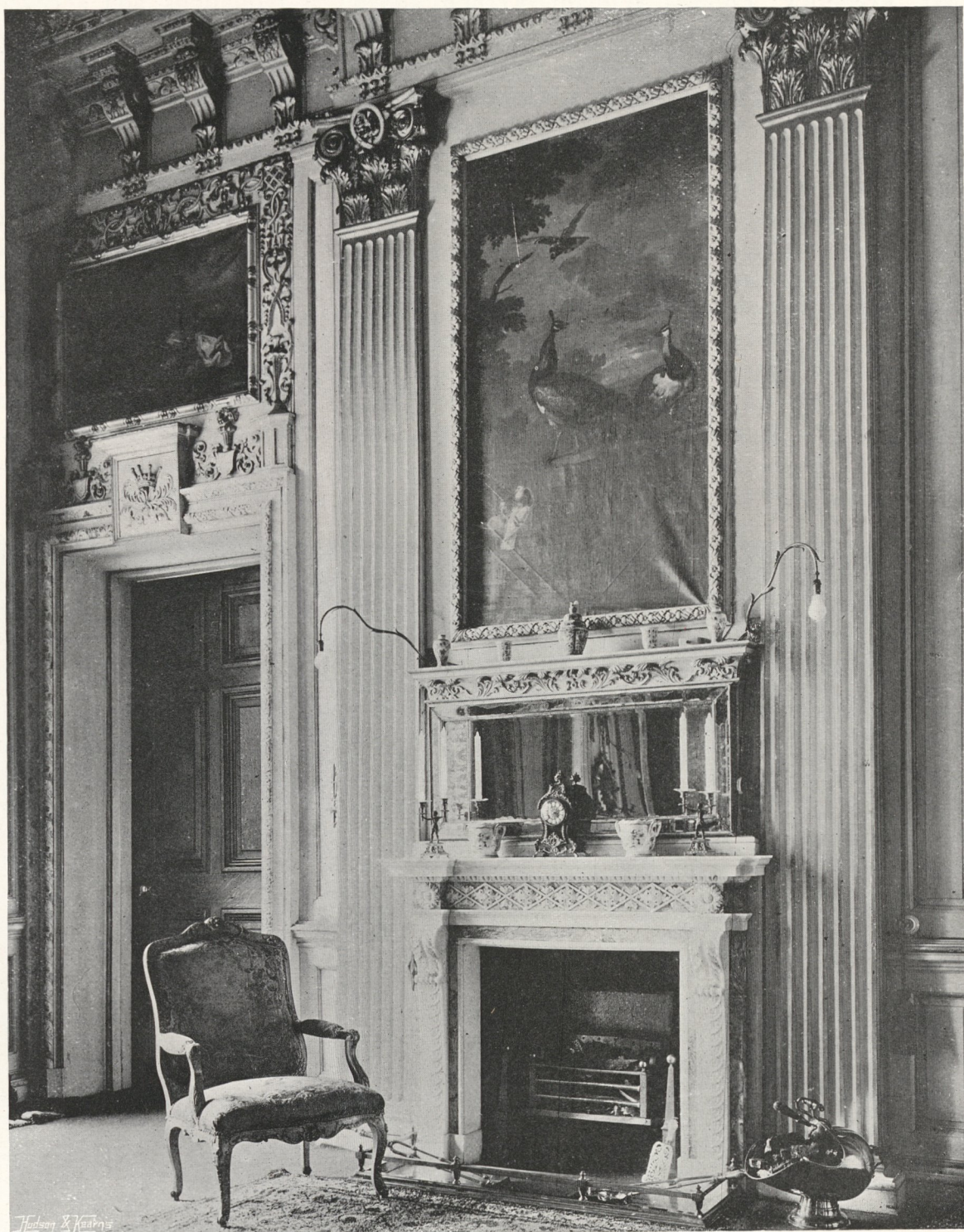


the autumn of 1708 he spent two months in Italy, where he bought many pictures. Before leaving Berlin, Frederick had presented him with a magnificent sword, set in diamonds and worth £15,000. In 1711 he was Ambassador at The Hague, and in that year his wishes were gratified, for he was made a member of the Privy Council and created Viscount Wentworth and Earl of Strafford, with special remainder to his brother Peter. He was one of the plenipotentiaries at The Hague to negotiate the terms of the Peace subsequently confirmed at Utrecht, and was made a Knight of the Garter, but the Treaty did not give universal satisfaction, and so much were the Commons incensed against Strafford that it was resolved to impeach him for high crimes and misdemeanours. His defence was delivered in the House of Lords, and no further action appears to have been taken. From that time onwards up to his death he lived mostly on his Yorkshire estates, where he greatly improved the old house of the Cutlers, created about it extensive ornamental grounds, and introduced many paintings and other works of art which he had purchased abroad. He died at Wentworth Castle in 1739.

William Wentworth, second Earl of Strafford of the new creation, who lived until 1791, was also a builder. He refronted his father's house after a design of his own, and did a great deal to beautify and enrich it with works of art. The grounds were much improved in his time. Horace Walpole was his intimate friend, and Wentworth Castle and its noble owner are constantly mentioned in the famous "Correspondence." Walpole was constantly looking forward to visiting the Castle, and when he went there he wrote: "This place is one of the very few that I really like. The situation, woods, views, are perfect in their kinds."

"Gramercy for your intention of seeing Wentworth Castle," he wrote to the Misses Berry in 1789; "it is my favourite of all great seats. Such a variety of ground, of wood and water, and almost all executed and disposed with so much taste by the present Earl. Mr. Gilpin sillily could see nothing but faults there. The new front, in my opinion, is one of the lightest and most beautiful buildings on earth; and, pray, like the



THE EAST TAPESTRY ROOM.

little Gothic edifice, and its position in the menagerie. I recommended it and had it drawn by Mr. Bentley from Chichester Cross." The Earl, like his father, was a collector, and spent much time abroad. Lady Mary Wortley Montagu met him in Rome in 1741, when he was a young man, and says, "he behaved himself really very modestly and genteely, and had lost the pertness he had acquired in his mother's assemblies." In the quadrangle of the house is a statue of this Earl by Rysbrack. He died