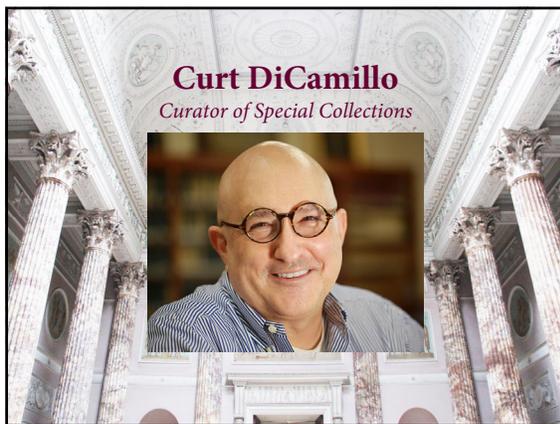


1



2



3

What is a Country House?

A country house is a centuries-old institution virtually unique to Britain and Ireland. I define a country house as being a house of a minimum of five bays that, at some point in its history, was the country seat of a landed family.

These houses had an estate (agricultural land) that served as the center for local community life and may have included farmland, villages, or other supporting acreage. Their estates ranged from 1,000 acres to 1 million acres and employed hundreds, sometimes thousands, of people.



9 Bays →

Houghton Hall
Norfolk

4

What is a Country House?

A wonderful snapshot of the British country house comes from Brian Masters, writing in his 1975 book, *The Dukes*:

“The large country estate, with the house as its pivot, was (and is) a peculiarly British affair. In many ways it was a perfect example in miniature of the welfare state, self-sufficient and self-protecting, with every member of the ‘family,’ from shepherds to carpenters to kitchen-maids, provided for from cradle to grave.”

Over 350 estates in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland are owned by the National Trust. In Scotland, the National Trust for Scotland owns over 128 properties.



Blenheim Palace
Oxfordshire

5

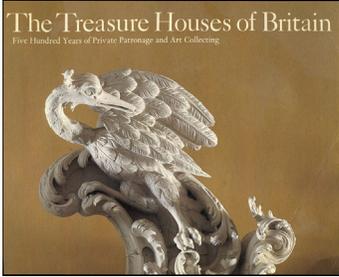
The arrangement of houses by dates/stylistic periods is a moving target. Many houses began in one period, but were added to in later centuries, so, in the interest of sanity, I've tried to rationalize these along lines that make sense to me. For example, technically, the Medieval period, or the Middle Ages, ended in England in 1485, but I've stretched out the period until the end of the 16th century to include more houses.



Holkham Hall
Norfolk

6

A recurring theme will be objects that appeared in the seminal *The Treasures Houses of Britain* exhibition at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, in 1985-86.



7

Each session will be divided into two primary sections: **Overview Houses and Study Houses**, with three question and answer sessions breaking up the class.



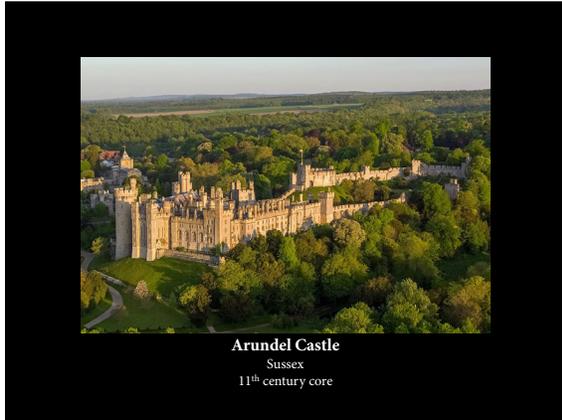
Sennowe Park
Norfolk

8

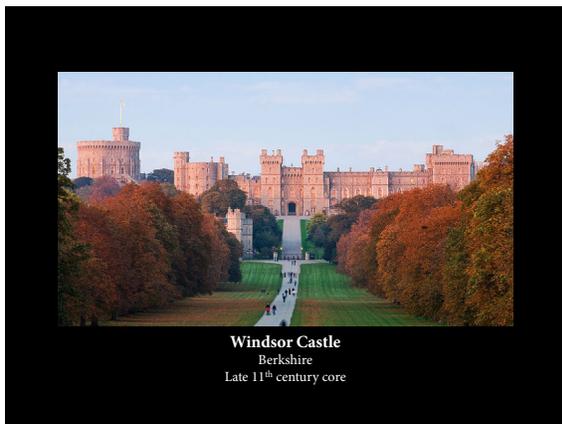
Overview Houses

- Arundel Castle, *Sussex*, 11th century core
- Windsor Castle, *Berkshire*, Late 11th century core
- Cotehele House, *Cornwall*, Circa 1300 core
- Leeds Castle, *Kent*, 12th century core
- Eltham Palace, *Kent*, 13th century core
- Penshurst Place, *Kent*, 14th century core
- Lytes Cary Manor, *Somerset*, 14th century core
- Bodiam Castle, *Sussex*, 1385—93
- Hampton Court Palace, *Middlesex*, 1495 core

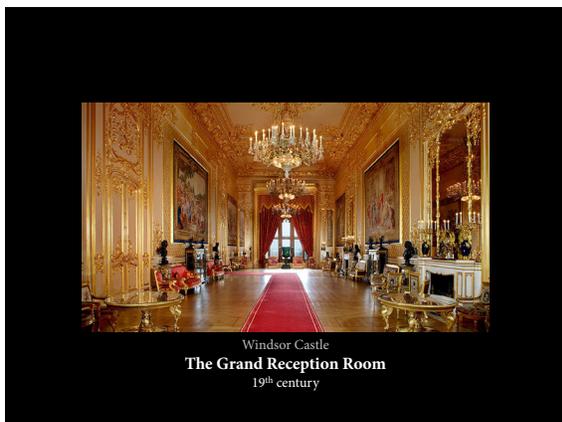
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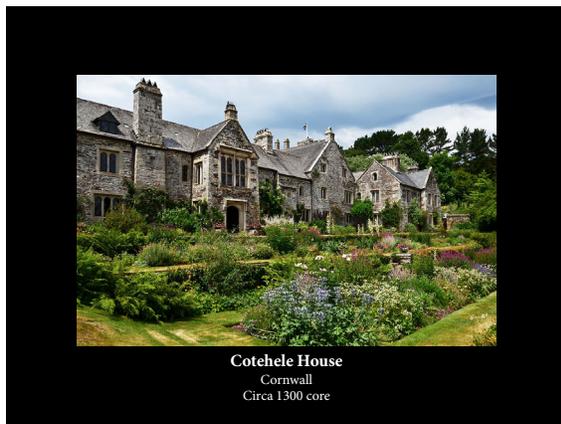
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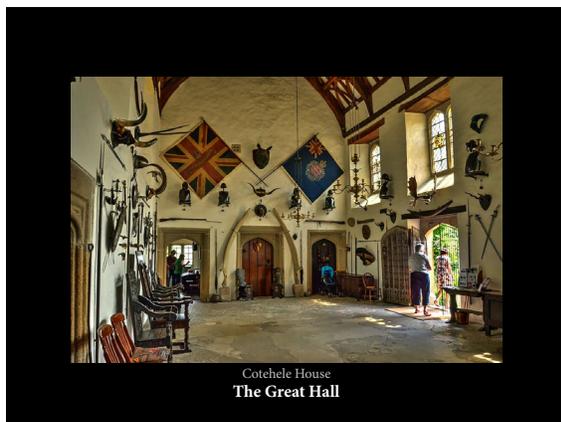
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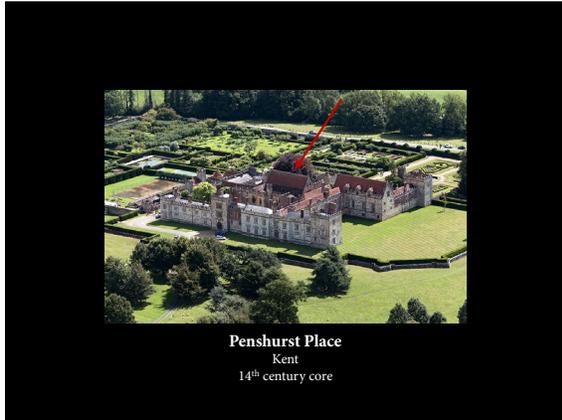
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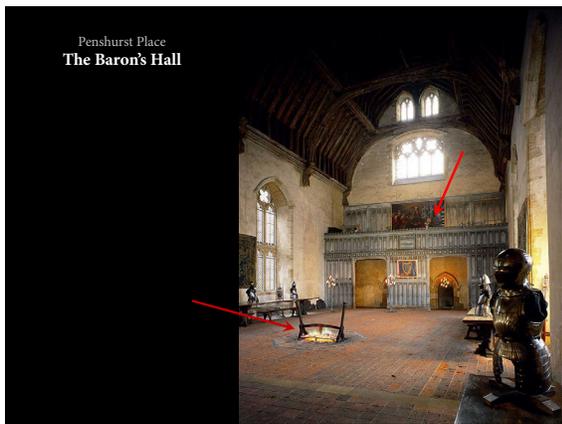
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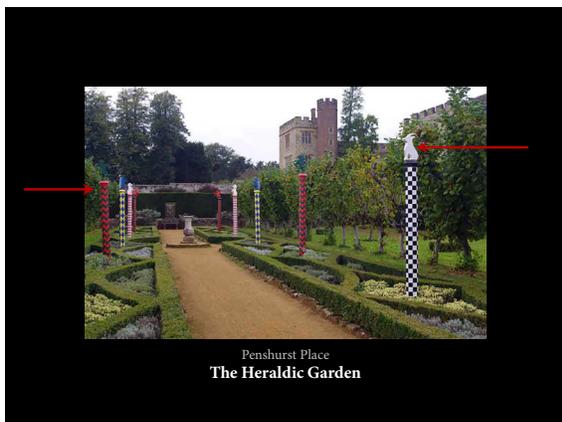
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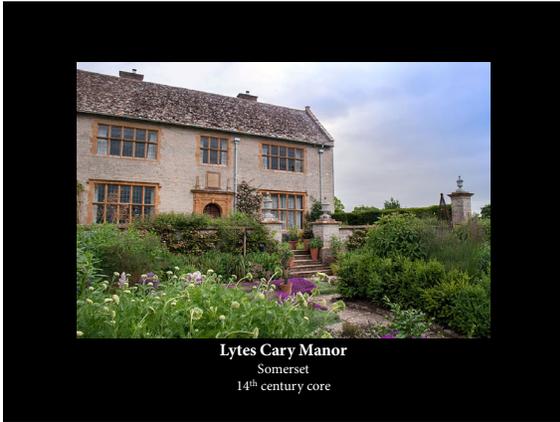
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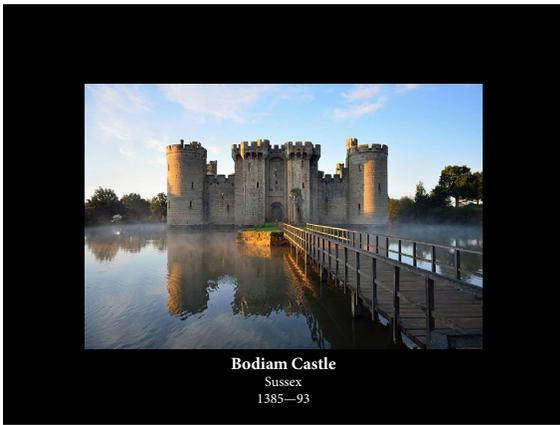
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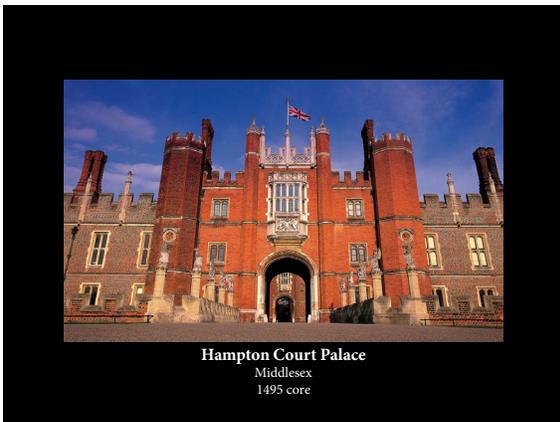
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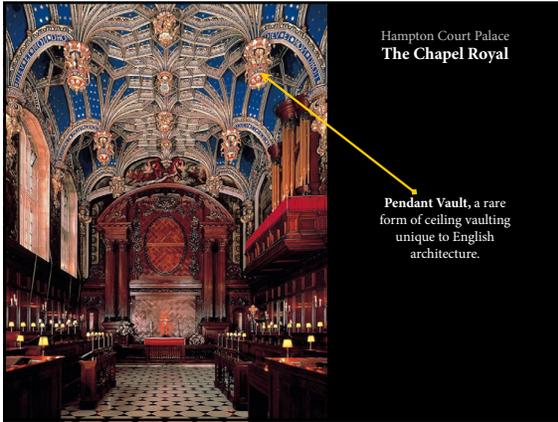
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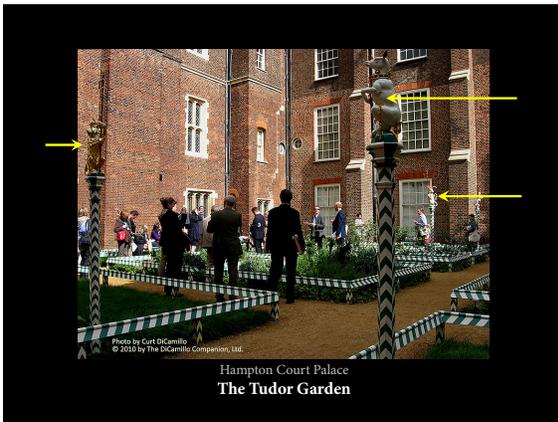
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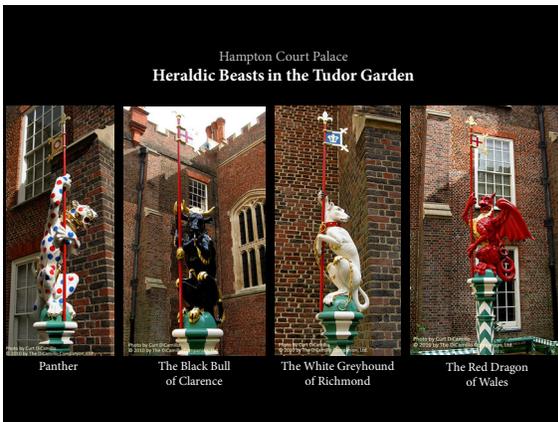
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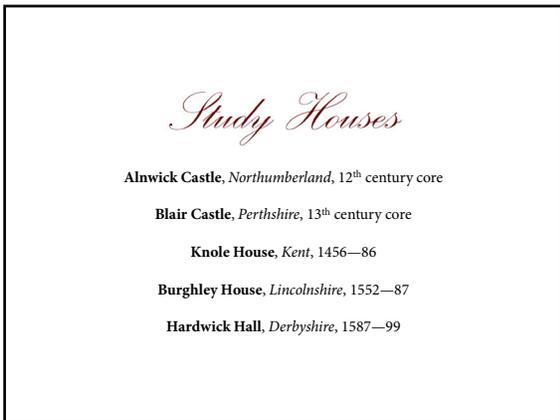
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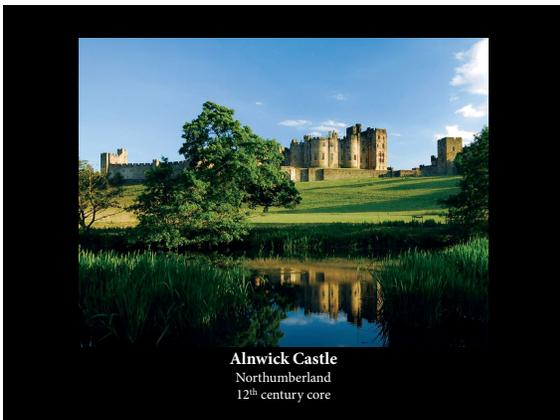
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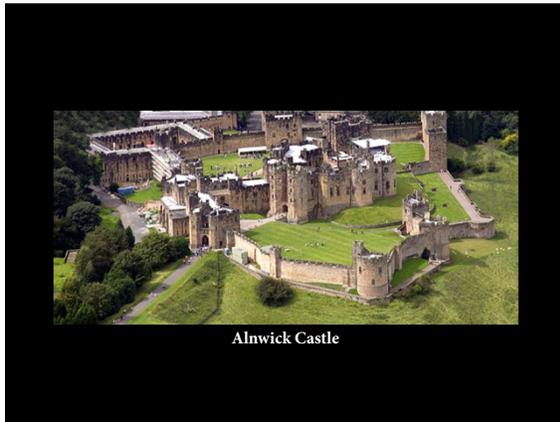
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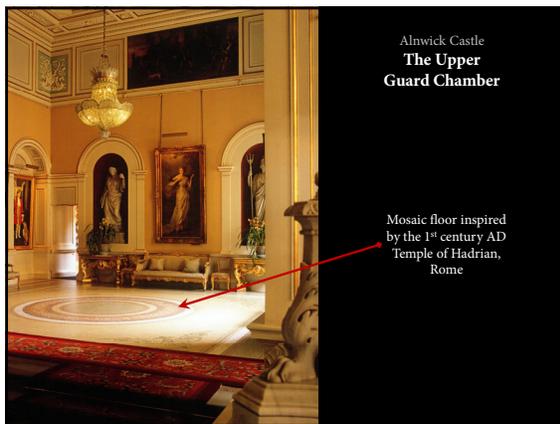


30



Alnwick Castle

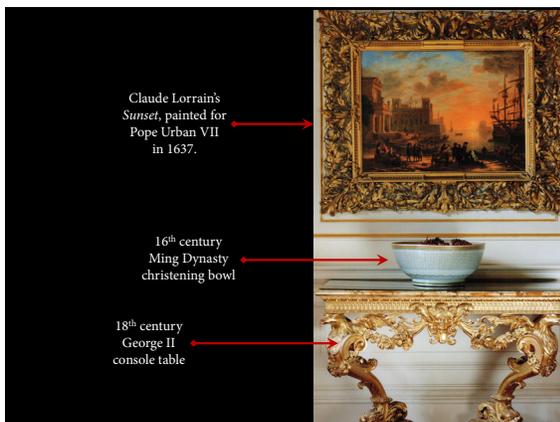
31



Alnwick Castle
The Upper
Guard Chamber

Mosaic floor inspired
by the 1st century AD
Temple of Hadrian,
Rome

32

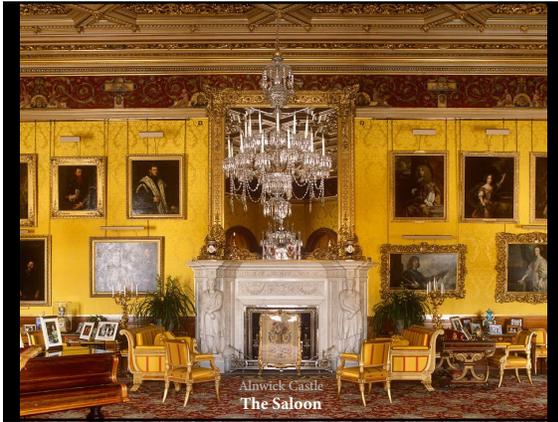


Claude Lorrain's
Sunset, painted for
Pope Urban VII
in 1637.

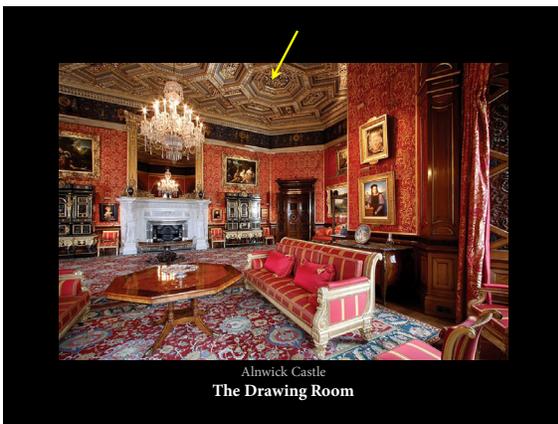
16th century
Ming Dynasty
christening bowl

18th century
George II
console table

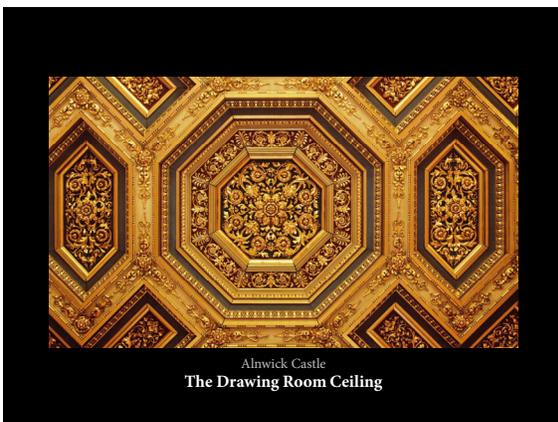
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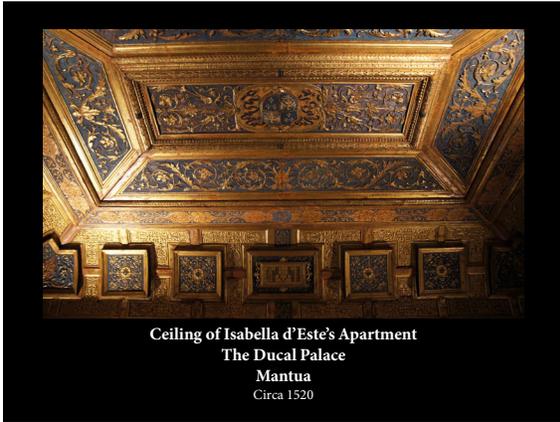
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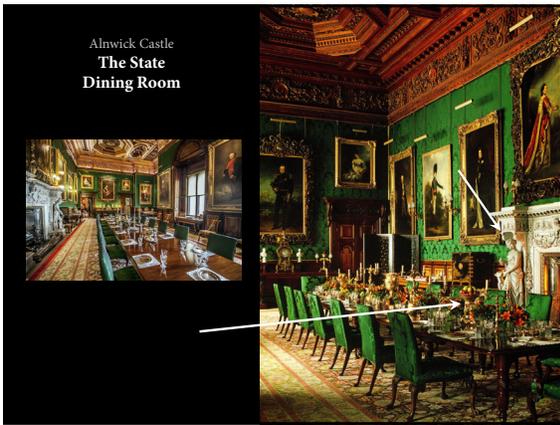
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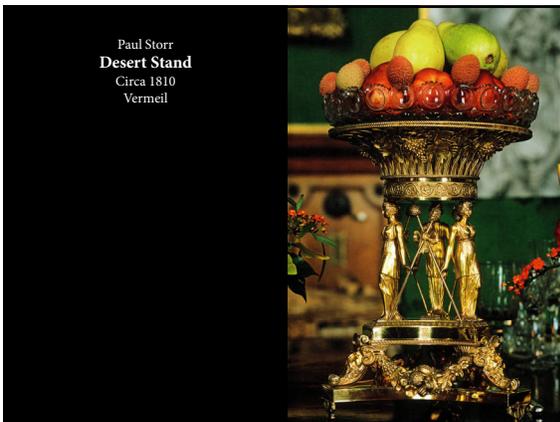
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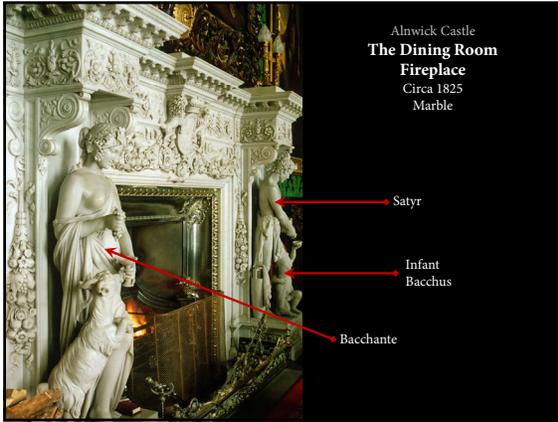
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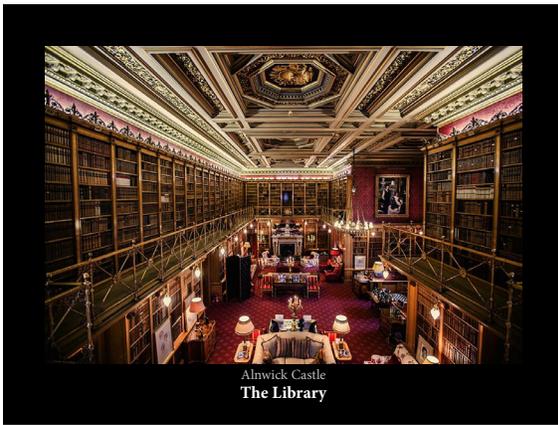
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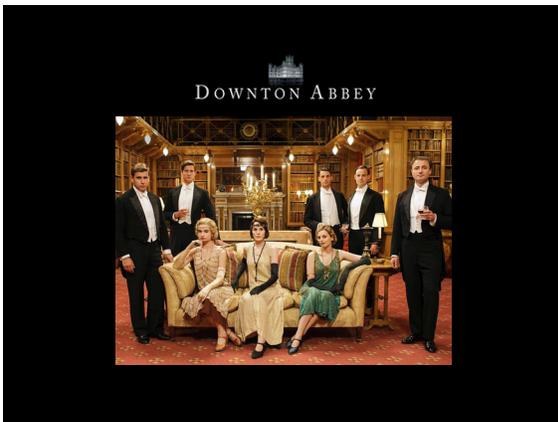
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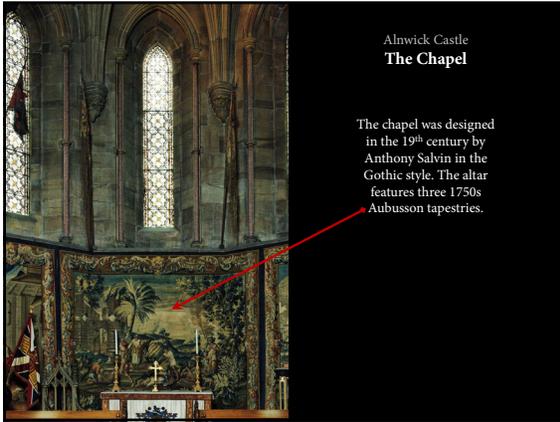
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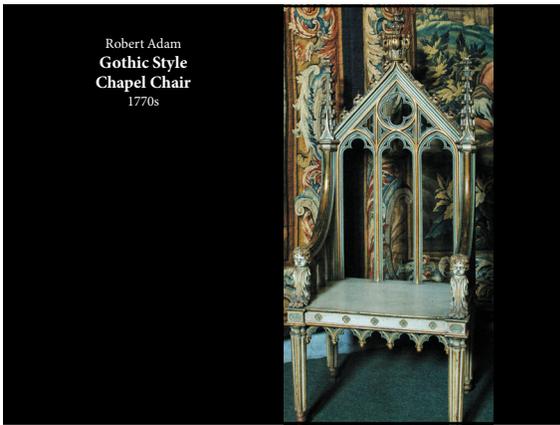
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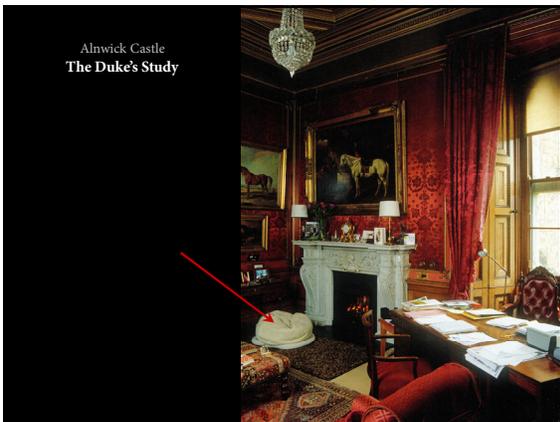
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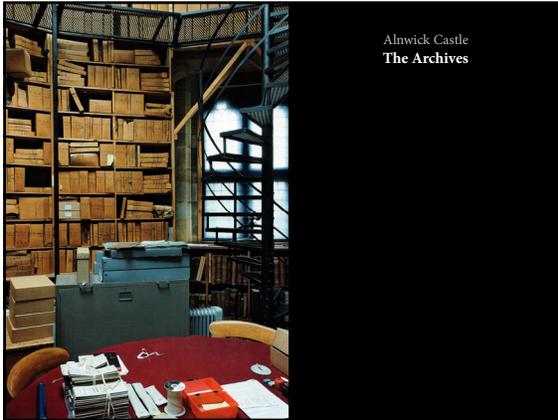
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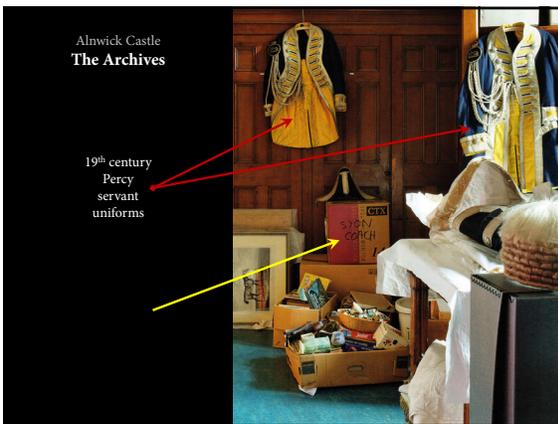


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Alnwick Castle
The Archives

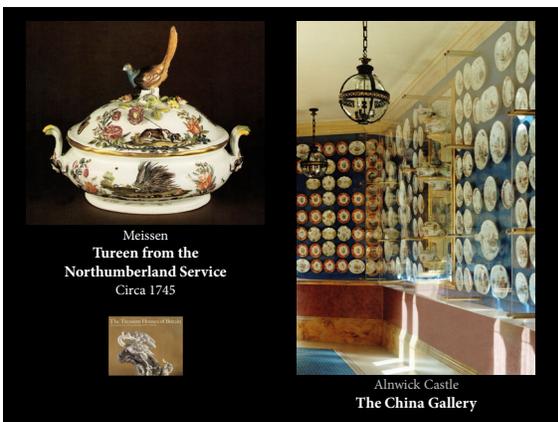
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Alnwick Castle
The Archives

19th century
Percy
servant
uniforms

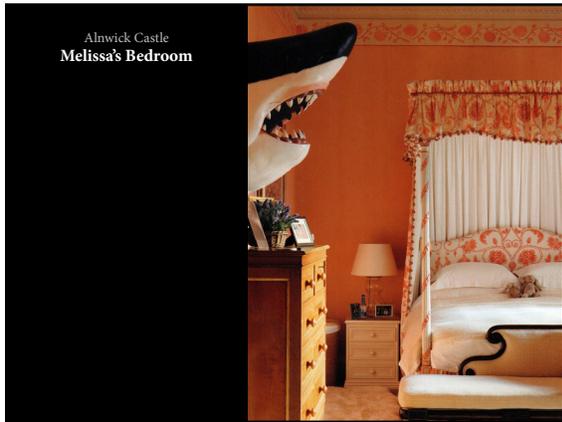
47



Meissen
Tureen from the
Northumberland Service
Circa 1745

Alnwick Castle
The China Gallery

48



Alnwick Castle
Melissa's Bedroom

49



This 1844 painting is considered Landseer's masterpiece. The full title is taken from Thomas Campbell's *Lochiel's Warning* of 1802, in which a seer warns Cameron of Lochiel of his impending fate at Culloden. The stag has come to the margin of a loch and bellows his challenge while his assailant swims from the furthest shore, in what some scholars see as a battle between two superheroes to determine the destiny of the world.

Edwin Landseer
*Coming Events Cast Their Shadow Before Them:
The Challenge*
1844

50



Augustine Courtauld
Tea Kettle on Tripod Stand
1725

This is one of only seven English silver tripod table stands ever made, and one of only two that has its original kettle and lamp.

Such tea kettles with table stands are an indication of the importance of the tea ceremony in the English country house in the early 18th century.

51

Sold in 2003 to the Getty for \$56 million.

In approving an export ban, the UK Government called the painting "...the freshest and most delightful small image of the Madonna and the Christ child from the Italian Renaissance."



Raphael
Madonna of the Pinks
Circa 1506–07
The National Gallery, London

52

THE BEVERLEY COLLECTION OF GEMS



Old Man Ring
1st Century BC
Sardonyx Cameo



Young Boy Ring
18th century
Emerald Intaglio

53



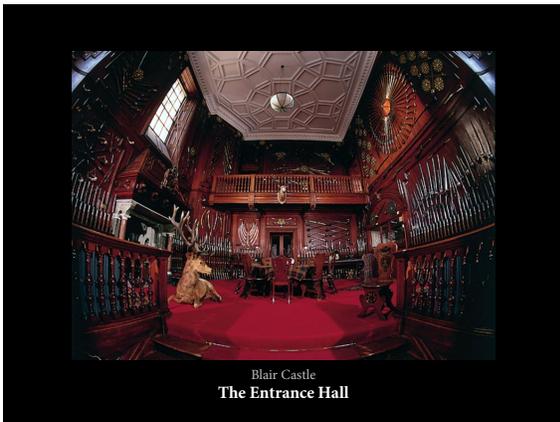
Alwick Castle

54



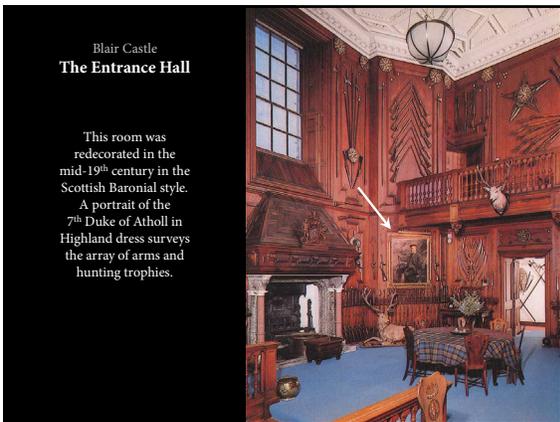
Blair Castle
Perthshire
13th century core

55



Blair Castle
The Entrance Hall

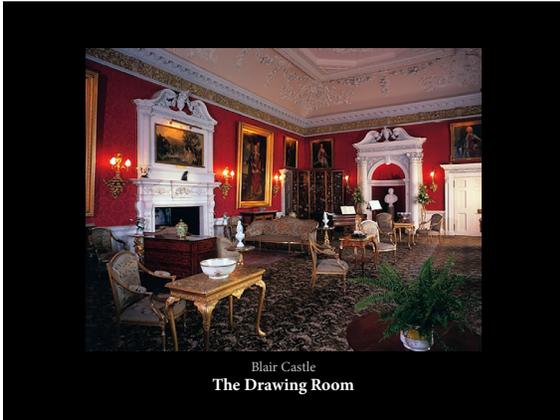
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Blair Castle
The Entrance Hall

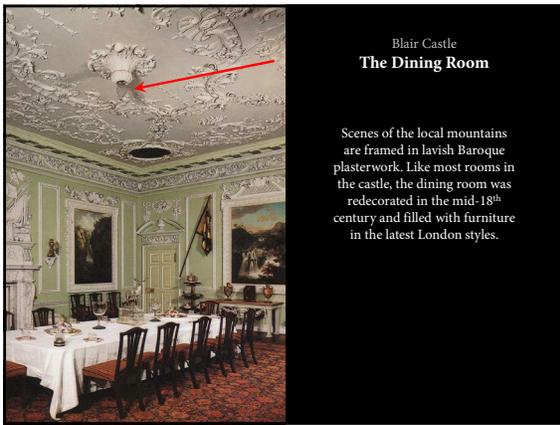
This room was redecorated in the mid-19th century in the Scottish Baronial style. A portrait of the 7th Duke of Atholl in Highland dress surveys the array of arms and hunting trophies.

57



Blair Castle
The Drawing Room

58



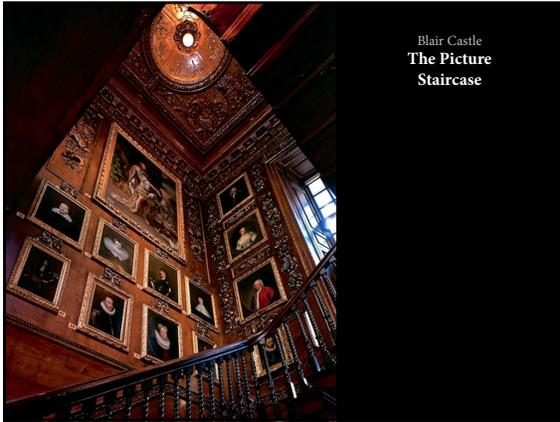
Blair Castle
The Dining Room

Scenes of the local mountains are framed in lavish Baroque plasterwork. Like most rooms in the castle, the dining room was redecorated in the mid-18th century and filled with furniture in the latest London styles.

59

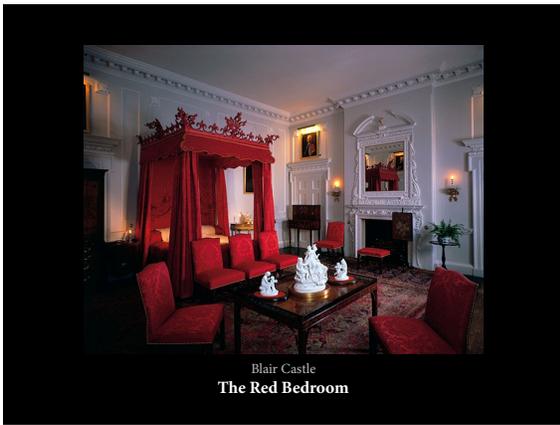


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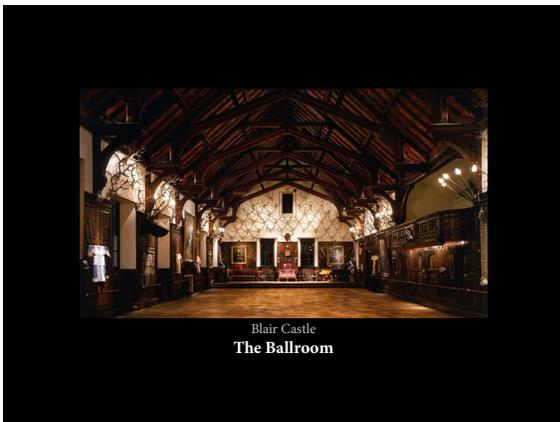
Blair Castle
The Picture
Staircase

61



Blair Castle
The Red Bedroom

62

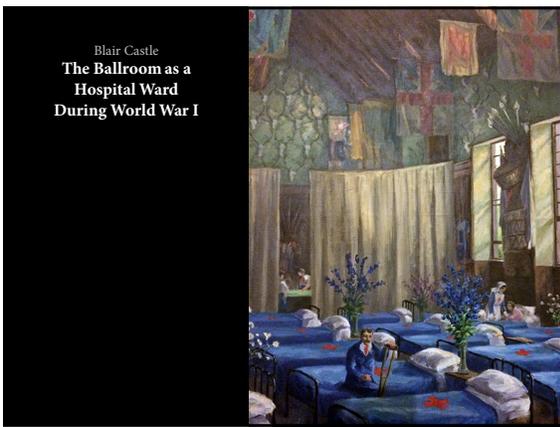


Blair Castle
The Ballroom

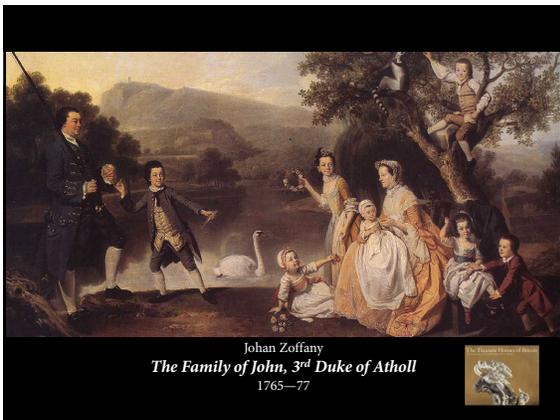
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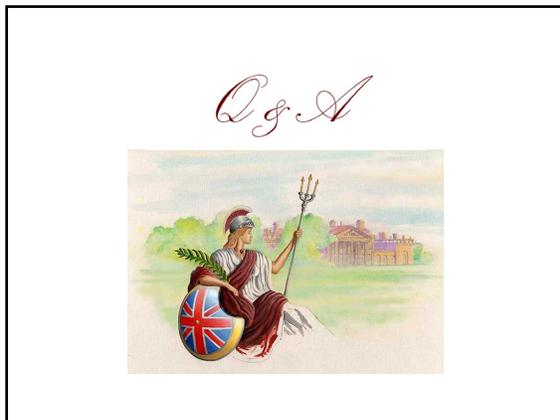
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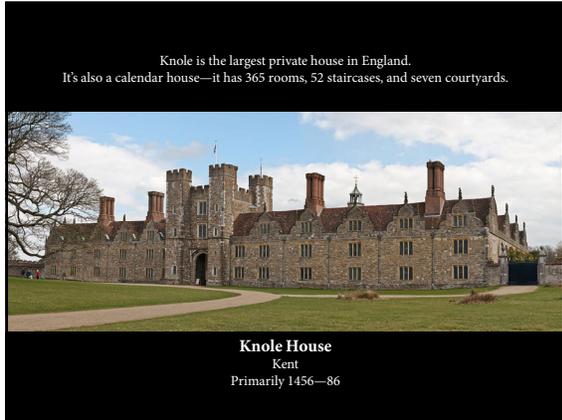
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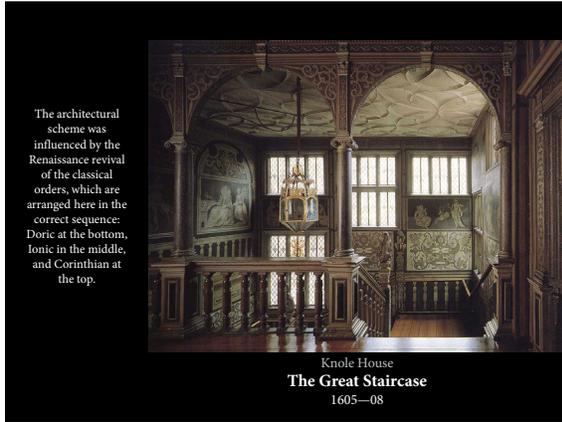
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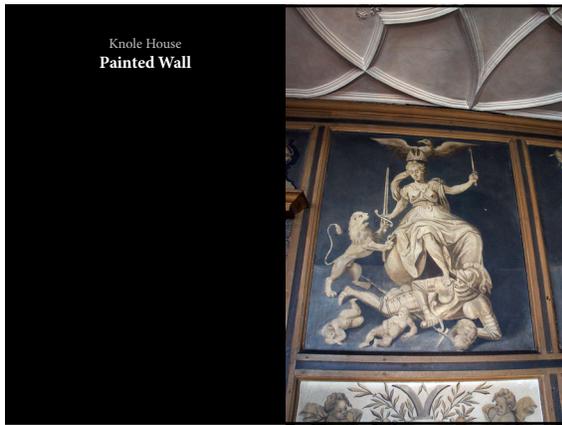
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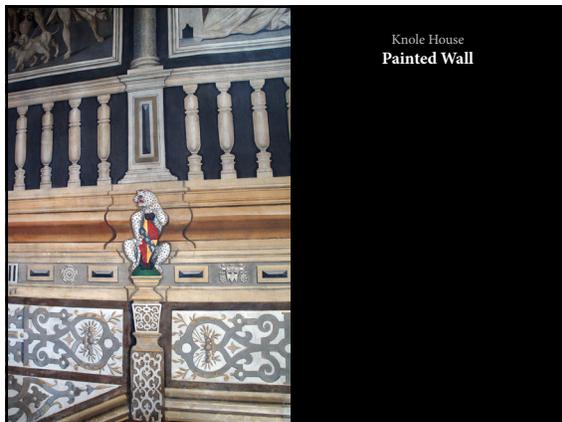
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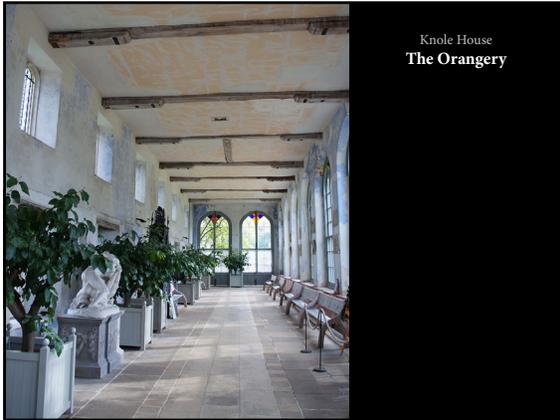
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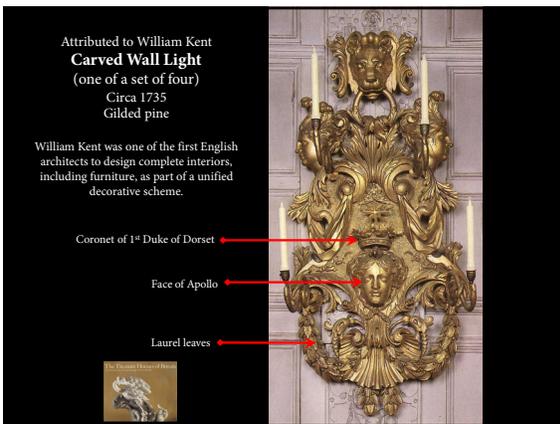
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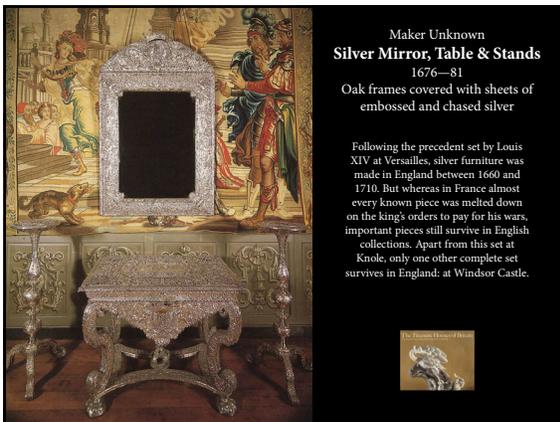
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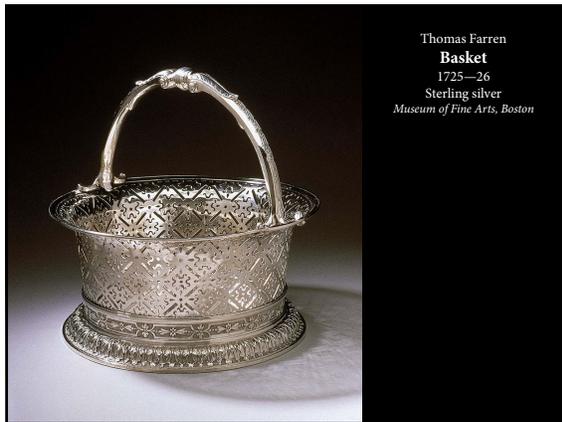
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80



81



82



83

PRODIGY HOUSES

Prodigy houses are large and showy English country houses built by courtiers and other wealthy families. They have been called "noble palaces of an awesome scale" and "proud, ambitious heaps."

The houses stretch over the periods of Tudor, Elizabethan, and Jacobean architecture, though the term may be restricted to a core period of roughly 1570 to 1620.

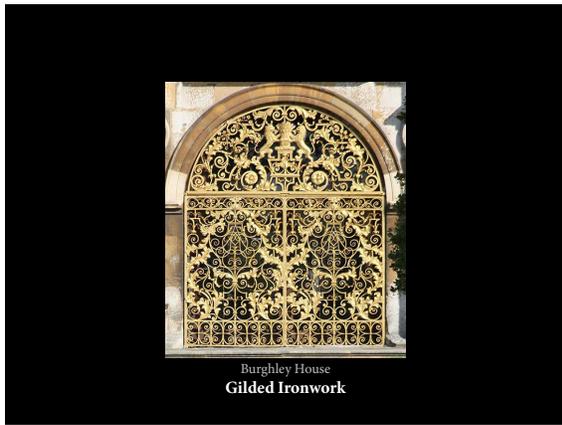
Many of the grandest houses were built to host Elizabeth I and her large retinue as they made their annual summer progresses around the country.



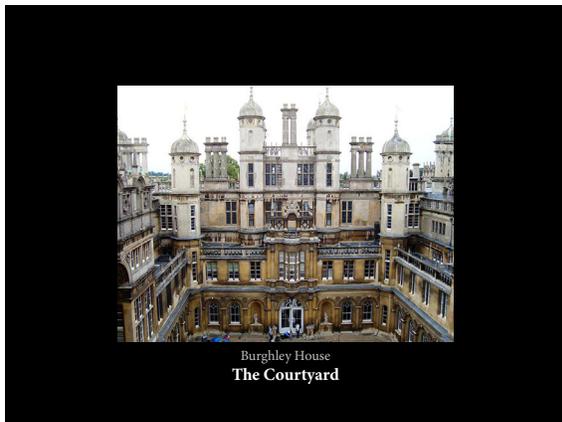
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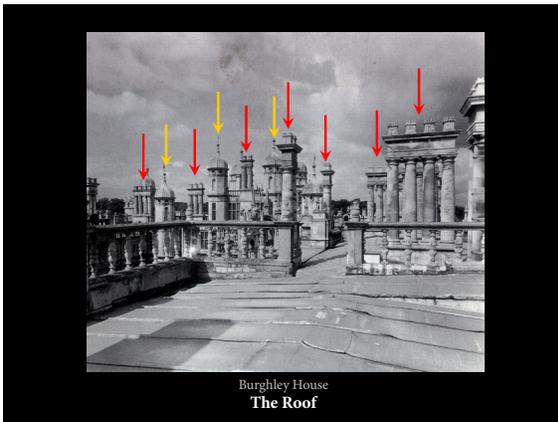
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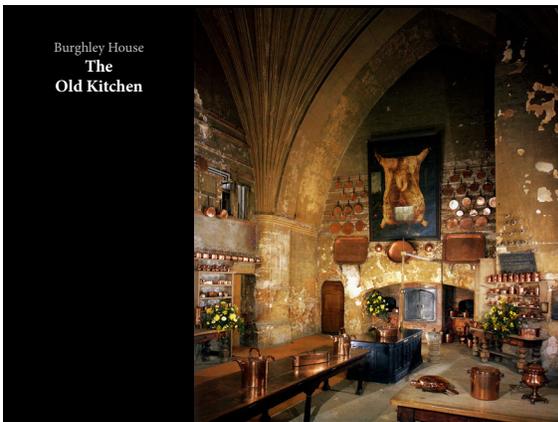
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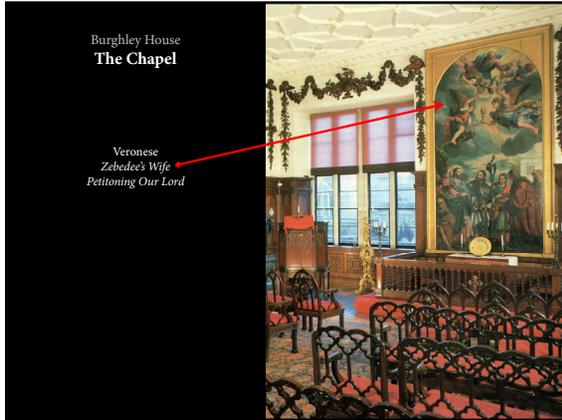
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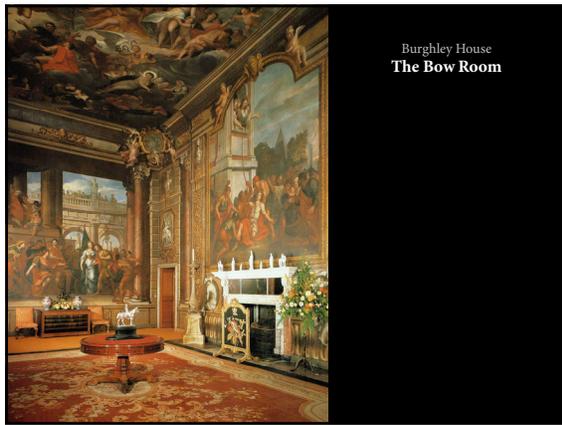
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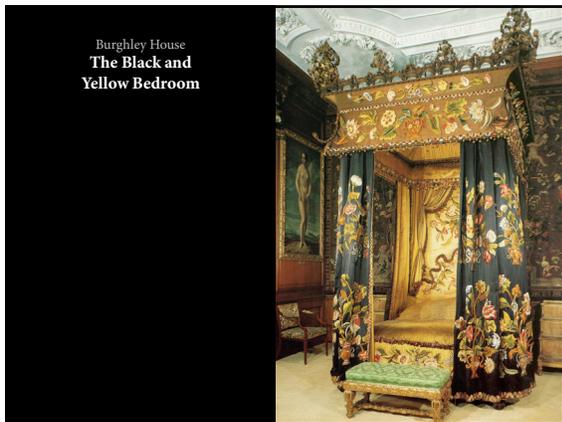
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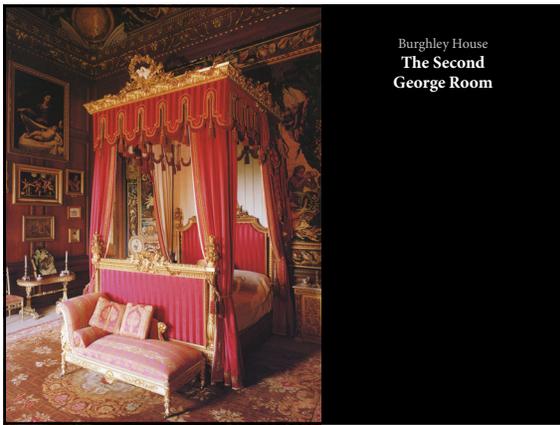
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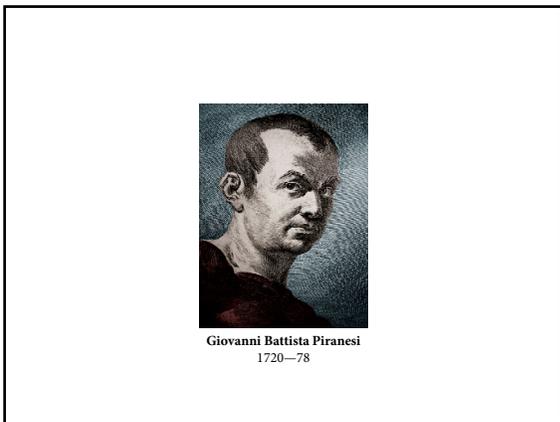
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Burghley House
The Second George Room
The Piranesi Fireplace

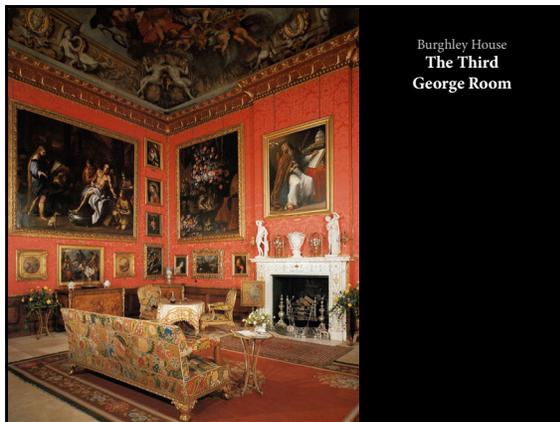
97



Giovanni Battista Piranesi
Carved Rosso Antico
Marble Head
1760s
Rosso antico

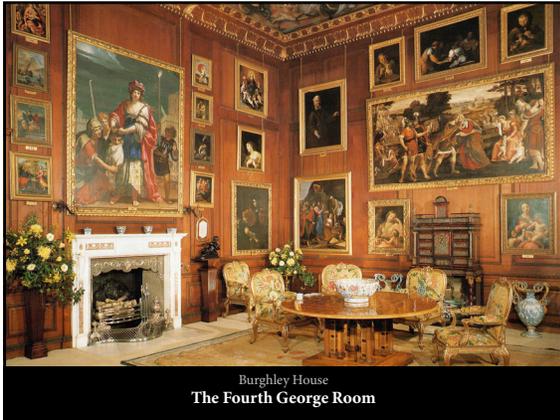
Rosso antico marble was used by the ancient Greeks, Romans, and Etruscans, mainly for decorative architectural details, but also for smaller sculptures. The stone was quarried on the east coast of Cape Matapan in Greece.

98



Burghley House
The Third
George Room

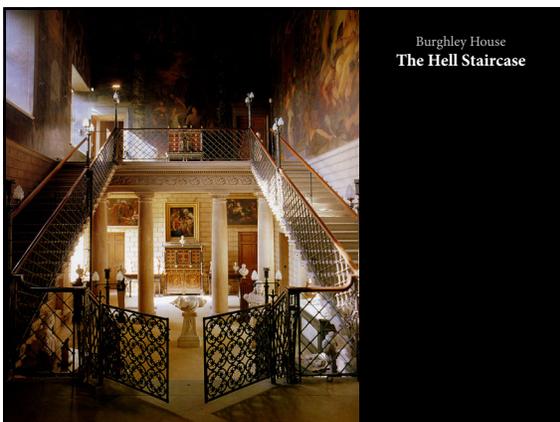
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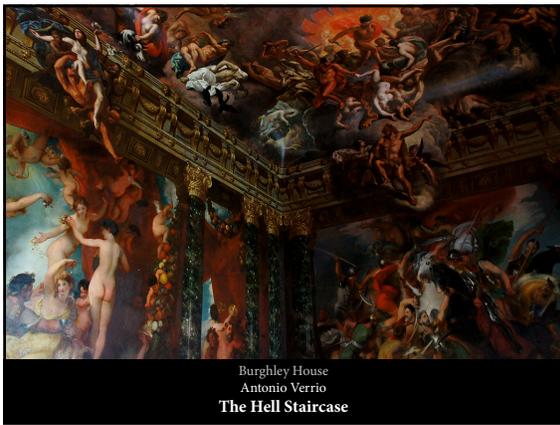
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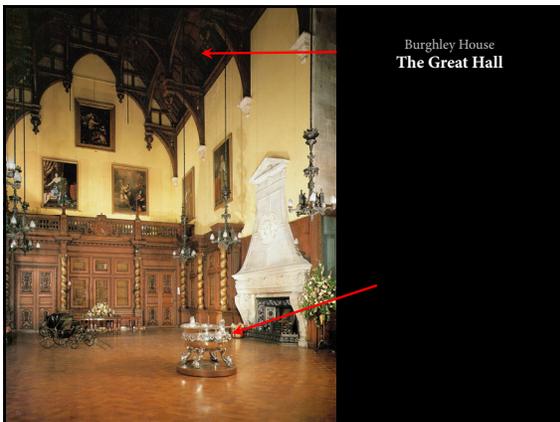
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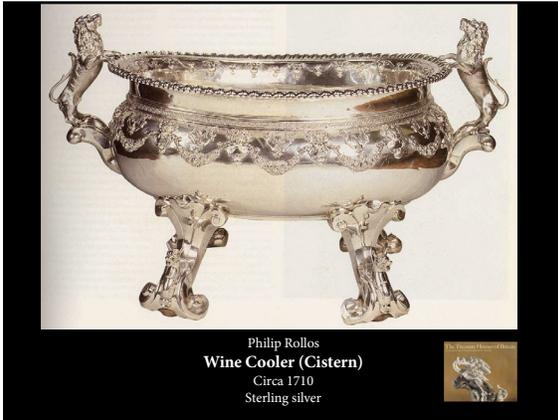
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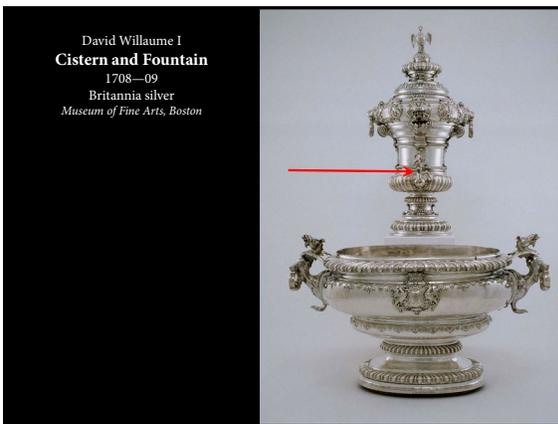
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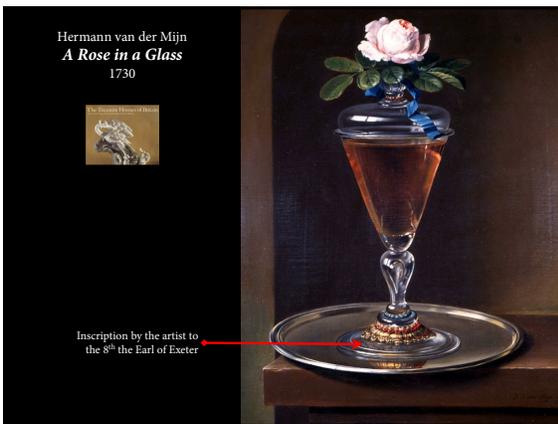
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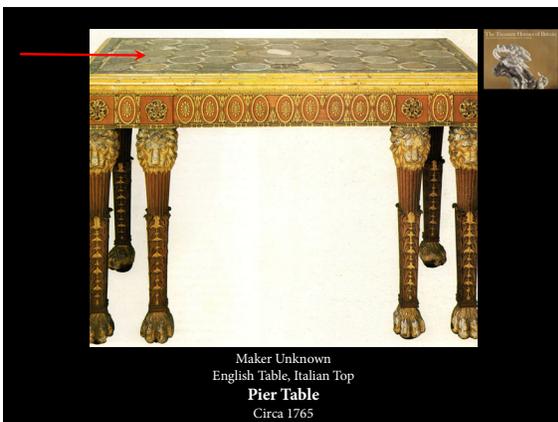
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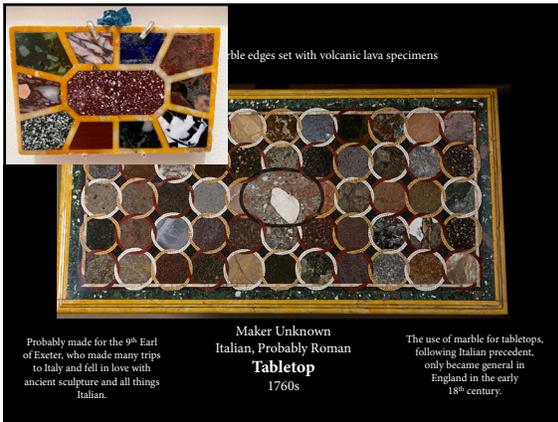
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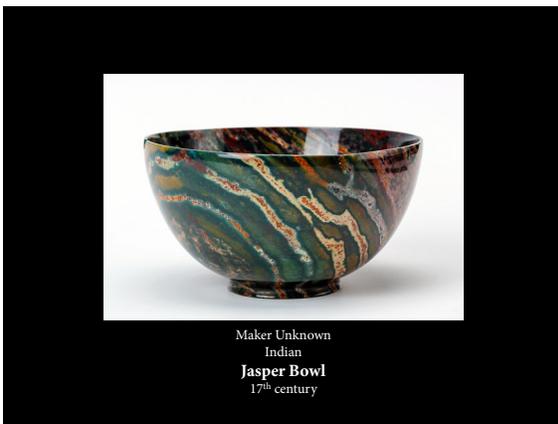
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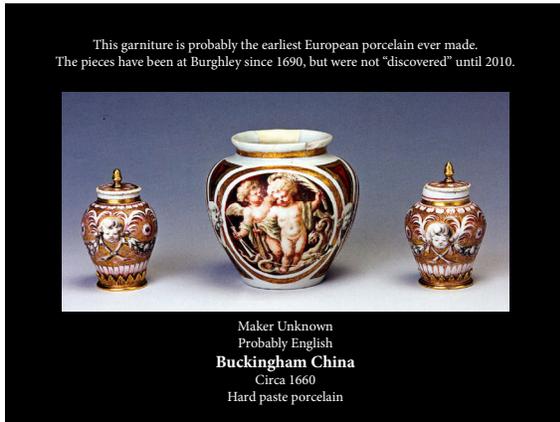
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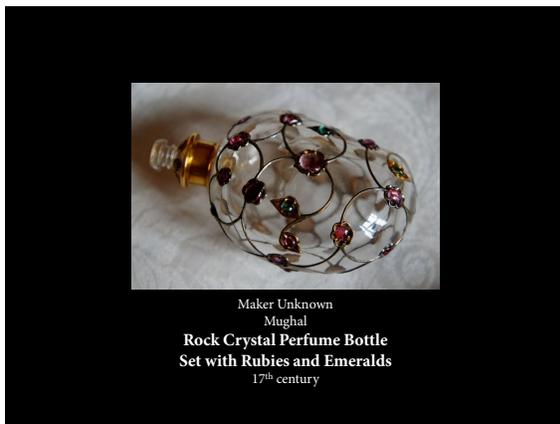
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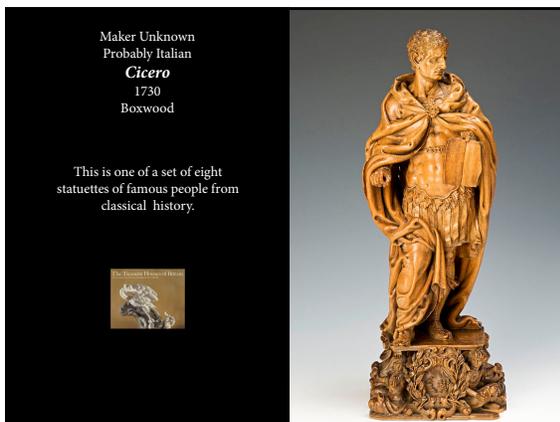
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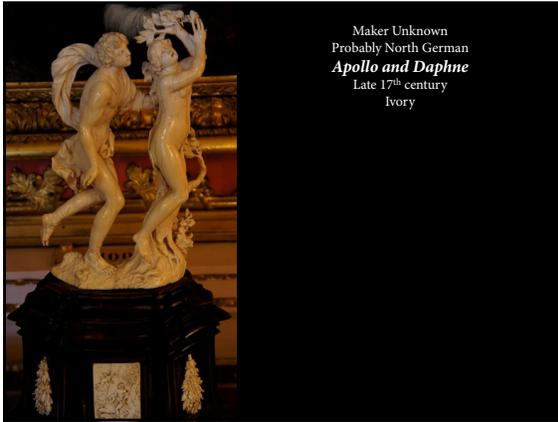
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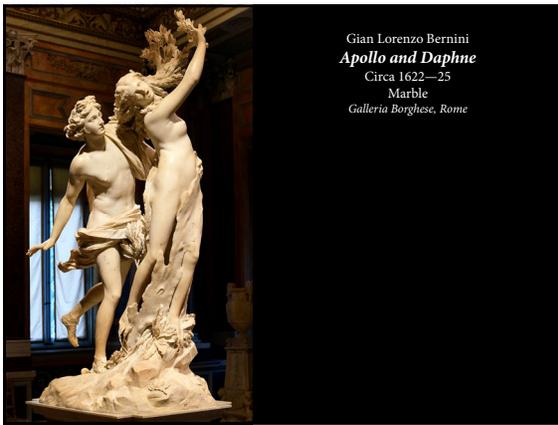
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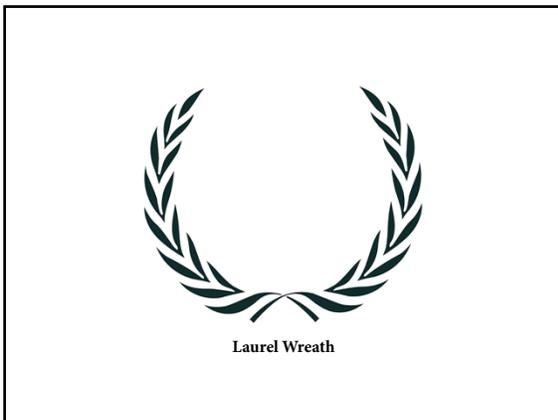
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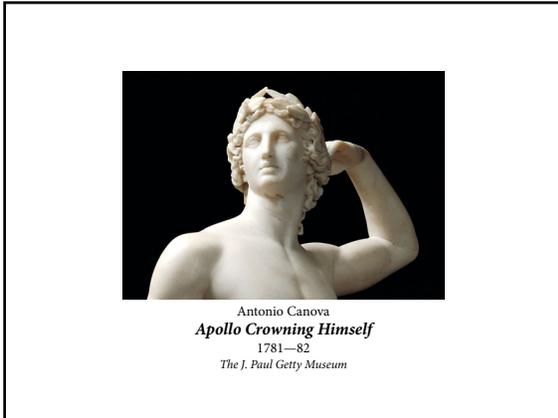
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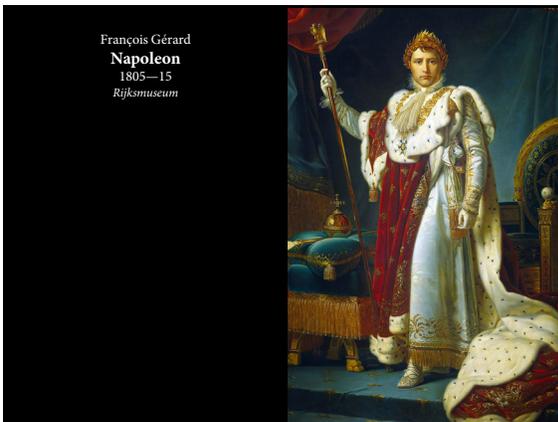
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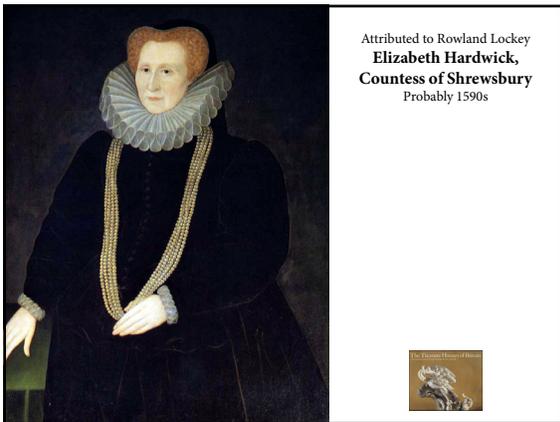
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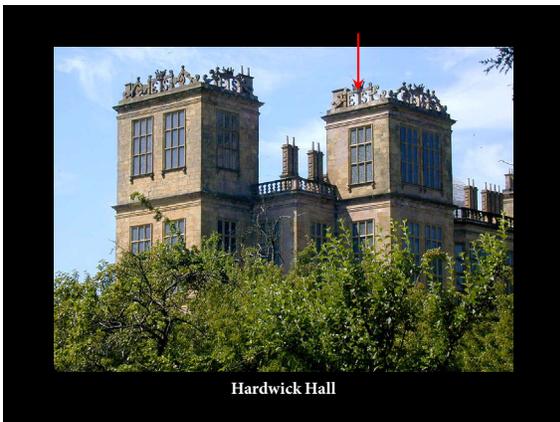
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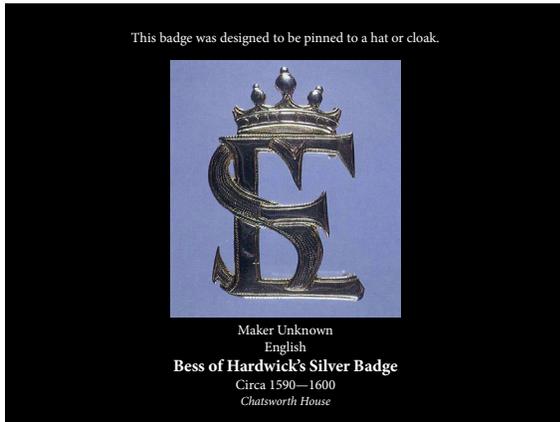
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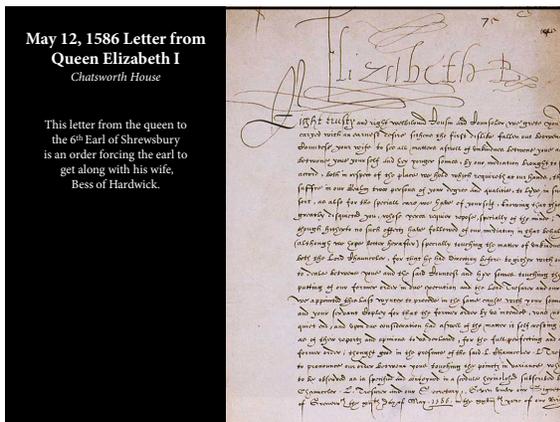
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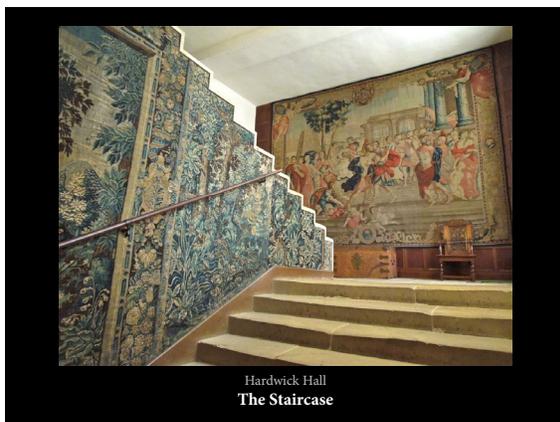
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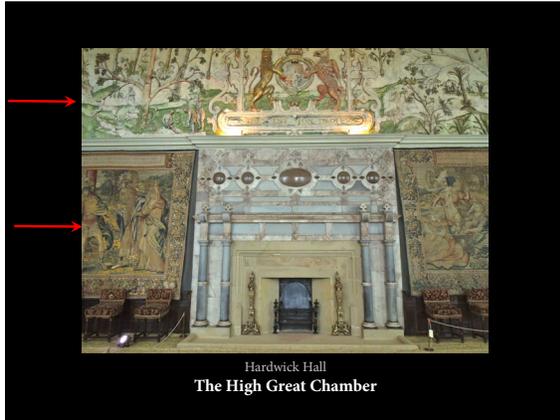
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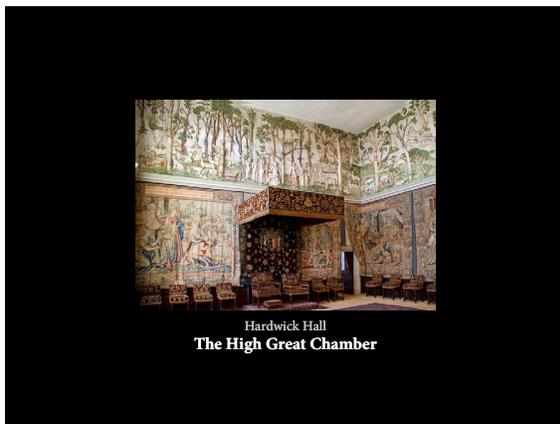
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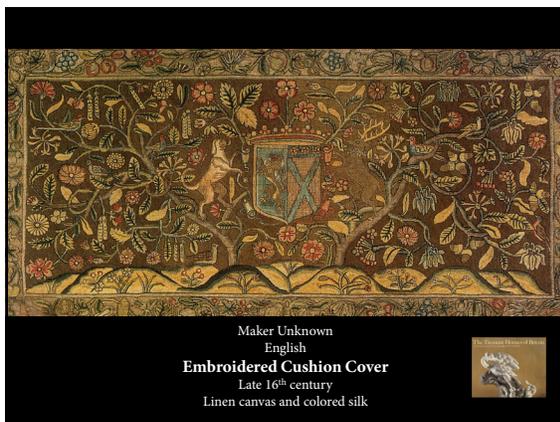
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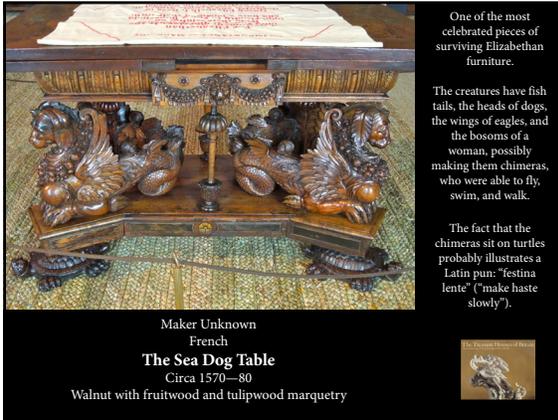
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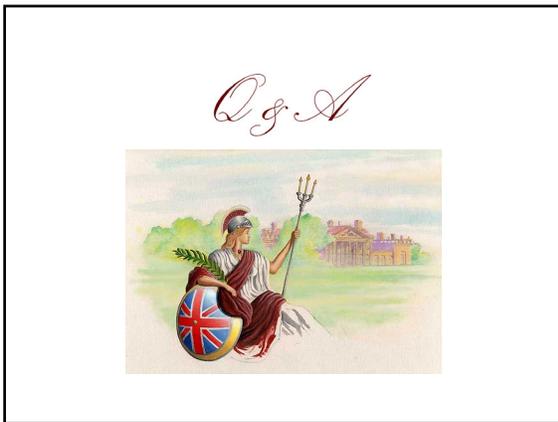
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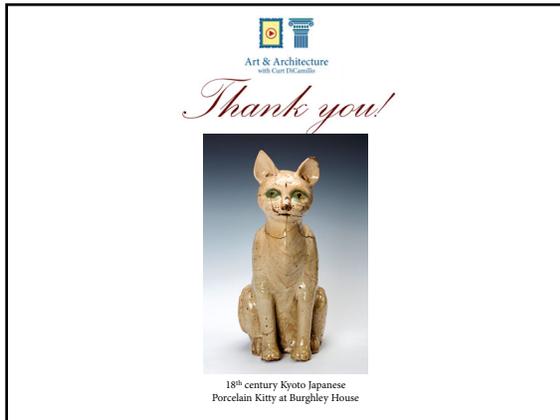
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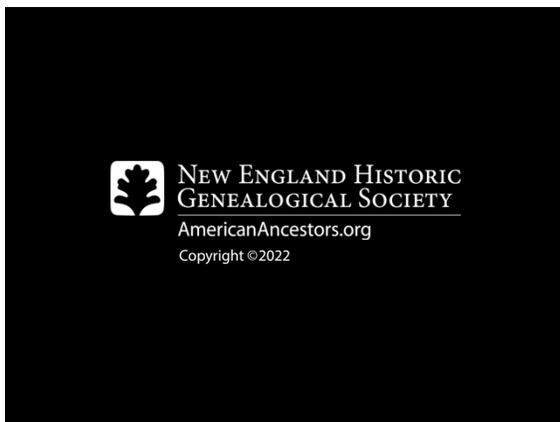
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