

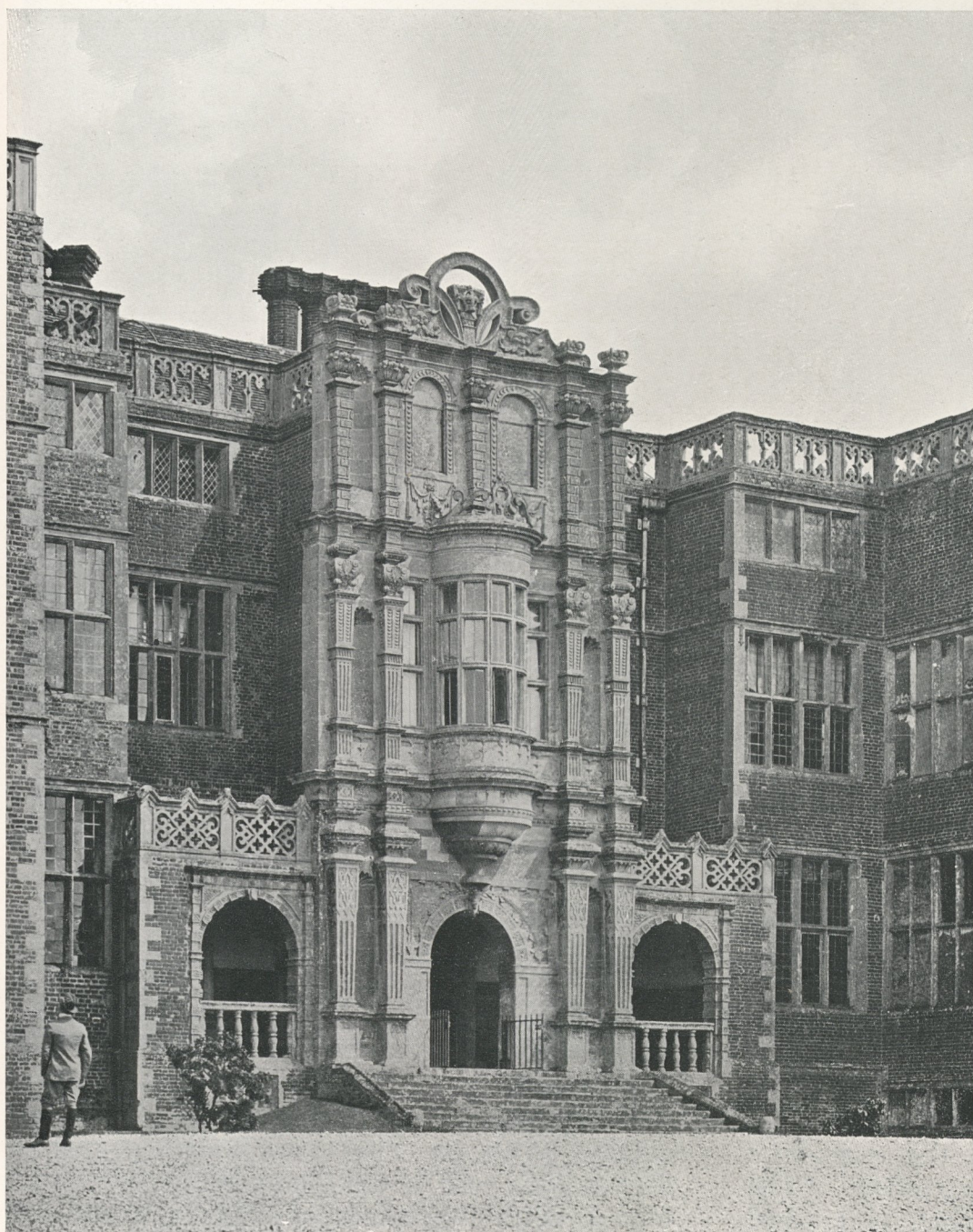
BRAMSHILL PARK, HAMPSHIRE.

BRAMSHILL, one of the most famous houses in Hampshire, a county notably rich in mansions of the old times, stands in the parish of Eversley, in the extreme north of the shire. The place belonged in the time of our earliest knowledge to one Hugh de Port, from whose descendants, the St. Johns of Basing, it passed to the Foxleys, and Sir John of that family founded and built a private chapel at his house there early in the fourteenth century. His son, Thomas Foxley, received a licence in 1347 to enclose 2,500 acres as a park, and, after more than five centuries, that park still exists,

though it is now of much greater extent. Some remains of the ancient house are built up in the existing structure, and portions of the gate-tower may be seen. The estate went through many hands, and was at one time possessed by the Marquess of Winchester, who, it is interesting to note, was descended from Hugh de Port, its possessor at the time of the Norman survey. In March, 1605, Sir Stephen Thornhurst sold the manor and estate to Edward Lord Zouch of Harringworth, the builder of the existing house. Zouch was a man well known in his time, who held many important offices, and

among others was Ambassador to Scotland. For our purpose it is more interesting to know that he was a lover of horticulture and architecture, and displayed his care for both at Bramshill. His architect there was the celebrated John Thorpe, who also built for a member of the Cope family—Sir Walter Cope—Holland House immediately afterwards.

The alteration of the old house was begun probably not long after Lord Zouch came into possession, and was completed externally in 1612, but much of the internal work may be a little later. Lord Zouch died in 1625, and his estate was sold for £12,000 to Randal McDonell, second Earl of Antrim, and, after passing through the hands of Sir Robert Henley, was sold again, in 1699, to Sir John Cope, knight, eldest son of the fifth baronet, whose elder brother, Sir Anthony Cope, of Hanwell Castle in Oxfordshire, left the bulk of the ancient estates of the Cope family, with the seats of Hanwell, Drayton, Tangley, Bruerne, Ranton Abbey, Orton-Longueville, and



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