

purchase it were made, but all these Sir Joshua declined, and kept the picture until he should hear from Sheridan. After some years, the latter wrote to ask for the picture and to enquire what he was to pay for it. Sir Joshua told him that he thought the painting his very best—as for the price, “in the common course of business” it would have been £500, but he should only ask of Sheridan £150. In this room is the wonderful bureau purchased from the Duke of Buccleugh.

As any visitor who sees the splendid interior will probably form some opinion as to which room impresses him most, the following notes as to the Great Dining Room may serve as an example of such a possible preference. The effect of colour in this room is simply splendid, and the harmony such that it is most difficult to pick out its constituent parts. The walls are mainly greyish marble with warm splashes of pink.

The carpet is an antique, of grey, gold, and pale reds. Above the mirrors at either end are two panels with idealised portraits, exquisitely rich in colour, from the Hotel de Villars, built for the Count of Toulouse in the reign of Louis XIV. At either side of the great mirror above the mantel-piece is a panel of tapestry from subjects painted by Boucher; the tapestries are the genuine old ones bearing his name—the original oil pictures belonged to Lord Tweedmouth. The effect is purely decorative, the ground being mainly a pearly grey, the trees various soft blues, the other parts pink, or pale red or drab, or opal or peach colour, but with here and there the most wonderful quiet glows and flushes of brilliant ruby and carmine, all held in reserve as it were, but astonishingly beautiful. The chairs, it may be noticed, are all white, with plain drab leather covers, so as to interfere in no way with the general harmony of this exquisite room.



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