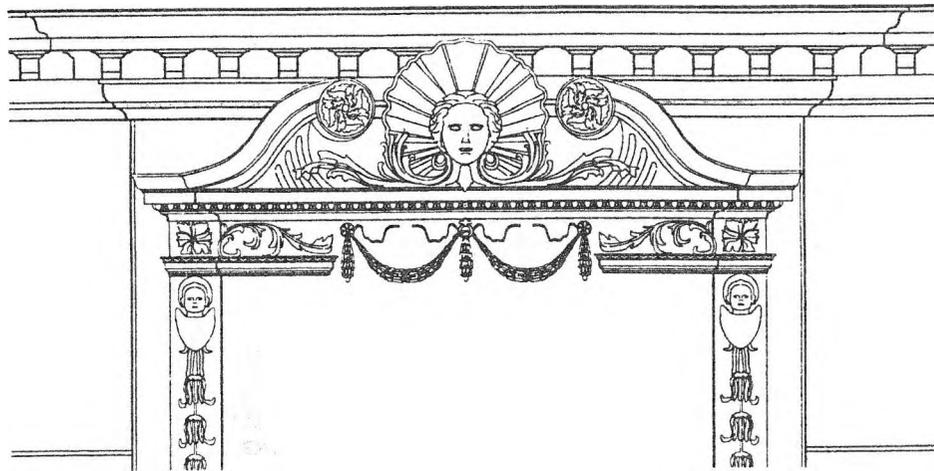


Anteroom chimney piece

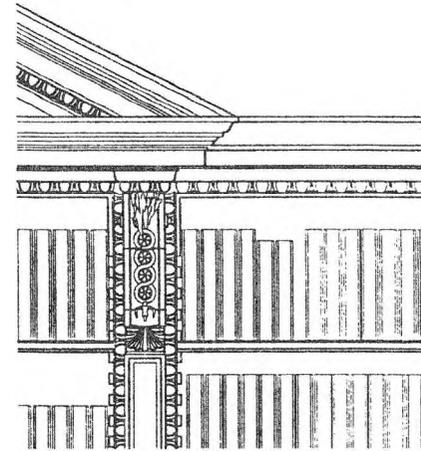
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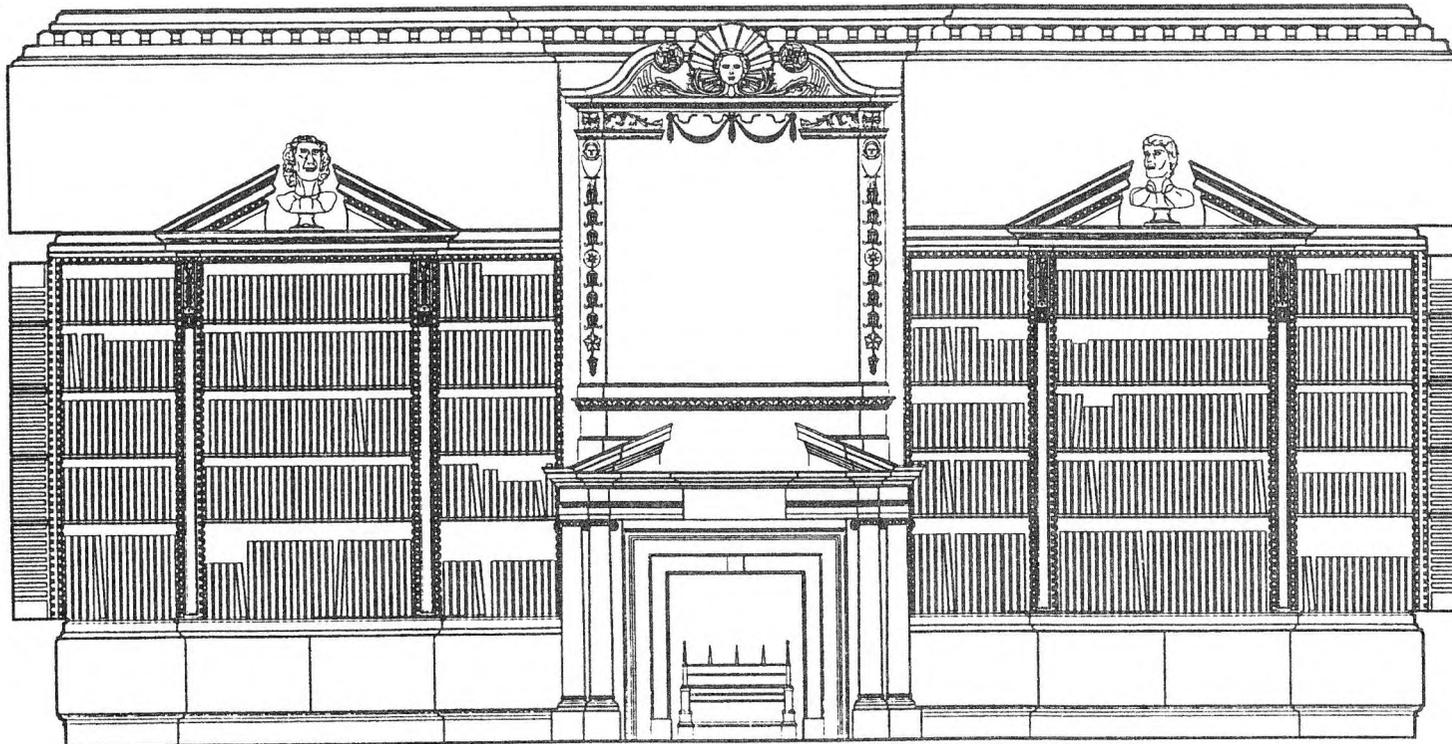
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Over Mantel Detail



Bookcase Detail



Library Elevation

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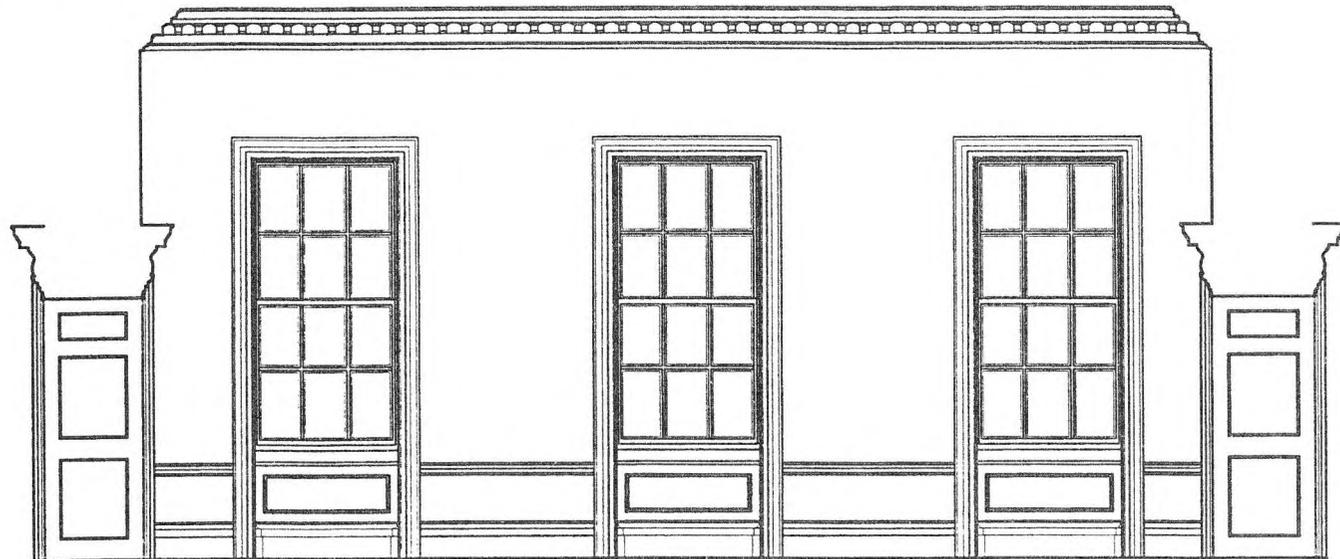
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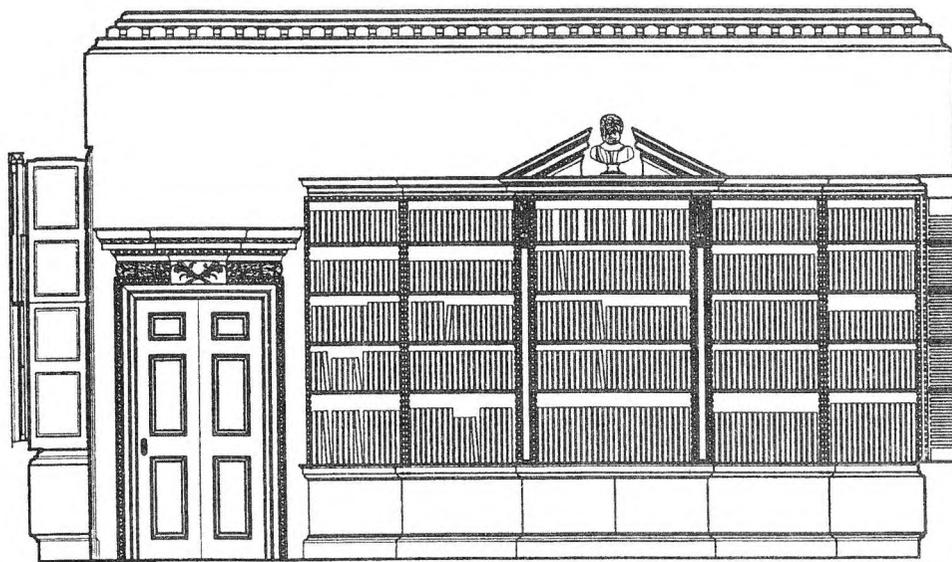
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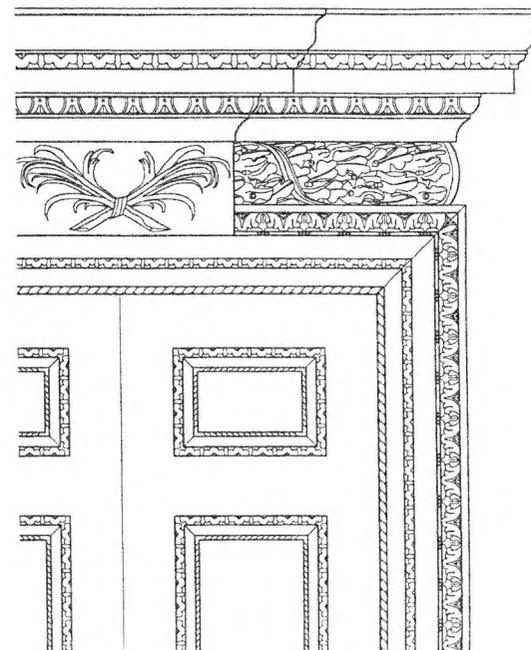
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Elevation



Elevation



Door detail

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Lydford Park			
Drawing:			
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JOHN, 2nd VISCOUNT ST.JOHN (1702-1748)

by Brian Carne

[This partial account of the life and family background of Viscount St.John collects together what has appeared in previous *Reports* and adds some new information from the notebooks of W.F. Parsons, which are in the custody of Wootton Bassett Historical Society and are quoted by courtesy of that Society. This account aims to put into a wider context Michael Gray's report on the remodelling of Lydiard Park.]

John StJohn was born on 3 May 1702, the son of Henry St.John (1652-1742) by his second wife Angelica Magdalena (d. 1736). Henry St.John married, firstly, Lady Mary Rich, second daughter and coheir of Robert Rich, 3rd Earl of Warwick. Lady Mary died shortly after the birth of her only child to survive infancy. The child who survived was Henry (1678-1751), whose successful political career led to his appointment as Secretary at War and, later, Secretary of State under Queen Anne and to his being ennobled as Viscount Bolingbroke in 1712. When John was born of his father's second marriage his elder half-brother Henry was twenty-three and already serving for the second time as M.P. for Wootton Bassett. Henry was most able, a brilliant orator and conversationalist, but his fall after the death of Queen Anne led to the disgrace of attainder in 1715. Henry was old enough to be his half-brother's father, he had a fatherly concern about the education of the latter and, in fact, outlived him.

John's Father, Henry St. John

In contrast with his elder son, John's father, Henry, has been written off by historians as a nonentity largely because they knew little about him that was to his credit. He was educated at Eton for seven years until his admission to Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, at the age of fifteen. In the following year, 1669, he graduated M.A. *per litteras regias* from St.John's College and was incorporated at Oxford. This early graduation, together with that of twenty-two other commoners, was part of the University's celebrations to mark the visit of Cosimo de Medici, Prince of Tuscany. There is no evidence that Henry followed various uncles and other St.Johns to one of the Inns of Court.

In 1673 He my married Lady Mary Rich, and accordingly Lydiard Tregoze was settled on him by his father, Sir Walter, who continued to reside at Battersea. Henry and Lady Mary had their London home in Bury Street, St.James's, but stayed at Lydiard often, and it was there that she died in 1678. Lady Maiy was the second of the three orphan daughters of the 3rd Earl of Warwick. They were brought up by their uncle Charles, 4th Earl, and his very devout wife, who preferred sobriety and freedom from 'the raineing vices of these loose and profane times' to fortune on the part of suitors for her nieces. Henry must have received approval from her. In her diary she wrote that he was very good-natured and viceless.

After the death of his wife Henry returned to life in London and continued his passion for horses. On 16 April 1679 Henry Savile wrote from Paris to John Wilmot, 2nd Earl of Rochester and Henry St.John's cousin:

Our friend Mr. St.Johns with all his steeds is still at St.Denis in order to the fatning his horses for sayle, so that it may be hoped by that time they are disposed of, hee will not upon the whole matter be above fifty pounds a looser by the expedition.... I have been asked already if, besides not speaking the language, hee bee not un peu fol.

Some of those who met him in France considered him to be a bit foolish and silly. Further evidence of his life style occurs a year later. In July 1680 Daniel Finch, who married one of Lady Mary's sisters,

wrote to his wife 'My bro. [brother-in-law] StJohn has bin at Bath and will be to-morrow at Tunbridge with his chariott and six Flanders horses and all things suitable thereunto so that he will be the chief spark there.'

In the late summer of 1679 Henry was elected to the Parliament that Charles II prorogued seven times in order to prevent discussion of a bill to exclude his brother James from succession to the throne, and he was a member, generally for Wootton Bassett, of all the seven Parliaments that existed from then until the end of 1700. In 1683 he became one of the twenty-three Deputy Lieutenants for Wiltshire, but showed little interest, apparently, in public life.

The autumn of 1684, when he was thirty-two, saw the most notorious incident in his life, when he had a share in the murder of Sir William Estcourt. Colonel Edmund Richmond-Webb, who was third cousin to Henry, was also implicated in the killing, and in the ensuing story an important part was probably played by Barbara Villiers, Duchess of Cleveland, who was second cousin to Henry. Henry, Richmond-Webb, and Estcourt were all from eminent Wiltshire families, and had been members of the Parliament - the last one in Charles' reign - that met at Oxford in March 1681.

On 14 November the three, with others, were engaged in a night of drinking claret, first at the Devil Tavern near Temple Bar and then, from about 10 p.m., in an upstairs room at the Globe Tavern near Shoe Lane. (The company included William Yorke of Bassett Down and Nevill Maskelyne of Purton.) A heated argument developed about the feasibility of a point-to-point race or steeplechase between Henry St.John's and Estcourt's horses for a £100 wager. Tempers rose, bottles and pipes were thrown, swords were drawn and Sir William Estcourt received a mortal wound in his stomach, from which he died an hour or so later. Those present in the room were arrested, and Henry St.John and Richmond-Webb were committed to Newgate to stand trial.

The trial, with two charges - murder and manslaughter - against each of them, was included in the Sessions which began at the Old Bailey on 10 December and lasted for four days. St.John and Webb were found guilty and were sentenced to be hanged but no date was set for the execution. The two condemned men had powerful advocates on their behalf. Although the Duchess of Cleveland was not so high in the king's favour as formerly, she was still residing in the palace, and Richmond-Webb was usher to the Prince of Denmark. Also, three of St.John's uncles and Richmond-Webb's father had all died fighting for the King's father in the Civil Wars. There was much talk at the time of considerable sums of money being paid to procure pardons for the condemned men. It is said - Brian Masters, *The Mistresses of Charles II* (Blond & Briggs, 1979) p. 149 - that the Duchess of Portsmouth 'managed to supplement her income by selling royal pardons to criminals, for which purpose she employed Timothy Hall, whose business it was to ferret out those law-breakers who could afford to pay'.

The verdicts of guilty were made on 14 December. On the following Tuesday the King issued warrants from Whitehall to the Solicitor-General - the father of St.John's brother-in-law Daniel Finch - that the sentences against St.John and Richmond-Webb should be quashed and that they should have their forfeited estates restored to them. It is not certain that bribes were paid, although it would not have been surprising for the Duchess of Portsmouth, the King's current favourite, to have benefitted. Alternatively, a large donation may have been given towards the establishment of Chelsea Hospital, which was at that very time a high priority in the King's mind.

A contemporary newsletter stated that the two reprieved men went abroad for a time after their being pardoned. It is not known how long Henry St. John was abroad, but on 26 March 1685 he was returned as M.P. for Wootton Bassett to James II's Parliament, and on 1 January 1686-7 he remarried at St.Anne's, Soho.

Henry's Second Marriage

His second wife was Angelica Magdalena, daughter of Georges Pelissary, and widow of Philip Wharton (d.1685), Warden of the Mint. Henry was thirty-four and Angelica was twenty-three. Angelica's family hailed from the Canton of Grisons but had settled in Protestant Geneva. Her father, Georges, was naturalized as a Frenchman in 1647 and rose to be Treasurer-General of the Navy. In 1670 he obtained from Louis XIV confirmation of his status as noble and armigerous. He died when Angelica was twelve. She married Philip Wharton. They moved to England and she was naturalized by Act of Parliament in 1685, four months after the death of her first husband.

Eight children of this second marriage did not survive infancy. They were: Walter (1688-1689), Oliver (d.1689), Anne (1691-1692)rPawlet (d.1694-5), Charlotte (1696-1697), Isabella (d.1700), Johanna (1704-1706/7), and Walter (1705/6-1706/7).

Four of their children did survive infancy:

- 1 George (1693-1716), was appointed British ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Italian states in July 1714. He was at Utrecht during the negotiations for the Treaty, which he brought back to London. George returned to Venice and was taken ill with fever and died there, unmarried, in 1716. He was buried on the Lido 'being accompanied by Lord Harrold, the Resident and all the Gent of the Nation. As they passed, the English ships that were in port fired their gunns, and put up their flags, and evry thing was done wt great order and decencie by order of the Resident'. [John Ingamells, *A Dictionary of British and Irish Travellers in Italy 1701-1800* (Yale U.P., 1997).] Countess Cowper wrote in her diary that his mother was 'the most melancholy and afflicted Woman for the Loss of her Son that I ever saw in my Life'.
- 2 Henrietta (1699-1756), who married on 20 June 1727 Robert Knight (1702-1772), son of Robert Knight (d. 1741), former cashier of the South Sea Company. Robert Knight was created Baron Luxborough in 1745, and Earl of Catherlough in 1763. She, perhaps unjustly, became the victim of scandal. He obtained a separation from her in 1736, requiring her to live at Barrells in Warwickshire - his country home - where she entertained a group of literary people, pursued her interest in gardening, and lived beyond her means - much to the annoyance of her husband. She had two children: Henry, born 1728, who died without issue in 1762, and Henrietta (1729-1763) who, after divorce from her first husband, married the Hon. Josiah Child, and, after his death, Louis, Count Duroure.
- 3 John (1702-1748), the subject of this article, the fifth and longest surviving son of the second marriage.
- 4 Holies (1710-1738), named presumably after the wealthy Whig leader, who died unmarried. His sister Henrietta was his executor and commissioned the monument in his memory that is on the south wall of St.Mary's church, Battersea.

Residence

Henry and Angelica lived, first of all, in Bury Street. He was assessed for rates in Berkeley Street, 1692-1700, and then in Albemarle Street, from at least 1704, where he eventually died. When, in 1708, his father Sir Walter died Henry did not make the Battersea Manor House his home, although he maintained an establishment there later on. It has been assumed that, although he had been put into possession of the Lydiard estate when he married for the first time and stayed there often according to the diary of his wife's aunt, he made little use of it during his second marriage. It is true that there is a sundial at Lydiard Park, the plate of which is engraved with the arms of St.John with his viscount's

coronet and Pelissary, but it could have started life at Battersea and have been brought to Lydiard when Battersea was sold. Also, the work on the Triptych between 1683/4 and 1699 could have been commissioned by Sir Walter, with Henry adding the viscounties after 1716. Sir Walter is assumed to be behind this work simply because we know far more about him than about Henry, whose known interests are limited to horses and coffee houses.

However, there is evidence that he was a regular visitor to Lydiard during his second marriage. Goddard Smith (1686-1746) of Tockenham Manor, near Lyneham, kept a diary at least from 1706. The first reference to the St Johns in the diaries dates from 1717, when Smith was a guest with Lady StJohn and others for dinner at Vastern Manor. The next reference to the St.Johns is not until 28 July 1726, when Smith and his father dined with Lord St.John at Lydiard. The long gap between 1717 and 1726 almost certainly suggests that Smith was almost unknown socially to the StJohns, but from 1726 till October 1732 there are frequent references to his being entertained at Lydiard. The last such reference to dining at Lydiard with Lord St.John was on 6 October 1732. Lord St.John was by then aged eighty, and it seems likely that neither he nor his wife made the journey again from Battersea to Lydiard. Between 1726 and 1732 Lord St.John came with his family each year from perhaps as early as June through sometimes to November. They would often include a stay in Bath during their time at Lydiard. If the years 1726-1732 are in any way representative of Henry St.John's second marriage, then the pattern of spending time regularly at Lydiard, which was part of his first marriage from 1673, continued throughout his life until 1732. If this is a correct assumption, then it would seem reasonable also to assume that the sundial was made for Lydiard Park and that it was Henry who interested his St.George cousins in his plans for updating and enlarging the Triptych in the church. Moreover, Michael Gray's analysis of the development of Lydiard Park reveals that Henry commissioned work in the Drawing Room and the Library to make it more fashionable.

Relations with his Eldest Son

It has been stated already that historians have viewed Henry with little favour. The contrast between his rather empty life of pleasure and that of his eminent eldest son could not be more marked. Jonathan Swift was well aware of this. He wrote to Stella on 11 November 1710, 'His father is a man of pleasure, that Walks the Mall, and frequents St.James's Coffee-house, and the Chocolate-houses, and the son is principal secretary of state. Is there not something very odd in that?' Son Henry had a genuine devotion to the idea of public service, 'a willingness to accept the responsibilities of the governing class' [Professor Hart, *Viscount Bolingbroke, Tory Humanist*, p. 26]. He did not find anything of the same devotion and sense of responsibility in his father.

No love was lost between Henry and his eldest son, the grandson and son of Whigs who surprised everybody by joining the Tories. Henry had been a member of seven consecutive parliaments, 1679-1700, but did not seek re-election in February 1700/1. Son Henry was returned for Wootton Bassett for the four parliaments between 1700/1 and 1708. In 1708 Henry decided to stand again as Whig candidate at Wootton Bassett, forcing his son to seek a seat elsewhere - a search in which he was unsuccessful. Henry was also unsuccessful at Wootton Bassett, and son Henry wrote to Harley on 1 May, in the midst of electioneering, 'My father makes a scandalous figure, neglected by all the gentlemen and sure of miscarrying where his family have always been revered.'

In 1712 son Henry became Baron St.John of Lydiard Tregoze and Viscount Bolingbroke, the grant having the special provision that the succession to the title should be through his father's second marriage. In 1714 Queen Anne died. Sir Henry was probably still at Aix-la-Chapelle, taking the waters, when the news came that George I had succeeded her. Bolingbroke eventually fled the county to join the Young Pretender in France. He was disgraced by an act of attainder. There had been talk of a peerage for Sir Henry, but this did not mature until July 1716 when he was created Baron of Battersea and Viscount St.John. Countess Cowper wrote in her diary on 8 July 1716, 'Everybody

believes that the Duchess of Munster [George I's mistress] had 5000l. for making Lord StJohn a Lord.' Presumably his lordship and his lady were present in their robes at the coronation of George II on 11 October 1727. In 1736 Lady StJohn died, but the old man lived on - called 'le père eternal' by Bolingbroke's wife - and described by Pulteney as 'more likely to many again than to die.' He died, largely unlamented, on 8 April 1742, half-way through his ninetieth year, and was buried in Battersea church. He had erected no monument to his parents or to either of his wives: his surviving children erected no monument to him.

Bolingbroke's Attainder

In March 1715 Henry StJohn, Viscount Bolingbroke, having been dismissed from office the previous September, left London unobtrusively, crossed from Dover to Calais, and made his way to the 'court' of the Young Pretender, as a result of which he was attainted in England. The Act of Attainder had three consequences: he was declared a traitor and was not able to return to England until a royal pardon was granted in May 1723; he was not allowed to inherit or acquire real property in this country until this disability was removed by Act of Parliament in 1725; and his titles were forfeit, and he was debarred from entry into public life. After 1723 he made a number of visits to England, one such - in 1738 - had important consequences for Lydiard.

On 13 October 1738 Viscount StJohn, aged just 86 and widowed for the second time, made his will. (See Appendix 3.) His youngest son, Holies, had died, unmarried, a week earlier, and his eldest son by his second marriage, George, had died, unmarried, in 1716. Henry, his eldest son, had no children, only Henrietta and John had married and had children.

John St. John

John St. John was born on 3 May 1702. It would appear that he did not enjoy good health. He was at Eton in 1717 and in Paris in 1720. His education apparently was the practical concern of his elder half-brother, now stripped of his viscounty and resident in France. Henry wrote a letter [BL Add. MS 34,196 f.2] on 24 July 1717, and it is reliably assumed that the recipient was his father, about his two half-brothers,

your sending the eldest of your two sons [John aged fifteen] to Eaton makes me hope that his health is mended, it is late for him to go thither unless he has been instructed according to the method of that school. I remember the pain it cost me to fall into the method, & to overtake those in points of form who were behind me in knowledge of the Latin tongue, unless he has a good deal of spirit and ambition to get forward, you will find this some discouragement to him. for the little monkey [Holies aged eight] he may be turned to anything, & I hope you will keep him there till he is confirm'd in the Latin at least. Some of the best books in the world have been writ in that language, & after all he who cannot learn a thing in the original knows it but by halves

On 23 July 1720 Henry wrote from France to his father regarding John,

we do not at all despair of licking our young Cub into form very soon, the truth is he is extremely raw, but he seems to have docility & parts enough to make an honest man, provided he comes to have what is essential to a good character [f.1 1]

In another letter to his father, dated 12 August 1720 [f. 12], Henry details the plans he has for John's education and adds that he considers 'the allowance of five hundred pounds a year is full enough'.

As a younger son, John's chances in the world depended on his making a name for himself, which he did by being elected as M.P. for Wootton Bassett on the Tory interest from 1727 to 1734, and in marrying an heiress. The latter was accomplished by marrying Ann Fumese.

First Marriage

Anne Furnese was the only daughter of Sir Robert Furnese (d. 1733) of Waldershare, Kent, 2nd Bt, by his first marriage. By his second marriage Sir Robert had a son Henry (d.1735), who succeeded him as third baronet and died unmarried aged nineteen, and two daughters Catherine (d.1766) and Selina (d. 1757). Catherine married, firstly, her first cousin Lewis Watson (d. 1745), who became 2nd Earl of Rockingham, and, secondly, Francis North (d. 1790), 3rd Baron Guilford, who was created Earl of Guilford. Selina married Sir Edward Dering, 6th Bt. Anne Furnese thus became co-heir with her sisters of her father in 1735.

John and Anne were married at St.George's, Hanover Square, on 17 April 1729. In 1729 John and Anne moved into their first home, 51 Brook Street, which had been built two years earlier. It would appear from Goddard Smith's diaries that John and his wife regularly stayed at Lydiard Park when his parents were in residence there. In June 1730 they entertained the Prince of Wales at Battersea. Shortly afterwards they entertained John's half-brother Henry, whose comment on the evening was, 'There was more company than dinner'. In 1738 John and wife moved to a new house - half of what is now the Egyptian Embassy, 75 South Audley Street - having contracted with Mr Shepherd the builder for £4,000 for its completion, fitting-up, and decoration. John remained as occupier of this house until his death in 1748.

Anne's inheritance included the manors of Whitstable and Ellenden, farms and woodlands in Kent. The annual rental of this estate in 1761 was stated to be £288.12s. But her fortune was considerably larger. John, in his will, refers to 'the Sum of Twenty Thousand pounds provided by my Marriage Settlement'. In 1721 John's father had invested £4,000 in the Duchess of Kendal to obtain for his sons John and Holies the reversion, for the term of their lives, of the sinecure office of Controller of the Customs and Subsidies of the Port of London, an office which was worth £1,200 a year. John succeeded to this office in 1740. In 1742 John's father, Viscount St.John, died. John inherited the viscounty and, under the terms of his father's will, £300 to purchase an extra life on the lease of lands at Battersea held of the Archbishop of York. (This lease had been held by Sir Walter, and it may have been transferred to John by his father in 1729.) Under the terms of his father's will he received £50 - as did Anne - for mourning clothes, rings or jewelry, his father's gold watch and seals, and a portrait of Barbara Villiers, Duchess of Cleveland.

Parliamentary Career

John, now come of age, represented Wootton Bassett as a Tory in the 1727-1734 parliament. In the 1737 election local feelings ran high. Goddard Smith happened to be invited for dinner at Lydiard Park on 5 August, and he notes succinctly in his diary, 'Wotton Mob there'. Election Day itself was on 17 August, and Smith records under that date, 'A pack of rascals. Heumiseram! St.John 124. Cross 99. Northey 85.' Romney Sedgwick, *The House of Commons 1715-1754*, II, page 403-4, summarises his activity in the House as, 'he voted with the Opposition except on the repeal of the Septennial Act in 1734. He never stood again but in the crisis of 1737 over the Prince of Wales's allowance he is described as a great advocate for the Prince, and intimate in consultations with him'. Apparently John felt that there was much local hostility to him. In a letter to Goddard Smith, probably dated 1741, he complained that he was being cheated by the brickmakers in Wootton Bassett, and adds, 'This comes of Electioneering, for my part I'U have nothing more to do in it'. However, in 1747, as Lord St.John he supported Martin Madan and William Breton, both put up by the Prince of Wales, as candidates for election at Wootton Bassett, but only succeeded in carrying Madam. [Romney Sedgwick, I, page 353.]

Three sons and three daughters are known to have been born of the marriage:

- 1 Frederick (1732-1787), who succeeded his father as 3rd Viscount St.John and his uncle Henry as 2nd Viscount Bolingbroke. (This was in accordance with the special provisions that were

included in the grant of each of these viscounties.) [See *Report* 21, pages 15-46.]

- 2 Ann, who died 1747, aged thirteen.
- 3 Henry (c.1738-1818) M.P. and General. [See *Report* 25, pages 57-67.]
- 4 Louisa, who died 1740, aged one month.
- 5 Louisa (1743-1820), who married William (1728-1798), created Lord Bagot.
- 6 John (1746-1793), M.P. and author. [See *Report* 20, pages 27-38.]

Lydiard Park

In 1738 Bolingbroke was in England for some time in late Summer, selling his property at Dawley. It would appear that at this time there were discussions of family business. Lord St.John was 86, and appears to have given up his habit of visiting Wiltshire in the Summer and Autumn of each year. His eldest son, Bolingbroke, was heir to all the family's entailed estate, and could have had the Wiltshire estates conveyed to him during his father's lifetime just as his father had received them in 1673. However, Bolingbroke resigned his interest in Lydiard Park and probably little else of the estate to his half-brother John, and it must have been with their father's agreement. The extensive woodlands in the Lydiards, bought by their great-grandfather in 1637 which were an important source of revenue were not included in the 'possession of the Seat', for Bolingbroke inherited these when his father died, nor was the advowson of Lydiard Tregoze church included, for Bolingbroke acted as patron in 1747. It is clear from Lord St.John's will that John did not enjoy much, if any, of the revenues of the Lydiard estate, for there is reference to rents from Lydiard which were uncollected at the time of their father's death. Also, that will provides that the furniture and household goods at Lydiard, belonging to Lord St.John, should go to Bolingbroke. John's income, as a younger son, was, therefore, largely limited to his wife's inheritance, apart from the lease at Battersea and, after 1740, the fruits of the customs sinecure. In a letter to his half-brother, 4 April 1743, that is almost a year after their father had died, Bolingbroke discussed the purchase by John of some of the standing timber in the woodlands and commented,

I said you, and your Children were to keep up the Family, and in that view I put you four years ago into possession of the Seat of it; for if that had not determined me, I could have found means of supplying my wants during my Lord St.John's life on more easy terms, thus I thought then, & thus I shall continue to think, for the prospect of my having children is chimerical.

In fuller detail Bolingbroke wrote to his half-sister Henrietta on 10 August 1745, after the death of their father, and revealed a deep dislike for his half-brother's wife,

I am glad that my Lord St.John has done so much at Lydiard. I abandoned it to him that he might restore that family seat [*the house*], and that by living there decently and hospitably he might restore a family interest [*in county and local politics*], too much and too long neglected, he may perhaps do the first in time, he seems pleased with what he has done, & vanity and ostentation may get in some the better of another person's avarice, tho' it be as exorbitant as I ever heard of any. as to the last I doubt more of it. they have made them selves a proverb in the country for their stinginess. they have sent me half a buck... Jack [*John*] writes to me to send for more whenever I want it... he won't - Kent's shop at Temple Bar is the best Park in England. I am hopeful the waters of Bristol will do him good, he is certainly in a bad state of health

The letter is significant in its comments on the extent of the remodelling of Lydiard Park - getting the maximum of effect for the minimum of outlay - and on the acceptance that John and his wife received among the county folk of Wiltshire. Although too much must not be made of what Goddard Smith's diaries omitted of events at which he was not present, the impression is given that John and his wife were not included, either through their 'stingyness' or ill health, in the social life of the county to the extent that they may have hoped. In an undated letter, preserved in Smith's 'Old Letters - No. 75', the Countess of Berkshire even wrote to Smith,

I suppose all belonging to Lydyard are dead and gone with their Dear Dorel [*Mary Dorr ell, a servant*], for we have not had a Message from thence by any little foot Boy as yet. Shou'd they have thoughts of coming to morrow pray Stop them, for I have neither a Chair empty or a knif or Fork to spare

John, as Lord St.John, did make some effort to involve himself in county society. He joined the Club, which met monthly, at Marlborough and there met a number of important county people.

Over the years the friendship had grown between Smith and John St.John, but, most disappointingly for us, there is no reference in Smith's diaries to the work of remodelling Lydiard Park. There are references to Nathaniel Ireson, who was master mason under Colin Campbell, architect, for Henry Hoare the elder at Stourhead c. 1720-1724. These references are enough to support the contention that Ireson was employed at Lydiard Park. The other big disappointment in Smith's diaries is the absence of any reference to Roger Morris which would have allowed us to infer that he was employed as architect.

On 11 August 1737 Anne St.John wrote to Robert Knight [BL Add MS 34,196, f. 121]:

John thinks himself much better for Scarborough water ... That Fit of nonsense ... I suppose he continues to enjoy good health & 111 humour, have you heard of his peremptory denial of his coach to Miss Soame & at the same time offering it to Mr & Mrs Monis

Goddard Smith preserved a letter from John St.John, dated Sunday 19 November 1738, in which he wrote,

I'm glad Governor Monis Mentions my designs as to Lydiard, it gives me hope I shall have his interest, without wch Nothing is to be Expected;

It is tempting to assume that 'Monis' refers to Roger Morris. However, the *Livre des Deliberations de VEglise Francoise de La Savoye* and Lord St.John's will indicate another possible identification for 'Morris'. Joseph Morris of the parish of St.George's Hanover Square is described as 'my servant' in Lord St.John's will. He is appointed in the will as one of the trustees for the £10,000 that is to be invested for the benefit of Henrietta Knight. He is also required to collect the arrears of rents from tenants in Wiltshire and to act with the ministers and churchwardens of Lydiard Tregoze and Lydiard Millicent in the distribution of clothing for the poor. In 1736 Lady St.John had died, and it was Joseph Morris who was instrumental in paying the 20 guineas that were for the poor persons in the French Church of the Savoy. Morris seems to have been land agent for Lord St.John, as George Osborne appears, from the will, to have carried out the same function for the Battersea estate. In the letter to Goddard Smith, quoted above, much depends on whether 'designs' means 'plans' which would be of interest to Roger Morris or 'intentions' which could involve the land agent Joseph Monis in their achievement. The balance would appear to be in favour of the latter interpretation.

The work on the house will have started some time after the 'putting into possession' in 1738. The stone in the attics commemorates the 'rebuilding' of the house and is dated 1743, that is (N.S.) any time up to 24 March 1744. Apparently the pediment on the south-west facade of the house was not designed until after 4 June 1743, for, on the back of a letter of that date - see *Report* 29, page 62 - is

a sketch of the pediment which shows the StJohn arms with a blank inescutcheon of pretence, surmounted by a coronet, between two swags with bows on either side. Just below the sketch is drawn the talbot crest of the Furnese family which was carved on the inescutcheon. The final design replaced the swags with a fluttered ribbon on which the StJohn motto appears.

St. Mary's Church

In addition to the major work of remodelling the house, John was responsible for preparations in and under the church for his death. Both parts of the two-chamber vault under the south aisle of the church may have been created by Sir John StJohn when he remodelled that aisle about 1633. (See *Report 18*, pages 28-34.) In the east vault Sir John commissioned a mortuary table on which his coffin and those of his two wives would occupy pride of place. John had the mortuary table cleared of his great-grandparents' remains, which went into the west vault, and had the vaults prepared for the reception of his and his wife's coffin. John died in Naples and it was four months before his body was placed on the mortuary table. As he died abroad his internal organs were placed in a viscera casket, which still stands where it was placed in 1749.

He also made provision for a memorial for himself and his wife in the south chapel of the church. According to his will he had selected the place, and he attached a 'Draft' (drawing?) of the intended monument to his will. He laid on his executor brothers-in-law, Lord Luxborough and Henry Furnese, the duty of supervising the erection of the monument, in grey and white marble and with richly carved arms below a tall grey obelisk. The sculptor of the monument has been identified as Rysbrack, but Philip Dunthome - see *Report 29*, page 38 - suggested that the monument was in a style used by Sir Henry Cheere elsewhere. No information about the making of the monument has apparently survived.

Robert Knight, Lord Luxborough, appears to have found the erection of memorials a pious and significant activity. He provided a great range of monuments for the South Chapel of his parish church at Wootton Wawen, Warwickshire. Where the medieval altar had stood he commissioned a prominent stone urn on a free-standing base in memory of his parents, after his father's death in 1744. In 1764 he provided a huge wall memorial to his two children. The following year he added four more wall tablets: beside the east window a monument in memory of his two sisters; and a set of three matching memorials to John, Lord StJohn's second wife, to his maternal grandparents, and to Miss Jane Sarah Soame (d. 1744). It was presumably Lord Luxborough who saw to it that the monument to John and his wife was erected in Lydiard Tregoze church.

Illness, Second Marriage, and Death

John did not enjoy good health. There have been references already in this article to his search for health at Scarborough. Late in 1743 he wrote, 'I find my Stomach to much out of order that I feel the Necessity of Returning to my sure remedie at Bath'. In July 1744 he was at Hotwells, Bristol, to take the waters. But it was his wife who was first to die. Anne died on 11 July 1747, aged thirty-six, and was buried in the family vault in StMary's church. Her sixth child was born the previous year.

Bolingbroke offered to help in any way that he could with the care and education of the motherless children, but was snubbed. Perhaps John had unhappy memories of his own childhood. Bolingbroke wrote to his sister Henrietta on 13 August 1747 [BL Add. MS 34,196, f. 149],

He [John] left his two eldest sons att Richmond with some body who belongs to his office att the custom House, the two youngest children are in Kent with my Lady Rockingham [Catherine (Furnese) their aunt of the half-blood], & he is gone down thither himself. I offered him the best convenience, and the best service I could do him if he came and brought his family hither, he took no notice of the offer, and I am satisfied with having

done what I thought became me. I wish that the prejudices and habits which his late wife gave him, & which are none of the best, do not stick by him. she had sense and cunning, but I never knew a creature so avaricious, more selfish or more false.

Robert, Lord Luxborough, was the same age as John and they had been friends for a long time. They were together on tour in France in 1720 when the South Sea bubble burst and Robert had to return in haste. His first marriage, to John's sister, ended in separation. His second marriage was doomed to failure from the beginning, but he found happiness with Jane Davies, the daughter of one of his tenants in Warwickshire. By her he had at least four children, the eldest of whom obtained the Royal Licence for himself and his brother to bear the arms and name of Knight. It is very likely that it was through his friendship with Lord Luxborough that John, Viscount St.John, met Hester Clarke (1723-1752), daughter of James Clarke of Wharton, Herefordshire. They were married at St.Anne's church Soho on 19 June 1748. She was aged twenty-five and he was forty-six.

Sadly, the marriage lasted only four months. They went to Italy, possibly because of John's health. They were in Rome in October 1748, when John commissioned three paintings from Joseph Vernet, and went on to Naples early in November. [Ingammels, *op. cit.*] Shortly after their arrival in Naples John died. The endorsement on his will gives 'November 1748' as the date of his death: his coffin plate states that it was the 26th of November. W. Mann wrote from Naples [*State Papers Foreign: Naples*] on 7 December and stated that John had died on 4 December. The discrepancy between these dates cannot be simply the difference between the Julian and Gregorian Calendars. If he did die on 4 December (N.S.) then it would have been 23 November (O.S.).

Ingammels, *op. cit.* continues:

on 3 January 1749 Horace Mann was daily expecting 'the widow St.John' in Florence;
on 31 January he wrote that she 'arrived lately from Rome and resolved not to see any man during her stay here, not to renew her affliction for her Lord.'

She departed for England on 28 January travelling with Smith and Schutz who, according to Mann, were 'puny sparks' whom she probably did not consider men.

Presumably Hester returned to England with her husband's body, which was buried in the vault in St.Mary's church on 19 March 1748/9.

John's will was executed on the day of his second marriage, and on 17 August 1748 he added a codicil to make provision for Hester by leaving her one payment of £ 1,000 at his death. (Presumably she had brought no great fortune to the marriage.) Attached to the will is a short memorandum of items which he had bought for her and which he wished her to keep.

The assumption that Lord Luxborough was instrumental in introducing Hester Clarke to Lord St.John is based on the fact that when Hester died on 8 March 1752 she was buried in the Knight family mausoleum that Lord Luxborough had built in the Park at Barrells, his Warwickshire home, and to which he had transferred his family's remains from the back of Wootton Wawen church. He erected a wall monument to her in his parish church. The mausoleum at Barrells was broken into and, in 1830, the contents were transferred to a vault under the chancel of Ullenhall church, where two 6' high memorial plates were erected on either side of the east window to list those whose remains were buried in the new vault. Hester heads the list on the right-hand plate.

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APPENDIX 1

The Diaries of Goddard Smith

Goddard Smith (1686-1746) was the second son but only surviving son of Matthew Smith (1653-1733) of Tockenham by his wife Ann (d.1706), daughter of Edward Goddard of Ogbourne St.Andrew. His diaries, as transcribed by W.F. Parsons, run from 22 July 1706, the day his mother died. The diaries record his journeys round the county and to London, and the meetings he attended, such as Quarter Sessions and the Assizes, Land Tax Commission and trustee meetings, race meetings at Marlborough, Tetbury, and Chippenham, club meetings at Marlborough. He also recorded family events, those whom he entertained at Tockenham, those who entertained him at breakfast or to dinner, the company he enjoyed at dances, and there are items about the weather, especially as it affected his haymaking. The diaries are a record of his social circle, which included the Earl and Countess of Berkshire at Charlton Park. (Unlike those of Parson Woodforde, Goddard Smith's diaries mention food and drink only in very exceptional circumstances. For example, on 29 August 1735 he dined at Lord Bruce's in company with twenty-one gentlemen and six ladies, and he records that 112 bottles were drunk on that occasion.)

W.J. Parsons (1817-1906) of Hunt's Mill, Wootton Bassett, was fascinated with local history. He filled exercise books - the Wiltshire Archaeological Society Library in Devizes has a cupboard full of them - with ephemera which he stuck on the pages with only a semblance of order and with a glue that will still be good in the millennium after the next. Parsons was lent Smith's diaries and a number of family letters by Mr Hathway who had found them in the drawer of an old piece of furniture. Parsons transcribed the diaries, which were sent on to 'Lady Burton in Suffolk', but retained a number of the letters. Parsons bequeathed his scrap books to the W. A.S., but not everything went to Devizes. In recent times, when Hunt's Mill was being cleared out, Dr Stebbens of Wootton Bassett Historical Society rescued five exercise books that were on their way to the bonfire in the garden. Two-and-a-half of these exercise books - 'Nos. 42-44' - contain a transcription, made between 1893 and 1895, of the diaries kept by Goddard Smith between 1706 and 1742. (The other half-book is a transcription of Goddard Smith's accounts). The fourth book - 'Old Letters No. 75' - includes many letters which were received by Goddard Smith from his sister or sent by him to her. In this fourth book are pasted nine letters from Lord or Lady StJohn:

[Note: in the transcription letters omitted in the text have been underlined, superscript letters have been lowered, and the thorn 'y' has been transcribed 'th' as the script contains both 'ye' and 'the', and 'y*' and 'that', to make them more readable.]

The Letters

(Page 14) An undated letter from Lady StJohn, written after 1742

To convince you Dear Mr Smith I not only preach against formality but act contrary to it, I am going to tell you that I shall thankfully accept of your offer of 2 Ducks, for my Lord has order 7/ me to send him 2, & I have none that will be ready by next fry day night, which is the time I beg you 'll be so good to send them. I liad the pleasure of hearing from my Lozd to day that he is very well, Bath fills apace. I hope you have no Rheumatick disorder, & that all under your roof is as well as I wish ern[] Mrs Soarne is an honourable servant to all at Tockenham, & I am

*Your faithful! honourable serv
A. St. John*

*many thanks for your information
about Bristol. I want much to know
if you've heard any thing in favour
of Mr Jacob.*

*like a woman Postscript on Postscript
but I intended to have sent thi[s]
to you this evening but your man ju[st]
being come I take this oppertuni[ty]*

(Following page 16) A letter from John from Chipping Warden. The letter is from 1738, as his father is described as being 86 years old. Also, William Northey died on 10 November 1738. Lady Andover is daughter-in-law to the Earl and Countess of Berkshire.

Warden Sunday. 29 Nov.

Dear S[r

*I receiv'd yours with the Verses on Tobacco which! thank y onfor. those printed in the Magazine had only pope, Thomson & young, but Not Phillips's. I Condole with you upon the loss of that Worthy Man Mr Northey. I had proposed the Utmost Satisfaction in his Neighbourhood & Cannot Express to you how much I regret him. I'm glad Governor Morris Mentions my designs as to Lydiard, it gives me hope I shall have his interest, without which Nothing is to be Expected; My coming into Wilts Next year is yett Uncertain but I quit this place & will Endavour to Transplant My Self near you, nay I hope to succeed. We go to Town in 3 weeks time, &so I shall be glad to See you wherever I am. depend upon your Setting apart a day dedicated to Audley Street whenever you come to London. I've many things to talk of. 86 has lately got over another attack but like the Strulburghs mentiond in Gulliver he is to Outlive his posterity, pray My Compliments to all the Family at Charlton. I sincerely Congratulate them upon Ly Andover's Pregnancy. Mrs. St John desires I would never omitt her Kindest Compliments to you when I write. I am Dear Sir your very faithful! freind
& very Humble Servant J St John*

(Page 36) An undated letter from John St.John. However, the reference to electioneering will place the letter about the time of the election in Wootton Bassett, which was held on 6 May 1741.

Dear Sir,

I am much oblig 'd to you for your kind letter today. I am quite of your Opinion, that the World is made of Knaves and Fools, but I fear to great a dispropotion of the first. I am sure I've been a very great Dupe to the Wotten Brickmakers, they have not only cheated me in the price of Six pence a Thousand, but I've reason to think much in the Tale [reckoning], both of Brick & Lime, as to the Godness [?goodness] you are quite Sensible of it. This comes of Electioneering, for my parti'll have nothing more to do in it. I am glad I've gott rid of Tangly, he has been at the bottom of it all, I am some Hundreds the worse for him, I've writ to Ralph about the Kiln &c. he need not Dig anymore Clay till I come Down, I really, Please God, Design to sett out next Monday fortnight. In the meantime, desire him to go on Burning, both Brick & Tile, with all expedition, When I come I will pay the Bills you mention, Order Francis to lye in my Bed, & to Air the House every day with good fires, till I come. If there is any Timber on the premisses at Huntlys, order it to be cut Down, I don't wonder the Turnpike man is sowred. Instead of a Job, he must be out of Pocket, I am sure quite out of power. How will he look, when he gives in his Accounts, & none of his charges is to be Allow d. I don't in least question we are Strong enough to throw them all aside.

Dear Go: I've on the other side Drawn on you to Nat: Ireson or order £40: please to honour it, & take a receipt, according to the Custome of business, if a person Draws on.....[bottom line of the page partly cut off] for the whole money the World believes he is mis trustful! of him, or is Indigent himself, both well I've endeavoured to avoid. Mrs Walker has been confined some time, by Brooke, who has had a Fever but is gott pretty well, She joyns with me in Compliments to the Ladies

*Your very Obedient
& very most Oblig 'd Freind
& Servant J S S*

*P:S: I pray order Osborn e to see my Lime is well-secured from the weather, & kept Locked, to sell none but for ready many, except to your Honour.
Oh. Sad, Sad, Sad weather all this week, hard Frosts
Snow, Hail Storms, & Tempests, all my apricots, forward
[?]Pears & Beans cutt off*

(Page 43) A letter from John, Viscount StJohn. Parson Smith is the Revd James Smith, rector of Lydiard Tregoze from 1736/7 until his death in 1747, his son James was bom about 1727. Mr Clerke may be a son of the Revd Abel Clerke, rector from 1716 until 1736. John Harvey Thursby was the Whig M.P. for Wootton Bassett, 1741-1747. 'My Brother Knight' is Robert Knight, who married John's sister Henrietta, and was Whig M.P. for Grimsby 1734-1746.

Bath. 18 Jan. 1743 [1743/44]

*I am Extreamly glad to find by your letter of the 14th that you are well. I Coud have wish 'd too, to have heard the exact time of your leaving the East for the Western parts. We have had a Vast deal of Company, & Even Now the members are gone, there remains a good deal of Company. As to Master Smith, Indeed Mr Clerke did ask my Consent before he did it, & I encouraged him in it, for 'tis what He never does. As to the turn Pike, Walker who is to Sanguin has teaz'd Me about it, & I have wrote to Thursby, sir Robert, & My Brother Knight. I think a Petition from the Borrough of Wooten & the Neighbouring towns & Hamlets against this Bill desiring to be bear'd by Council against it (as it indeed was the last time it Came into the house [of Commons]) woud be proper, I would help but can't, first, as it is below the dignity of any of the House [of Lords] to sign a Petition to the Commons, 2dly its a Money Bill, with which we have Nothing to do But to Pay when they tax Us. Pray Inform your Self Well in What State poor Parson Smith is in, &let us Know. Walker is going to build Largely, More than you are aware of. but alas Neither Mrs Walker (who by the by Ly St J &Iare both in love with) nor Ireson, nor I, can perswade him to build at Hillocks, his Son will never thank him, if he don't. the Waters Agree Extreamly with Me. We are all well, & Much yours. So adieu. Writing long letters will tyre you & Make me dizzy. I am affectionetly Dear Sir
yours. St John*

(Page 45) An unsigned, undated letter from Viscount St.John. Smith was in Ripon in 1743, and during his stay visited Thoresby Hall, Studley Royal, and Chatsworth.

[Wednesday]

[beginning of letter unreadable through damage] ... advice about your Steps, winch I fear is Very Useless because I never observed them Much. I mean as to their Structure. I can't recollect that ever I saw [[^]Sloping Steps made Use of. I shou'd have Expected you W'dhave stay ' d till you had pick'd up Knowledge from the fine places you are going to, there is Thorsby the Duke of Kingstons, Studly Mr Aislabies, & Chatsworth the D of Devonshire where you will See delightful! falls of Water, & by the help of a Pencil & Paper (as you are I know a good Draftsman) you might bring them away with you. If you can go to the Land tax meeting on Fry day I beg you 'll call... as you go if you dine here on Sunday. Mr Cawleys with us. Sure you \ ?de [sign to lye here, & go with them. Next day to the Club at least I hope so. Miss Soame has [?been] thrown off her horse upon Flint Stones, if you 'll come here on Sunday I'll tell you the Sequel. adieu till then

(Page 57) A partly-dated letter from John StJohn

Sir

Mrs St John & I propose Waiting on you to Morrow, If you will admit Us, at Breakfast, for she says there is no standing the heat, & she Comes on horse back. I'll Speak to your NameSake. I am Dear S[r] Much

Yours. J St John

Tuesday

(Page 59) A partly-dated letter from Viscount StJohn

Lydiard Fry day 31

Dear S^r

A little affair prevents Lady S' John & I waiting on you to Morrow at Breakfast. But We will be with you before Dinner. We shou 'd be glad you won 7/ leave any gates open (if any there are)for We shall Coach it. I am Sir your Most

affectionate H Servant

St John

(Page 60) A partly-dated letter from Viscount StJohn, one edge of which is glued in too tightly to be read. Anne, a daughter of Sir Walter StJohn, married Thomas Cholmondoley of Vale Royal, Cheshire. Another daughter of Sir Walter, Johanna, married George Chute; their daughter Johanna married Sir Peter Soame, and their daughter was Jane Sarah Soame (1703-1744). Southfield, according to the annotations made by W.K. Parsons, was a farm near Malmesbury which belonged to Lord St.John.

Lydiard 6th December

Dear Sr_u

I this Morn: reciev'cyour letter of thanks for my being as civil as I Can. [?To] one I love, as well as one that loves me, great thanks is due to be sure.

I'm glad you saw my little boy, & I hear [?he] rejoyced not a little to See you.

Mr Clerke is (I do assure you) one of the Wordiest Men that Ever broke bread, & an honour to his cloth, if I Con'd but Over come that little troublesome Honesty I find about Me, I'd join with the Minister to get him prefer 'cl. but I've got a habit of being Independent & Cant shake it off easily. M^{rs} Soame does not leave Us till about next Munday or Thursday. We are glad here to Know you are Well & [hope] to See you in Jan: at Bath where [?we will] certainly be. adieu Dear Sir believe [?me] I love you, & you 'll do Justice to your

affectionet & [sincere]

friend St John

I've lett Southfeild to a very

Rich Man for 110. & he pay all payments

An likewise Brinkworth for 100, tenant

to pay all payments both have long Leases.

My old Aunt Cholmondley dyed ye 1st [?Nov]

The fifth of Parsons' exercise books mainly consists of newspaper cuttings, but it includes a letter, dated 4 August 1743, from John, Viscount St.John, to Goddard Smith. 'Studley' is Studley Royal, near Ripon, where the extensive water garden was begun about 1727 for John Aislabie, Chancellor of the Exchequer. John was at Salisbury Assizes on 20 July 1743 when Charles Taylor, at one time

a butcher in Wootton Bassett, pleaded guilty to highway robbery. He was encouraged to plead by having his thumbs tied tightly together with whipcord. A contemporary account states that the first piece of whipcord broke, and 'a second was brought, when he consented to plead'. The punishment of being pressed to death by weights was not abolished until 1776.

In Parsons' No. 43, p. 101 is a drawing of the front elevation of a house, and on the reverse Parsons has written:

This plan represents a house which Mr. Smith had an idea of building at Tockenham. The architect's name who would probably have been employed was Ireson, who built Mr. Walker's house at Tockenham Lyneham and Lord St. John's at Lydiard.

Lydiard 4th August 1743

Dear Sir

I Received yours from Rippon of the 23d July about a week after it came heither. I am glad you find Studley as Beautiful! as I discribed it, I am confident had the old Landlord been alive he would have found you out, I doubt much if the Present one cou'd not have done the Same if he had had a mind, but they are differen t people.

I have been at the assizes to give C. Taylor a lift to the Gallows he was Exicuted on tuesday after Suffering his Thumbs Screw 'cl & the Sentence read to him to be press 'cl because he would not plead, however he thought better of it & pleaded & found guilty of 3 Indictments. He threat-end to Mark Somebody in Court but I desired the Judge to have him Hand cuff'd at his tryal which was clone I have been at Wilton, Doddingtons & Mr Hoares [Stourhead], all three delightfull in their different ways, the 2d is Magnificent past all discription, its a Gold Palace not the house of a Subject. Mr Hoare's is the very Coun terpart of Studley, 40 Acres of Clear Water in a Valley & the hills Nobly planted with trees & Temples, falls of Water, Obolisks, &c without Enel.

Ireson has left me your plans, he has made a Handsome front with a Rustick Basement, Attick Windows above, & to the Cellars, Arcritives & Key stones to the Windows, & the like. He talks of its Costing about £380 his work, & your materials & all Included, but More of this When I See you.

We have had a prodigious deal of Wett in the West, I fear you've been Soucecl in the North too. Ly St. J. is Well, but grumbling at the Near approach of a clissagreable hour. She joins with me in Compliments & good Wishes to you, & your fellow Traveller, the Same attend Ld & Lady Berkshire which I beg you 'll make Acceptable to them from Dear Sir your very Affectionate friend &

H Servant St. John

PS

My horse does not Mend of his lameness will fireing clo?

Poor Smith talks of Coming here very Soon, he Baths & drinks at Bath, but all to No purposes.

References in Smith's Diaries to the St. Johns

The following extracts are incomplete in that they omit other named persons who were present on a particular occasion. Also omitted are references to visits to 'Lydiard' - unless backed up in Smith's accounts by a payment to the servants at Lydiard - as some of these could be to Midghall to see Thomas Hardyman who had married Henrietta Pleydell, and other references are clearly refer to visits to the rectory, especially after 1737 when a friendship grew with James Smith, the new rector of Lydiard Tregoze. [The dates are N.S.]

1717 6 August Dined at Mr. Franklyne's [at Vastern], Lady StJohn and her daughter ...

1718 24 October ... the Lady Bolingbroke died

- 1726** 28 July My father & I din'd with Ld St. John at Lydiard
 2 August Mr St. John to Tockenham
 12 Sept Miss St.John at Tockenham
 19 November My father din'd with Lord S.John at Lydiard
 20 November I went to Marlbro was att Church in the afternoon - Charity Sermon - Lady Hartford and Miss St.John
 21 November Lord St.John left for London
- 1727** 15 June Mr. Nevill Pleydell and Miss St.John married
 5 August I waited on Ld St.John at Lydiard. Wotton Mob there.
 11 August I mett Mr St.John and Mr Pleydell at Wootton in the evening
 14 August I went to Wotton to Mr St.John and Mr Northey
 16 August I was much engaged with Miss St.John & Northey at Wotton
 17 August The election at Wotton. A Pack of Rascals. Heu miseram! St.John 124. Cross 99. Northey 85.1 din'd at Lydiard. Mr & Mrs Brinsden [and others]
 19 August Mr St.John and Mr Brinsden [rector of Tockenham, d.1744] breakfast at Totnam
 ?20 August I went with them and din'd with Mr Northey at Compton
 28 August My father din'd at Lydiard. Mr and Mrs Knight
- 1728** 20 September I din'd with Lord St.John at Lydiard, Miss Soame
- 1729** 11 September Went to Highworth Horse Fair ...
 12 September I din'd with Mr St.John at Hannington, his horse ran at Highworth.... I came home by Lydiard
 18 September My father and I din'd at Lord St.John's at Lydiard
 26 September Mr St.John at Tockenham
 8 October My father din'd at Salthrop ... Mr and Lady St.John
 13 October Mr and Mrs St.John left for London
- 1730** 22 June I din'd at Lydiard
 3 August I din'd with Lord St.John at Lydiard
 26 August I din'd at Lydiard
 2 September Lord St.John left for Bath
 22 October I din'd at Lydiard. Mr and Mrs St.John
- 1731** 2 June Lord St.John came to Lydiard
 14 June I din'd at Lord St.John's at Lydiard
 14 August [Marlborough Races] We staid the morning ... Lady St.John [Smith's Accounts - 7 September 2s. to Lord St.John's servants at Lydiard]
 10 September I din'd with Lord St.John. Mr and Mrs Knight
 14 September Lord and Lady St.John went to Bath
 13 October Lord St.John came from Bath
- 1732** 23 July I was with Lord St.John at Lydiard. He came there 19th
 27 August Mr St.John at Tocknam
 [Smith's Accounts - 1 September Mr St.John's servants at Lydiard]
 4 September Mr Forrester and I din'd with Mr St.John at Lydiard
 13 September I met Mr St.John hunting in Broad Leaze, went to Lydiard & din'd, kill'd the wrong deer 5 shots
 6 October I din'd at Lydiard with Lord St.John

- 1733** 9 May [Goddard Smith is in London] I visited Mr Northey & Lord StJohn
- 1734** 9 April [London] I was with Lady StJohn at Albemarle Street
- 1735** 7 September Mr StJohn not at home
10 September I visited Mr StJohn
- 1739** 1 June [London] With Mr St.John, Miss Soame
24 June Mr StJohn and his family came to Liddiard
3 July I brokefast with Mr St.John
6 July Mr St.John came to Totnam
7 July I din'd at Salthrop. Mr and Mrs St.John there in the afternoon
8 July At Church at Liddiard, din'd with Mr St.John ...
16 July I call'd on Mr St.John
20 July Mr St .John at Ramsbury
23 July I and Daniel Pocock mett Mr and Mrs St.John at Brinkworth. We went to Southfield. They din'd with us.
30 July I, Daniel Pocock, [and Smith's nieces] din'd at Lidiard
2 August I and Daniel Pocock drank tea at Liddiard and Mr and Mrs St.John came to Wotton with us
8 August Mr St.John here in the morning
13 August I [and niece] din'd at Mr St.John's at Liddiard Lord and Lady Berkshire, Mr Smith [rector]
14 August Mr and Mrs St.John, I and [his nieces] din'd at Charlton
16 August met Mr St.John to shoot at Grittenham
20 August Met Mr St.John at Frampton's - We went to the Clubb at Marlboro', Lord Bruce, Mr StJohn, Sir Rbt Long, Mr George Horley, Mr Talbot, his son, Mr Popham, Sam Jones, H. Hungerford E. Bainton, F. Barnes, and I
24 August din'd at Liddiard, Sir Robert Long ...
28 August Mr and Mrs St. John din'd at Totnam
2 September I [and nieces] went to Liddiard Church, din'd at Mr St.Johns, Sir Mark Pleydell, Mr Edmund Pleydell, and Counsellor Pleydell
5 September I din'd at Ld Hertford's, Mr St.John ...
7 September mett Mr St.John at Broad Hinton, called at Rockley. Clubb Lord Bruce, Mr StJohn [and others]
16 September I went to Liddiard Church. Din'd with Mr StJohn. Drank tea at Mr Smith's [rectory]
18 September Mr and Mrs StJohn and Mr Smith din'd at Tockenham
22 September met Mr StJohn and Mr Smith hunting at Midghall, din'd at Lidiard
6 October Mr StJohn met me hunting at Fastem, then din'd and supp'd, Mrs StJohn, Mr Smith
15 October I went to Mr St.John's at Lydiard
23 October Mr and Mrs St.John brokefast and din'd at Tockenham
- 1740** 4 January [London] Din'd at Albemarle Street
25 January I din'd at Mr St.John's
6 February I din'd with Mr John
10 February I went to Liddyard Church. Din'd with Mr St.John, drank tea at Mr Smith's
19 February Mr St.John and Mr Smith din'd at Totnam
24 February I went to Liddiard, lay there
25 February To Compton, din'd Mr Goddard's at Swindon, lay at Liddyard
5 March Mr and Mrs St.John and Mr Smith at Tockenham

- 13-24 March [London] Din'd at Albemarle Street
- 9 April I din'd at Liddyard Mr Goddard, Mr Brinsden, Mr Smith
- 11 April Mr St.John, Mr Smith at Tockenham
- 16 April Mr St.John went to London
- 22 April Mr St.John and Mr Smith din'd at Tockenham
- 16 May Mr St.John and Mr Smith at Tockenham in the morning
- 18 May I went to Liddiard Church, din'd with Mr St.John
- 20 May Land Tax meeting to appoint assessors at Wooton Mr St.John ...
- 24 May Mr St.John din'd with us
- 2 June I was at the Crown at Swindon Mr St.John ... [Justices]
- 4 June I went with John Jacob by Broad Hinton to Ruckley and Marlboro' to Mr Greenfields at Ogborn Mr St. John
- 26 June To Tocknam with the funeral of my dear friend. Mr St.John ...
- 1 July Mr St.John at Lacock, Mrs St.John din'd. They staid with us past 11 at night
- 13 July I went [with nieces] to Lyddiard Church, din'd at Mr St.Johns
- 18 July Mr and Mrs St.John, Mr Smith din'd at Tocknam
- 28 July Clubb [at Marlborough] Lord Bruce ... Mr StJohn. Assembly at night
- 2 August Mr St.John to Tockenham
- 12 August Mr and Mrs St.John at breakfast. Mr Smith
- 18 August Mr St.John in the morning. Mr Smith
- 20 August Lord Rockingham came to Lydiard
- 22 August I din'd at Liddiard Lord and Lady Rockingham, Mr Smith, Captain George Fumese
- 25 August Mr St.John in the evening
- 29 August Mr and Mrs and Mr Frederick [aged 8] St.John din'd at Charlton and Mr Smith.
I came home at even
- 14 September I din'd at Mr St.Johns. At Mr Smith's afternoon
- 16 September Mr and Mrs and Mr Frederick St.John Mr and Mrs Smith din'd at Tockenham
- 24 September We all din'd at Mr St.Johns
- 12 November Mr and Mrs St.John went to London
- 1741** 9 April [London] We din'd at Audley Stret
- 12 June I brokefast at Mr St.John's
- 16 June Mr St.John and Mr Smith to Marshfield
- 1 July Mr and Mrs St.John to breakfast and din'd
- 14 September Commission at Purton at the Black Lion [The Angel] about Sir John Askew's will. Mr St.John ...
- 16 September Mr and Mrs St.John ... din'd at Tocknam
- 23 October I din'd with Mr St.John
- 1742** 11 March [London] I went to Mr St.John's
- 17 March Went to see Masks at Mr St.John's
- 19 March Lord St.John died. He was bom 6 October 1652
- 4 June [London] I brokefast with Lord and Lady St.John
- 7 June Lord and Lady St.John came to Liddiard
- 29 June I was at Liddiard, Lord and Lady St.John
- 3 July Lord and Lady St.John and Master St.John ... din'd with us
- 4 July Mr Smith, his father and family went hastely to London with Master St. John
- 5 July I call'd at Liddiard. Meeting of Commissioners at the Crown, Swindon. Lord St.John [and others]
- 17 July Clubb at Marlborough. Lord Aylesford, Lord StJohn. Lord Barrington, Sir Robt Long ...

23 July	Lord St.John,... and I din'd at Sir Robt Long's
27 July	Lord and Lady StJohn, Mrs Soame, Sir R. Long ... and I din'd at Mr Love's
4 August	Lord Barrington, Sir Mark Pleydell, Miss Pleydell, Miss Soame and I din'd at Liddiard
13 August	Clubb at Marlborough
16 August	Lord and Lady St.John and Mrs Soame din'd at Tocknam
9 September	Lord and Lady St.John brokefast at Tockenham. His Lordship went to Bath by way of Lacock, Her Ladyship to see Bradenstoke. She din'd with us.

APPENDIX 2

The Will of Henry St. John, Viscount St. John

[Page 1] In the name of God Amen I Henry Lord Viscount St.John Baron of Battersea being in good Health and of sound and perfect Memory for which I Bless God Do make and Declare this my last Will and Testament in manner following that is to say First I Recommend my Spirit into the hands of Almighty God & my Body I Committ to the Grave hoping for a Blessed Resurrection unto Life Eternal at the last Day in and through the Meritts and Mediation of my Blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ I desire to be Buryed in the Vault in the Chancel of the parish Church of Battersea in the County of Surry and that my Executrix and Executor hereinafter named Do not Exceed Three hundred pounds to Defray the Expences of my Funeral my Desire being to be Buryed Decently but not Splendidly Item I Give and bequeath unto my Eldest Son Henry St.John late Lord Viscount Bolingbroke All my Household Goods and Furniture that shall be in my House at Lydiard Tregoze in the County of Wilts at the time of my Decease Except the pictures that shall be there at the time of my Decease which are to Remaine and Continue in my said House at Lydiard Tregoze as heire Looms Item I also Give and bequeath unto my said Eldest Son my Household Goods Books & Furniture (Except my plate and Linnen of all sorts) that shall be in my House at Battersea in the County of Surry at the time of my Decease, the pictures that shall be there at the time of my Decease I leave as Heire Looms to Remain and Continue in my said House at Battersea Item I Give and bequeath unto my Son John St.John Esqr Three hundred pounds towards Renewing and Adding a new life Instead of my own in the Lease he holds at Battersea under the Archb~~ishop~~ of Yorke I also Give him my Gold Watch and Seales and the Dutchesse of Clevelands picture I also Give & bequeath unto the Reverend James Smith of Lydiard Tregoze in the County of Wilts Clerk Thomas Osborne of the parish of St. Andrew Holborne in the County of Middlesex Gent and Joseph Monis of the parish of St.George Hanover Square in the said County of Middlesex Gent the Sume of Tenn thousand pounds Upon trust and Confidence that they or the Survivor of them and the Executors *[Page 2]* or Adminstrators of such Survivor Do and shall as soon as Conveniently after my Decease my Executrix and Executor hereinafter named can pay the same Invest the same in three per Cent Annuities or place the same on such Reall Security or Securityes as shall be with the Approbation of my said Son John St.John & my Son in Law Robert Knight Esqr and apply and pay the Interest of the said Tenn thousand pounds as the same shall from time to time become Due and payable unto my Daughter Henrietta Knight Wife of the said Robert Knight During her life to and for her own proper Separate Use and benefitt notwithstanding her Coverture [*dependence upon her husband*] and her Receipt from time to time to be a Sufficient Discharge to the said Trustees for the same And upon this further Trust and Confidence that the said Trustees Do and shall Imediately after the Decease of my said Daughter Henrietta Knight pay the said Sume of Tenn thousand pounds unto and amongst such of my Grand Children Frederick Henry and Anne St.John Sonns and Daughter of my said Son John St.John and my Grand Children Henry and Henrietta Knight Son and Daughter of the said Robert Knight as shall be living at the time of the Decease of my said Daughter Henrietta Knight Share and Share alike And my Desire is that my said Trustees be allowed out of the produce of the said Trust money all reasonable Costs charges and Expences and that they shall not be answerable for the loss of any of the said money unless by their

Wilful neglect or Default nor be Answerable the one for the other but each of them for his own Receipt act and Deed only. I Give to my said Son John StJohn and his Wife to each of them Fifty pounds for mourning I also Give to the said Robert Knight Fifty pounds for mourning I Give and bequeath to my Dear Sister Mistress Anne Cholmondley Fifty pounds for mourning I Give and bequeath unto my neice Mistress Jane Sarah Soame One hundred pounds and thirty pounds for mourning Item I Give and bequeath unto the said Thomas Osborne for his Long and Faithfull Service to me One hundred pounds & for his Trouble in Collecting and Receiving the Rents that shall or may be in arreare at the time of my Decease from my Tenants at [Page 3] Battersea and Wandsworth in the County of Surry the Sume of Forty pounds Item I Give and bequeath unto my old Servant Jacob Wale for his long and Faithfull Service One hundred pounds And to my Servant Joseph Monis for his long and Faithfull Service One hundred pounds and I desire he may Collect and Receive the arreares of Rent that shall or may be Due from any of my Tenants in Wiltshire at the time of my Decease and for his trouble I Give him the Sume of Forty pounds I also Give him all my Wearing Apparell both Woollen and Linnen Item I give unto Richard Clewer my late Servant Forty pounds I also Give unto my Servant Oliver Peice Twenty pounds I also Subject my personal Estate to the payment of One Annuity of Tenn pounds a yeare for the maintenance of my old Servant Jonathan Horrox during his natural life to be paid half yearly the first payment thereof to begin and be paid Six months after my Decease Item I Give to Lady Soame & Mistress Jane Merrick to each of them Thirty pounds for mourning And I do hereby Give & bequeath to all my Meniall Servants (Except those mentioned in my Will) who are liveing with me in my House in Albemarle Street at the time of my Decease One yeares Wages over and above what shall be then Due to them Item I give to the poor of the French Church of the Savoy Fifty pounds to be paid soon after my Decease Item I Give unto the Free Schoole in Wandsworth in the County of Surry Forty pounds I also Give for Cloathing twenty poor persons of the parish of Lydiard Tregoze in the County of Wilts Forty pounds to be laid out by the Direction of Joseph Monis and the Minister and Church Wardens of the said parish for the time being I also Give for Cloathing ten poor persons of the parish of Lydiard Millicent or North Lydiard Twenty pounds to be laid out by the Direction of the said Joseph Morris and the Minister and Church Wardens of the said parish for the time being I also Give for Cloathing tenn poor persons of the parish of Battersea aforesaid not Receiving Alms of the said parish Twenty pounds to be paid into the hands of the Reverend George Osborne and the Church Wardens of the said parish for the time being And lastly I Do hereby Give and bequeath (after my Debts Funeral [Page 4] Charges and the severall Legacies herein before by me Given and Bequeathed are paid) All the rest and Residue of my personall Estate Stock Horses Cattle Wood Timber plate Jewells Household Goods and Chattells whatsoever and wheresoever and also all Rents and Arreares of Rents that shall be Due and owing unto me at my Decease unto my said Daughter Henrietta Knight and her Assignes to and for her own proper and Separate Use notwithstanding her Coverture to which the said Robert Knight her Husband by writing under his hand and Seale hath Consented And I Do hereby nominate and appoint my said Daughter Henrietta Knight and the said Thomas Osborne Executrix and Executor of this my last Will and Testament and do hereby Revoke all former Wills by me heretofore made In Witness whereof I the said Henry Lord Viscount StJohn to the Bottom of each Sheet of this my Will containing four Sheets of peper and Fixed together at the Top have sett my hand and to this last Sheet and at the Top have sett my hand and Seale the thirteenth Day of October In the twelfth yeare of the Reigne of his Majesty King George the second over Great Britain &c King and in the yeare of our Lord One thousand Seven hundred and thirty eight

StJohn

Signed Sealed published & Declared by the said Henry Lord Viscount StJohn the Testator as & for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who at his Desire & in his presence In Testimony thereof have hereunto sett our hands as Wee have likewise to a Duplicate of this present will which was also in Our presence & at the same time Signed

Sealed published & Declared by the said Testator

Peter Soame [*cousin*]

John Ludbey

Geo: Osborne [*vicar of Battersea 1727-1739*]

[*Endorsement*]

Testator died in April last and was of the Parish of St. George, Hannover Square, Middlesex

APPENDIX 3

The Will of John St. John, Viscount St. John

[*Page 1*] In the Name of God Amen. I John Lord Viscount St John Baron of Battersea in the County of Surry being in good health of body and of Sound and disposing Mind and Memory praised be God for the same Do make and declare this to be my last Will and Testament in manner and Form Following that is to say Imprimis I Will that my Body be decently but privately Interred in the Vault in the parish Church of Lydiard Tregoze in the County of Wilts as near to my late Dear Wife as conveniently can be And I do Order and direct that a Monument shall be Erected in the South East Corner of the Chancell of the said Church in Memory of my said Dear Wife and myself According to the Draft enclosed in this my Will with an English Inscription only, to Shew to whose Memory the same was Erected Item Whereas I have by Deed Poll under my hand and Seal bearing date the Sixteenth day of June Instant Covenanted effectually to Secure out of my personal Estate the Sum of Five Thousand pounds for the benefitt of my Younger Children and to discharge the several Messuages Lands Tenements and Hereditaments in the Countys of Surry Wilts and Kent of an from the payment of the Sum of Four Thousand pounds part of the Sum of Twenty Thousand pounds provided by my Marriage Settlement on my late Wife Ann Lady Viscountess St John to be Secured for the portion or portions of the younger Child or Children of that Marriage Now I the said John Lord Viscount St John do hereby certifie and Confirm the said Deed Poll and charge my Personal Estate in the First place with the payment thereof Item Whereas I have entreated my good Friend the Right Honourable Robert Lord Luxborough and Henry Furnese Esquire to Accept and take upon them the Trust and Trouble of the Executorship of this my Will and for the Sake of my Children the Guardianship of them also I do therefore give unto each of them the said Lord Luxborough and Henry Fumese the Sum of One hundred Guineas each to purchase some small Trifle whereby they may remember their friend which I desire their Acceptance of not as an adequate recompense for the Favour they do me and the trouble they may have in my Affairs which (considering I have several younger Children) is by no means in my power to ?make them but as a gratefull tho' very small Acknowledgement of their regard for me and my Familly Item I give and bequeath unto my Servant Mary Dorrell and her Assigns (for her long and Faithfull Services) One Annuity or clear Yearly Sum of Fifty Pounds free of Taxes to be issuing and payable out of all my Real and personal Estates and to be paid and payable to her by Four quarterly payments in the Year that is to say the Twenty Fifth day of March the Twenty Fourth day of June the Twenty Ninth day of September and the Twenty Fifth day of December by equal portions in each Year for and during the Tenn of her natural life the first payment thereof to begin and be made on such of the said days as shall first and next happen after my Decease Item I give and bequeath unto the Reverend Mr Thomas Clarke Rector of Beckenham in the County of Kent the Sum of Fifty pounds of lawfull Mony of Great Britain as a small remembrance for his kind Services And to Mr Philip Worlidge the Sum of Thirty pounds to buy him Mourning And I also give unto my Servant Francis Munde the Sum of Twenty pounds to buy him Mourning over and above such Sum or Sums of Mony as shall be due to him for Wages or otherwise from me at the time of my decease Item all the rest residue and remainder of my Estates both Real and Personal of what nature or kind soever the same shall be or Consist or wheresoever Scituate lying and being I do give devise bequeath the same unto my Son Frederick St John his Heirs Executors

Administrators and Assigns for ever Subject nevertheless and chargeable with the payment of the said Sum of Five Thousand pounds the said Annuity or Yearly Sum of Fifty pounds hereby given to the said Mary Dorrell for her life and to the payment of all my Just debts and the Legacys given by this my Will [Page 2] And Lastly I do hereby Nominate Constitute and Appoint the said Robert Lord Luxborough and Henry Furnese Esquire Executors of this my Will and also Guardians of my Children during their Minority hereby revoking all former and other Wills by me at any time heretofore made declaring this only to be my last Will and Testament In Witness whereof I the said John Lord Viscount St John the Testator have to two parts of this my Will contained in two Sheets of paper each part to each Sheet whereof I have Set my hand and to the First and last Sheets of each part my Seal this Nineteenth day of June in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Forty Eight and in the Twenty Second Year of the reign of Our Sovereign Lord King George the Second over Great Britain and so forth

St John

Signed Sealed Published and Declared by the said Testator as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of Us who have Subscribed our Names as Witnesses hereto in the presence of the Said Testator and of each of us
H: Pulteney
Alg: Frampton
Thos: Berry

Whereas I the before named John Lord Viscount StJohn by this present Writing which I declare to be a Codicill to and part of my last Will and Testament and Order and Direct the same to be taken as such and proved at the same time therewith Do Give and Bequeath unto my Dear Wife Hester Viscountess St John the Sum of One Thousand pounds of lawfull Mony of Great Britain to be paid to her as soon as conveniently may be after my decease out of my Personal Estate And I do also give and bequeath unto my said Wife the several things Specified and Contained in a Memorandum wrote with my own hand and dated the Thirtieth day of June last and Inclosed in part of my Will In Witness whereof I the said John Lord Viscount StJohn have to two parts of this Codicill Set my hand and Seal this Seventeenth day of August One Thousand Seven hundred and Forty Eight and in the Twenty Second Year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lord King George the Second over Great Britain &c

StJohn

Signed Sealed Published and Declared by the said John Lord Viscount St John as and for a Codicill to his last Will and Testament in the presence of Us who have Subscribed our Hands as Witnesses hereto
James Mathias
Thos. Berry

[Page 3] June 30th 1748 Memorandum

Be it Known to those it may Concern after my Death, that I John Lord StJohn did give to my Present Wife Hester Viscountess StJohn in my Life time the Following things hereunder written & which I have Sett down that no demand may be made but what is right & Equitable on her Side or any thing refused her which She can claim by my Gifts, & to avoid all disputes Viz
a Brilliant Girdle Buckle Square
a Little pearl Neclace of 6 rows small pearl
a Turkey work'd Handkerchief in Colours
a Sett of Tea China Compleat bought by me at Bath in June 1748
a fine japan Nest of Boxes in the form of a Little Chest
My Picture in Enamel & Locket Do. my Hair
a Gold Repeating Watch & Gold Etui with their appurtinances

[Page 4] Register this before the Act

2d February 1748 [1748/9]

On which Day Appeared Personally Philip Worlidge of the Parish of St. Michael Cornhill London Gentleman & Thomas Berry of the same parish Gentleman and by virtue of their corporate Oaths deposed That they were well acquainted with the Right Honourable John Lord Viscount St. John Baron of Battersea in the County of Surry deceased for several years next before & until the time of his Death (which happened in the Month of November last past as these Deponents have been informed and believe) and also with his manner & character of hand writing having often seen & carefully perused a Testamentary Schedule or Codicil of the said Deceased hereunto annexed beginning this June 30th 1748 Memorandum Be it known to those it may concern & ending thus My Picture in Enamel & a Locket Do my Hair a Gold repeating Watch & Gold Etui with their appurtenances Do verily believe the whole Series of the said Testamentary Schedule or Codicil to be all of the proper handwriting of the said Right Honourable John Lord Viscount St. John deceased

Ph: Worlidge

Thos. Berry

On the same day the said Philip Worlidge & Thomas Berry were sworn to the truth of the abovescribed Affidavit before me

Chas. Pinfold

Surrogate

Cust. John Smith Notary Publick

[Page 5]

25th January 1748 [1748/9]

The Right Honourable Robert Lord Luxborough one of the Executors within named (Power reserved to Henry Furnese Esqr the other Executor) was Sworn before me

G Paul Surrogate

26th January 1748

Henry Furnese Esqr. the other Executor was sworn before me

Robt Chapman Surrogate

Smith

The Right Honourable John Lord Viscount St. John Baron of Battersea in the County of Surry died in November last at Naples

This is not to be Registered

Memorandum This Will & Codicil annexed were on the twenty fifth day of January 1748/9 taken out of a Cover sealed with the Anns of the late Right Honourable John Lord Viscount St. John deceased by the underwritten in the presence of the Right Honourable Robert Lord Luxborough One of the Executors named in the said Will & which said Cover is here unto annexed & the said Will was at the same time compared with a Duplicate thereof by us the underwritten writing our hands

Philip Worlidge

John Smith

Proved at London with a Codicil and Memorandum

annex'd the Fourth of February 1748 before the

Judge by the Oaths of the Rt. honourable Robert Lord Luxborough

and Henry Furnese Esqr Executors being first sworn duly

to Administer to wit the said Right honourable Robert Lord

Luxborough before the Worshipfull George Paul and

Henry Furnese Esqr before the Worshipfull Robert Chapman

Doctors of Laws Surrogates

FOR THE LOVE OF AN ANGEL

by Mark and Lorraine Child

If you go through the 18th- and 19th-century registers of births for Lydiard Tregoze, or any other villages for that matter, you will find that most of the families had their share of illegitimate children. Some, like the Strange family of Hook, the Leighfields of Wootton Bassett, and the Goughs of Cliffe Pypard who became related by marriage, had more than the average. It was an occupational hazard for daughters in service or for those living cheek-by-jowl with lusty farm workers in outlying groups of cottages. It was not uncommon in some families for a whole generation of sisters to give birth out of wedlock as if it was inevitable, or for girls to produce a succession of 'base born' offspring before being brought to the altar. No less shame though and no mitigating circumstances, as some vicars were moved to remark with appropriate annotations to the parish registers. Those unmarried girls whose parents brought up their illegitimate grandchildren were the lucky ones, able to continue as dairymaids or servants until they found some nice young man. He to make an honest woman of a fallen one, and give her a succession of their own children. Only very rarely did the fact of illegitimacy cause any sort of identity crisis. For the Angell family of Lydiard Tregoze, however, the repercussions were immense.

It was while investigating the Strange family that we began to notice register entries for Angel and Love; the names inexplicably interchangeable. There had to be a scandal behind this. Experience suggested that if it was caused by an illegitimacy we would have to search before the mid-late 19th century period when such was common enough in the Lydiards to be of little concern. In fact, a single branch of the Angell family were in Lydiard Tregoze in the early 1700s. From the mid-18th century other Angel surnames appear sporadically in the Lydiard Tregoze records although without any apparent link. We found that what we were looking for in the family of Thomas Angell (d. 1756) and his wife Sarah. They appear to have had four daughters; Sarah (b. 1720) who lived for less than two months, another baptised Sarah in late 1721, Martha (bp. 1730), and Mary (bp. 1732), each with the surname Angell.

In about 1760 there came upon the scene a travelling road mender named John Luff. He was born in Market Lavington, where the family name was variously spelt Luff or Luffe in the registers. He seems to have taken Martha's fancy, or she his, and in 1761 she gave birth to a son who, in 1763, was baptised Joseph Angell. There is no hard evidence that John Luff was the father, although the hiatus which followed swings the balance of probability.

Just over three weeks after Joseph was baptised, Martha married John, whose surname was recorded at Lydiard Tregoze as 'Love alias Luff, on 14 July 1763. Whilst this suggests he was the father, it is not clear why the marriage was delayed, since Martha had long been of age. Perhaps Luff had in the meantime moved on to other roads, unaware of Martha's pregnancy or of the child. Perhaps he was unwilling to accept his responsibilities and only did so when faced with the alternative of a legally imposed affiliation order. The marriage also raises another interesting point. Why did John marry at Lydiard Tregoze as 'Love alias Luff', when generations of the family at Market Lavington had been quite content with just Luff(e)? Whatever the reason, it immediately provided a surname which had not previously been recorded. 'Alias Luff' was dropped after the wedding, and John accepted the single surname of Love. What happened to him is uncertain, although a John Love was buried at Lydiard Tregoze in 1768.

With the marriage between John and Martha came a problem - what surname to give the child Joseph. They settled on Joseph Angell (1761-1840), but he was always in two minds about his own surname.

At some time during his life - probably after 1793 - he forsook Angell, and was eventually buried as Love. The two women he married, Sarah Torvey (d.1806) in 1787 and Rachel Hedges (d. 1838) in 1806, thereafter each took the single surname Angel. For their children matters were not so clear. The children of the illegitimate Joseph and Sarah were baptised Gabriel Angel (1790-1825), Elizabeth Angel (bp. 1793), Joseph Angel or Love (bp. 1798), and Thomas Angel or Love (bp. 1800). Joseph Angell was married again within eleven months of his first wife's death; his second wife Rachel produced Abraham Angel (b. 1807) and John Angel (bp. privately 14 May 1808 and publicly 11 September 1808). It looked as if Martha's son, after toying for a while with Love, had temporarily at least reverted to Angel. He outlived both of his wives, who were each buried as Angel, which unhappy circumstances may perhaps have had something to do with his own final change to Love.

Sarah Torvey's offspring were also uncertain. Her first son, Joseph Angel or Love also married twice, taking first Martha Willes (1795-1835) in 1817 and then Kezia(h) Spencer (1819-1893) in 1836 as Joseph Angel. By the 1841 and subsequent Censuses Joseph Angel or Love had settled for Joseph Love as his name. His children by Martha were Joseph (bp. 1825), Hannah (bp. 1828), and Betsy (bp. 1835), each of them registered as Angel or Love. Hannah (Angel or Love) seemed all set to further confuse the issue by producing an illegitimate child of her own - Arabella Love (bp. 1848) - before marrying Charles Ody (1828-1851) as Hannah Angel.

With Kezia, his second wife, Joseph Angel or Love had a further three children, all registered as Angel or Love - Ann (bp.1837) who married James Beasant, George (bp.1841) who married Mary Ann Tuck in 1868, and Martha (bp. 1843) who married Uriah Burchell in 1860. (The 1881 Census for Lydiard Tregoze gives George's surname as 'Love'.)

Meanwhile Sarah Torvey's other son, Thomas Angel or Love, married Mary Cripps (b. 1806) in 1825. They were to have ten children at mostly two-year intervals, all taking the 'Angel or Love' surname: Thomas (bp. 1827), Charles (bp. 1828), Susannah (bp. 1830), James (bp. 1832), Simeon (bp. 1835), Edward (bp.1837), Sarah (bp. 1839), Elizabeth (bp. 1841), Jessey (bp. and d. 1845), and Mary Jane (bp. 1847).

Of the illegitimate Joseph's marriage to Rachel Hedges, firstborn Abraham Angel (b. 1807) married Christian Barnes (b. 1801) in 1825. He was a Bolingbroke estate gardener. The child of this union was Caroline Angel alias Love (bp. 1826) who married John Strange (1822-1886) in 1846. This first incursion of the Angels into another large Hook family was to contribute only five children: Sarah (b. 1846), Eliza (b. 1848) who married William Jack, Abraham (b. 1851). Edwin (b. 1856), and Edward (b.1857).

Rachel Hedges' other son by Thomas Angel or Love, John Angel (bp. twice in 1808) married Mary Ann Watson (1810-1880) of Wootton Bassett in 1828. By the 1861 Census he was a wood dealer. They also had ten children who were registered with different surname arrangements. First came Elijah Angel (b. 1829) who married Sarah Morse in 1849 as Elijah Love alias Angel. Rachel's next child was John Love (bp. 1833) who married Elizabeth - - (1830-1910) of Wootton Bassett. Then came Mary Angel or Love (1836-1839), Edwin Angel or Love (1839-1851), Keziah Love (bp. 1842), Louisa Love (bp. 1842), Julia Angel or Love (bp. 1847), George Love (bp. 1848), and Abraham Angel or Love (bp. 1849) who had not married by the time of the 1871 Census.

Of the above children, John had clearly had enough of the silliness over Angel and Love. Whatever course his brothers and sisters intended to follow with their offspring - or his cousins for that matter, who were still using the dual name - his nine children were all registered as 'Love'. First came Charles (b. 1858), then Henry James (b.1860). Then came Elijah (bp.1861), Thomas (bp.1866), Simeon

(bp. 1866), Arthur (bp. 1868), and Emily (bp. 1870) who in 1888 produced an illegitimate daughter Mabel Annie Love. The eighth child was Anna or Hannah Love (bp. 1873), and finally Mary Ann (bp. 1875). John's second child Henry James Love (1860-1947) married Mary Anne Strange (1863-1946) in 1882. This was the second time that the two families had intermarried. It is interesting to note that just as Abraham Angel was Lord Bolingbroke's gardener in 1825, so too was Henry James Love almost sixty years later.

So what did it take to cause all this controversy? An unsuitable liaison at an inappropriate time? An outraged family? a clearly illiterate, itinerate labourer? And a rector or a parish clerk, perhaps too persuasive, perhaps too fed up with the umpteenth person who couldn't spell his own name, or maybe anxious to give the couple a fresh start. The one thing for certain, though, is that without this history the whole family might yet be calling themselves Luff.

THE LAST CRUSADE

by Denis Pitcher

[The story of Henry Mildmay St.John's journey from Lydiard Park to Gallipoli 1915. The full typescript of 140 pages and bibliography can be consulted at Lydiard Park - Lyd 1996/13. This article adapts and quotes from eleven pages of the typescript. Captain StJohn (d. 1957) was the eldest son of Lady Bolingbroke, and many of their letters have survived. Mr Pitcher has researched widely to set these letters in context, thereby creating a lively and very stimulating account of the experiences of one volunteer in the first World War. Readers will have to consult the full typescript for Mr Pitcher's account of the bungling and slaughter which marked the Gallipoli campaign.]

What of the make-up of this vast volunteer army? At the turn of the century the gaps between the varied classes were wide but clearly defined. The rural peasant class still existed, but the towns bred a new mass of workers who laboured in the factories and mines. The middle classes were the professional men and managers who had blossomed with increasing commerce and industrialisation. The upper classes still consisted mainly of landed gentry, living in the castles, mansions, and manor houses which dotted the rich rolling countryside. All classes flocked to the colours for a variety of reasons but through them all was a sense of national honour. Upon enlistment the officer cadre sprang from the upper class and to a lesser extent from the middle class. It was an accepted fact that the landed gentry were born to lead. At the outbreak of the war they left their estates, schools, and universities, and went into the services where they were immediately commissioned as officers.

One of the members of the aristocracy who went to war and ended up in the Dardanelles wrote to his mother on a regular basis and many of the letters were preserved and came to light when his wife died in 1985. The author of these letters was Henry Mildmay StJohn, who was born in 1882 the son of Henry Mildmay, 5th Viscount Bolingbroke and 6th Viscount StJohn (1820-1899). Lord Bolingbroke was an eccentric man and was known to have lived in London with a woman called Ellen Medex for a time. They had one daughter, but no trace of a marriage was ever found although they lived in London as Mr and Mrs Morgan until 'Mrs Morgan' died. Lord Bolingbroke returned to Lydiard Park, where he lived with his housekeeper Mary Howard. They had two sons before they were married in 1893, and three years later another son was born. The first son, Henry, was born when his father was sixty-two. Charles, the second son, was born when his father was sixty-eight, and the third son, the eventual viscount, was born when his father was seventy-six. Their father died when Henry was seventeen, and their mother raised the family.

Henry did not attend any school, receiving his education through tutors. Only Charles went to school, at Newbury Grammar School. None of the brothers had a job prior to the War, and spent their time at Lydiard assisting Teddy Hiscock, the Estate Manager, in various tasks around the estate. It is a matter of conjecture what would have happened to the three brothers if the War had not broken out in 1914.

In 1914 Henry was nearly thirty-two years old, older than the average recruit, and was enlisted as a Lieutenant in the 11th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment. He joined up at Abbey Wood in South-east London on 26 November 1914, and was gazetted as Captain on 8 January 1915. His quick promotion was, no doubt, due to his age. The battalion moved around the London area before arriving at Betchworth, Surrey, on 19 April, at the time the Dardanelles force was approaching its landing day. Although Henry was not in those first landings, the resulting battle brought his battalion to the Gallipoli peninsula.

[In a letter to his mother, having returned from the peninsula to the rest camp, he wrote,]

I was reading your letter this morning and noted what you said about several people from our district being out in this part of the world, just afterwards one of my men came up to me and said there was an N.C.O. of the Wilts. Regt. who would like to speak to me.

I said all right, turned round, and who should I see but Sergeant Love who used to be at Starry' s and who lives, I think, at Great Field. I was very pleased to see him, it was quite a treat to have a chat with someone from my own parish.

Lady Bolingbroke wrote to him about another person whom he might meet, 'I received a very nice letter from Mr Kinchin whose nephew Stephen Kinchin is at the Dardanelles, he is going to look out for you.' In another letter Lady Bolingbroke wrote of her concern for him,

Is there anything that I can send dear? do say if I can, anything in the world I can get I will send you if you will only say - how very wretched it must be to be so worried by the nasty flies, dear - they are tiresome here sometimes but nothing like you have. A small paragraph appears in this week's North Wiltshire Herald of what took place at Wootton Bassett one hundred and fifty years ago [1765] when a Captain Henry StJohn, of those days, was promoted Lieut. Colonel. Several people round here were quite convinced it was you and it was rather difficult to convince them otherwise especially Willy who said - "I know 'tis 'e 'cause it says he is the brother of Viscount B" - you see they did not read the headline.

On 5 August Henry StJohn wrote a note to his mother explaining that he was going up to the trenches early the next morning and that it may be a little time before he could write again. He was with the 4th Worcesters who were involved in an attack, and in the very first moments he was hit by a bullet which penetrated both thighs. His part in the Dardanelles campaign came to an abrupt end within five weeks of reaching the front. Henry was lucky to have been only wounded.

In an earlier letter to his mother Henry had commented that a soldier wounded in France was much better off than a man wounded in the Dardanelles, and this was very true. Prior to the August offensive medical services in the Dardanelles were close to breakdown. It had not been possible, because of the small area and nature of captured territory, to put field hospitals on shore. The wounded had to lie in the open until help could reach them and suffered agonies as they were transported by horse-drawn ambulance or carried on a stretcher by their comrades on their way to the beach. When they reached the beach they could wait for hours in the heat and dust, plagued by flies, until they could be taken on tenders or lighters, not designed for such work, to the hospital ships. The seriously wounded had to be taken to Egypt or Malta if they were to have any chance of survival. War casualties had to compete with the large numbers of dysentery victims, and at times there was a great shortage of hospital ships. Henry was fortunate to be taken by sea to Alexandria.

On 23 August Lady Bolingbroke wrote to Henry as soon as she received the War Office telegram notifying her that he was in hospital with gunshot wounds. On 7 September he wrote to his mother from Alexandria with the news that he was being shipped home, one month after he had been wounded. Henry StJohn was one of the lucky casualties who survived the War. On 29 January 1916 he attended a Medical Board and was given two months' leave. He remained in the army for the rest of the war, but did not go overseas again. On 22 October 1920 he received notice of the relinquishment of his commission on completion of service but was allowed to retain the rank of Captain.

He lived at Lydiard for a time with his mother, but they lived very simply because there was little money to maintain the house. In fact the house had been neglected for many years. There was a total of fifty-one rooms but not one bathroom. After the War the big rooms such as the library, the morning room, and the drawing room were seldom used, and the family lived in the dining room which

combined as a sitting room near the kitchen. There was no electricity, and the roof needed repair. Lady Bolingbroke suffered from varicose ulcers of the legs, which persisted and meant that she was bedridden for long periods during the war and in her later life. She seldom left the house. Henry's youngest brother, Vernon, succeeded to the Bolingbroke and StJohn viscounties after he had established before the Committee for Privileges of the House of Lords that he was the rightful heir to the titles.

In 1932, at the age of fifty, Henry married Miss Joan Daubeny. He never took up any profession, spending some years looking after an estate [near Bath], During the second World War he served in the Civil Defence, and also worked for the American forces stationed in the West of England.

Lady Bolingbroke died in 1940, and Lydiard Park was sold to Swindon Corporation. The 4,000 acres of the estate had been sold off over the years. Henry and Joan lived in Devonshire, where Henry died, aged 75, in 1957 and Joan in 1985 when she was over 90 years of age.

THE LYDIARDS TWINNING ASSOCIATION

by John and Nene Whittaker

Our Beginning

We, the Lydiards, are twinned with villages in Normandy, France, and our link is a very ancient one, which makes us unique. Most towns twin through their local Councils, and receive financial backing. Our link reaches back to the time of William the Conqueror, 1066, and we have received no financial help. We are proud to be self-supporting.

Our Ancient Link

After Duke William of Normandy (William the Conqueror) launched the conquest of England in 1066, numerous folk who came to this country from France then or in later years were sur-named from their places of origin. Thus, those who came from Troisgots in Normandy were called 'de Troisgots'. spelt in various ways and eventually anglicised to 'de Tregoz'. Lydiard Tregoze was originally 'Lediard' at the time of the Domesday Book in 1086. It became Lydiard Ewyas, in 1100, from the Barony of Ewyas of which it was a part. The last of the male line of the Ewyas family* died in 1198, and the estate passed to his daughter Sybil, who had married Robert of Troisgots, a descendant of William de Tregoz, who held lands in Normandy around 1140. So, the name of the estate became Lydiard Tregoze. *NOTE: added by Sonia St.John - Robert de Ewyas died 1198 and William his son d. 1215. The estate passed to Sybil de Ewyas in 1215.

Our Present-Day Link

Our present association with the eight Communes which are part of the Canton of Tessy-sur-Vire and with which we are twinned, began in the village of Troisgots in the summer of 1979, when Tony Jepps, who is our President now, was travelling overland to Paris. He carried with him a letter of introduction from our then-rector of St.Mary's church, Canon Jim Free, to the curé at Troisgots. Correspondence between Tregoze and Troisgots flourished through the years, and finally, in July 1988, a small party from Troisgots came to the Lydiards, staying with local families. In April 1989, a visit by the Lydiards to the Troisgots area followed, hosted by families in the Canton of Tessy-sur-Vire. Our official Twinning had started! There is reference to Robert of Tregoz in both St.Mary's church, Lydiard Tregoze, and La Chapelle-sur-Vire in Troisgots, which was and still is visited by many pilgrims.

So, the formation of The Lydiards and District Twinning Association actually began gradually, with visits of individuals and groups to and from Troisgots, Normandy. Many friendships were cemented long before the official Twinning. Those friendships still thrive today. We took time to think hard and long about being twinned, and having made the decision to officially twin, we were then involved in a lot of fund-raising and meetings. A committee was formed and all the usual spade-work was done - with great enthusiasm and enjoyment. We are a very strong group with a good, solid Committee. One reason for our strength is that we are all involved, and all 'pull together'.

May 1990 saw the return to the Lydiards of our French friends to celebrate with us the Ceremony of Friendship and Amity, which took place in Wootton Bassett Memorial Hall, this being the only hall in the area large enough to accommodate all the French and English friends who wished to attend. By now, numbers on both sides had grown considerably. The ceremony was likened to an 'engagement' between our two communities. To mark the seriousness of the occasion, Charters of Friendship and Amity in French and English were signed by local dignitaries from both sides, after which the Mayor of Wootton Bassett proposed a toast to 'Friendship'. A most impressive ceremony was followed by a grand meal and a fun-filled evening.

May 1991 saw the Official Twinning launched with an even more impressive ceremony held in

Tessy-sur-Vire, the principal town of the Canton (similar to our Districts). The villages of Lydiard Tregoze and Lydiard Millicent were now twinned with six villages in the Canton of Tessy - Troisgots, Fervaches, Le Mesnil Opac, St.Louet-sur-Vire, Domjean, and Tessy-sur-Vire. Since then we have been joined by two more villages in the canton, Moyen and Le Mesnil Raoult. It should be noted that we are the Lydiards and District, with our members hailing from the Lydiards, Hook, Wootton Bassett, Lyneham, Purton, Purton Stoke, and Grange Park and Freshbrook in West Swindon. Our Constitution was a major project with the Committee working hard to cover all eventualities. We worked solidly for four evenings, presenting the draft twice to the members before getting agreement on a final draft.

The Constitution contains all aspects, and includes our aims and objectives, rules under which we operate, i.e. strength of committee, appointment of officers, meetings, voting powers, subscriptions, etc. So we became very legal and business-like. We started as a small, friendly group, became a club, and finally an Association with a flourishing membership.

Our Aims

In brief, our aims are to promote and foster friendship and understanding between our two countries; to encourage visits between groups and individuals, particularly children and young people; to develop personal contacts; and by doing so, to broaden the mutual understanding of the cultural, recreational, educational, and commercial activities of the linked districts.

We hold well-attended meetings at regular intervals and lots of social events, plus, of course, fund-raising - necessary for the occasions when we host our French friends and wine, dine, and entertain them royally. Our social events have included day outings and visits to places of interest, such as Portsmouth and the D Day Museum, a Winery at Newent in Gloucestershire, and the Eurotrain to experience the Chunnel and the shopping at Calais. We annually have very enjoyable Car Treasure Hunts, Skittles matches, and Barbecues. We held an all-day Summer Fete at Lydiard Millicent, and we supported, by sending the Lydiard Millicent Hand Chimes and Devizes Monis Dancers to Normandy, an English Garden Party put on in honour of the Lydiards Twinning Association. We celebrated Bastille Day a few years back with a magnificent Garden Party at Ponds Farm, Purton Stoke, and so the list goes on and on.

Because 'our' villages are in Normandy, near the D Day landing beaches, we feel very much part of the area, and we are treated with much respect and affection. We celebrated, with the French, the 50th anniversary week-end of D Day on 6 June 1994. We took with us three veterans of D Day 1944, members of our Twinning Association, and the celebrations were emotional and stilling -something never to be forgotten.

Our three veterans received commemorative medals from Dr A. Lemoine, a Deputy of the French Government, at a memorial service and mass in La Chapelle-sur-Vire. The service was conducted jointly in English and French by the Revd John Hopkins from Wootton Bassett and the young French curé. Approximately 500 people were in church.

On D Day itself a memorial service was held at the 43rd (Wessex) Division Memorial on Hill 112. (The Wiltshire Regiment was part of the Wessex Division.) Hill 112 was the scene of many days of bitter fighting, and we were touched to have present at the service, among others, the banner of the village of Evrecy which was completely obliterated during the action. The Maire of Esquay Notre Dame and his two deputies were also there with standards from other nearby villages. Wreaths were laid, both French and English, at the Memorial, and a very moving service was held by the Revd. John Hopkins, who was formerly Senior Chaplain of the Wessex Division. Unexpectedly, special commemorative medals were presented to our three veterans by the Maire of Esquay Notre Dame.

Towards the end of the proceedings, we were joined for a short while by the grandson of Marshal Foch, the First World War military leader. As the two minutes silence was observed, tears fell quietly, and memories were stored for ever.

We are very proud of the visits made to and from France by football teams, seniors and juniors. What an experience for the juniors to be at a match which they described as an 'International.'

For the past eight years Lydiard Millicent schoolchildren - aged ten and eleven -have visited one of our villages, Domjean, annually, and have benefitted immensely from this close study of life in a 'foreign' country, the language shock, etc., not to mention the educational visits to the Bayeux Tapestry, Villedieu Les Poeles with the oldest bell foundry in Europe, Mont St Michel, and the landing beaches. They also attend the school at Domjean and are given an insight into French culture from the Maire M. Guy Gauchet.

Finally, recognition must be given to the two ladies who have worked so tirelessly to make it all happen and to bring the Lydiards and District Twinning Association to be the successful and flourishing entity that it now is. On the English side, we have Mrs Diane Greenaway, who has inspired us all, and on the French side, Mme Denise Herv'e, two ladies with lots of energy and knowledge and a good command of each other's language. Both ladies have done us proud. Continuing to lead and inspire us is our present Chairman Mrs Anne Pretty.

We welcome new members, from all areas: we are a group for all ages, for singles and for families, and you don't need to speak French!

Further enquiries, do ring Mrs Anne Pretty on 01793-852887

SHORTER NOTE

1999 Annual Meeting

The Friends were privileged to have Claude Blair as speaker in 1999. He was Keeper in the Department of Metalwork in the Victoria and Albert Museum until his retirement in 1982, and is an international authority on firearms and armour. His expertise in these and so many other fields of archaeology was recognised by the Society of Antiquaries of London in 1998 when they presented him with their Gold Medal.

His talk to us was on the surviving work of Richard Hewse of Wootton Bassett, Gunsmith, Locksmith, and Clockmaker. On 24 July 1663 Sir Walter StJohn wrote to his steward at Lydiard, 'Lett Hughes the gunsmith of Wootten know that if hee send upp the Gunn Sir Gilbert Talbott wil have it'. [*Report* 28 (1995), p. 28.] Excellent illustrations, of guns, a lock, and the clock mechanism at St.Sampson's church, Cricklade showed that Hewse produced work that was not only of the very highest quality technically but was in no way provincial in style. Friends may read what Mr Blair has written on the subject in *The Eighth Park Lane Arms Fair*, 17-18 February 1991, pages 12-17, and in the *Journal* of The Anns and Armour Society, XV no. 1 (March 1995), pages 22-36. The Friends gained from hearing Mr Blair speak on his fascinating subject.

SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER 1999

A heat wave in February ensured that our first big event of the year, **The Spring Flower Show**, drew in unprecedented numbers of local people during half term. Having the house filled with flowers was so popular that it is now a regular calendar feature co-inciding with the well-known snowdrop displays in the Park.

Lydiard's team of **Museum Assistants** organise a special cafe in the Hall during the flower show and also during December when the Country House Christmas displays are up. Proceeds from the cafe enabled the museum to purchase an elegant Victorian cut-glass and silver oil lamp which can be seen on the Library desk. Sitting at the desk, anew **character figure of Henry, 5th Viscount Bolingbroke** in smoking cap and slippers complete with original pipe and writing paraphernalia has given many visitors quite a start.

Another realistic-looking feature to be installed is the **photographic replica of a painting by George Stubbs**, which shows Frederick St.John's favourite mare standing in front of the lake at Lydiard Park. The picture was originally painted to hang over the Library fireplace, but was sold by the late Lord Bolingbroke in 1943. The replica now hangs in that original position, and thanks are due to The British Sporting Trust for their part in this project.

The acquisition of original objects has included a 19th-century watercolour of a Rhineland scene with washerwoman which came from Lord Bolingbroke's estate. The picture, which has now been conserved, is hanging in the Bedchamber. A quite different exhibit, for use in future exhibitions, is a large stone jar stamped 'Tom Townsend Bolingbroke Anns Hook'. The jar was kindly donated by Friends member Malcolm Titcombe. A beautiful blue Wilton carpet has increased the appeal of the Drawing Room. The carpet was created for Lydiard several years ago, but environmental improvements had to be made before it could be laid.

The major project of the year has been to replace Lydiard's outdated storage heaters with a **controlled heating system**. The new system is more efficient and will create a better environment for the house and its furnishings. The work, which involved inserting pipes from the exterior of the building into

the window recesses, proved to be much more difficult than anticipated and occupied most of the summer period. We managed to keep the House open, with copious plastic sheets stopping the stone dust from spreading.

Conservation work in 1999 concentrated on the furniture collection, with several pieces which had become rather rickety being repaired. The broken plaster bust of Marcus Aurelius, which sits high up over the fireplace in the Hall, was finally mended in London, having defeated a previous team of conservators. This repair was kindly funded by The St. Andrew's Conservation Trust, as part of the Lydiard Treasure Forever Scheme.

One of the major achievements of **Treasure Forever** in 1999 was the conservation and display of the swords and ceremonial regalia which belonged to the 5th Viscount Bolingbroke, who was a Deputy Lieutenant of Wiltshire. A generous donation from a local benefactor funded the conservation work of these important objects which, due to their poor condition, were not previously on show to the public.

The development of measures to benefit visitors, in particular **visitors with disabilities**, are also underway. Several members of the Friends have taken part in a survey examining access into and around the House, and as a result plans for introducing sympathetically-styled ramps leading to the front entrance will shortly be commissioned and submitted to English Heritage for Listed Building Consent. The proposed works will also involve restoration of the stone paving and the reintroduction of appropriate planters and flowers at the front of the House.

As ever, I hope that many Friends will enjoy visiting Lydiard Park in 2000. There is a full programme of events and exhibitions which can be found in our community museum leaflets. **Shakespeare in the Park (July 21st-23rd)** offers summer evening entertainment with performances of 'As You Like It' and 'The Tempest'. Throughout August Lydiard will host an **exhibition of costumes from the BBC and major film productions of Jane Austen's novels and the recent Mrs Gaskell drama 'Wives and Daughters'**.

(.Please let us know if you want to be on the mailing list.)

With best wishes to all members of the Friends,

Sarah Finch-Crisp
Keeper of Lydiard House

*P.S. Those of you who have collected the **Reports of The Friends of Lydiard Tregoz** will be aware of their importance in contributing to the knowledge of Lydiard Park and the people connected with it. All unwanted back copies are always welcome here as there is a steady public demand for them.*

THE FRIENDS OF LYDIARD TREGOZ

Officers for 1999-2000:

President: Mr H.G.M. Leighton, M.A., F.S.A.

Vice-Presidents: Field-Marshal Sir Roland Gibbs, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.

Dr. Arnold Taylor, C.B.E., M.A., D.Litt., Docteur h.c. (Caen), F.B.A.,
Hon.V.-P.S.A., F.R.Hist.S.

Secretary: Mrs Sarah Finch-Crisp, B.A.,


**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT.
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1999**

To		By	
Postage	47.49	Subscriptions	538.79
Telephone	2.70	Donations	117.60
Stationery	5.07	Sales	24.50
Photocopying	10.02	Bank Interest	6.40
AGM Expenses	21.00	AGM plate at tea	34.10
<i>Report 32</i>	300.00		
Wiltshire Local History Forum	7.00	Bristol City Council	1009.40
Hatchments	3445.50	St.Andrew's Conservation Trust	
		(2nd grant)	972.00
transport	<u>60.00</u>	Society of Antiquaries	750.00
	3898.78		
Less			
Excess Expenditure over Income	<u>445.99</u>		
	£3452.79		£3452.79
	=====		=====

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st DECEMBER 1999

Accumulated Fund			
31st December 1998	1077.67		
Less			
Excess Expenditure over Income	<u>445.99</u>		
	631.68		
Current Liabilities		Current Assets	
Fees in advance	21.00	Cash at Bank:	
		Current	30.00
Treasurer's Expenses	<u>3.61</u>	Deposit	<u>622.68</u>
	£652.68		£652.68
	=====		=====

Accounts subject to audit

Richard T. Clarke
Hon. Treasurer.

THE HATCHMENTS COMPLETION SUMMARY
(Extracted from FLT Accounts 1997-1999 inclusive.)

GRANTS etc		COSTS	
1996 FLT Concert	257.58	1997 Transport	25.00
1997 Society of Antiquaries	750.00	1998 S.W. Area Museum Council	1527.50
1998 St.Andrew's Trust	2027.50	1998 50% share of transport for AGM	50.00
1999 St Andrew's Trust	972.50	1998 S. Woods	500.00
1999 Bristol City Council		1999 Elizabeth Holford Associates Ltd	3125.50
Transitional Grant Aid	1009.40	1999 Transport	60.00
1999 FLT contribution	<u>591.02</u>	1999 Swindon Borough Council	
	£5608.00	Damp proofing and hanging	<u>320.00</u>
	=====		£5608.00
			=====

Friends of Lydiard Tregoz
13 May 2000