

**HISTORICAL ROOMS
FROM THE
MANOR HOUSES OF
ENGLAND. VOLUME 3**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649752133

Historical rooms from the manor houses of England. Volume 3 by Charles L. Roberson

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

CHARLES L. ROBERSON

**HISTORICAL ROOMS
FROM THE
MANOR HOUSES OF
ENGLAND. VOLUME 3**

Historical Rooms
from the
Manor Houses of England

By CHARLES L. ROBERSON.

VOLUME III.



PRINTED BY
WARRINGTON & Co., 23, GARRICK STREET, LONDON, W.C., FOR
ROBERSONS, THE KNIGHTSBRIDGE HALLS,
217, KNIGHTSBRIDGE, LONDON, S.W.7.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

	Plate No.	Facing Page
EXTERIOR OF KNIGHTSBRIDGE HALLS — — —	1	2
NEWINGTON GREEN OAK STAIRCASE — — —	2	7
ELIZABETHAN AND JACOBAN OAK ROOMS		
STANDISH HALL—JAMES I OAK ROOM — — —	3	10
Do. COAT OF ARMS (in colour) — — —	4	12
Do. STATE BEDROOM — — —	5	14
NORWICH ROOM — — — — —	6	16
HERONDEN HALL ROOM — — — — —	7	18
WILLIAM AND MARY ROOMS		
COMBE ABBEY—OAK AND GOLD PARLOUR — — —	8	20
SUTTON SCARSDALE OAK ROOM — — — — —	9	22
PINE ROOMS		
SUTTON SCARSDALE ROOM — — — — —	10	25
HALDON HOUSE ROOM — — — — —	11	27
HATTON GARDEN ROOM — — — — —	12	30
SPITAL SQUARE ROOM — — — — —	13	32



THE KNIGHTSBRIDGE HALLS

3900
R34a
42

FOREWORD.



IN PRESENTING this, the Third Volume of his work, "Antique Panelled Rooms from the Manor Houses of England," Mr. C. L. Roberson wishes to point out that it is in no way intended as a catalogue. The panelled interiors described are amongst those which have been exhibited in Robersons' Galleries. One or two are still available for sale, but the majority have already been disposed of to lovers of good workmanship.

Out of the large number of old panelled rooms—approximately sixty—which pass through the Knightsbridge Halls during the course of each year, only a few have been selected for inclusion in this volume. While these few are all of great interest, both architecturally and historically, they are not necessarily the most spacious (or the most expensive) rooms that Robersons of Knightsbridge have purchased and re-sold.

In many instances, when an ancient mansion is demolished, several fine old panelled rooms are saved. As these are usually of the same period and, possibly, of similar design, to illustrate more than one is unnecessary.

Other rooms have been intentionally omitted from this book in deference to the wishes of the owner, either past or present; while there are numerous simple rooms, either of oak or pine, containing no special features of very great interest which were considered too ordinary to include. Such rooms are comparatively easy to procure, although they, like the more elaborate examples, are becoming scarcer each year.

Of the pieces of furniture illustrated, little need be said. Each article is a true specimen of the workmanship of a bygone age. All are pieces fit for exhibition in a museum, and some, indeed, are already permanently installed in public art galleries and museums in various parts of the world.

Really authentic antique furniture is rarely in the market for very long, and although Robersons of Knightsbridge may always be relied upon to secure the choicest specimens, their task becomes increasingly difficult.



WHEN panelled rooms, such as those illustrated and described in this book, were originally fixed in position, many generations ago, by the artist-craftsmen who had fashioned them, they gave unspoken testimony to the patient labours of their creators.

After some years, however, their beauty in innumerable cases was lost, or rather hidden. Dame Fashion, ever fickle, dictated that the interiors of houses should be painted—a decree which included wall panellings. In consequence, we find that during the course of the last century anything from four to forty coats of paint have been applied to the surface of these walls, masking almost entirely the wealth of detailed carving upon which the old-time woodworkers spent so many arduous hours.

This phase in interior decoration should be the cause of considerable satisfaction to the present generation, inasmuch as the paint has acted as a preservative to the timber. Thus woodwork which otherwise would have crumbled or perished has been handed down to us in an unimpaired condition, although it is extremely improbable that our forebears had any such idea in mind at the time.

The task of removing these thick layers of protective paint in order to reveal the grain of the wood and the delicate chiselling, calls for considerable skill. Every inch of the painted surface is treated with a strong acid solution, called pickle, which after a while eats through to the surface of the timber. Then before any damage can be done to the wood by the pickling solution, this is quickly removed, the surface is washed, and the action of the acid is neutralised by an alkaline mixture. As only a small area can be treated at a time, it will be easily realised that even a small panelled room entails considerable work before it is ready for re-erection in a modern home.

Much has been heard recently of the "vandalism" of tearing these gems of English workmanship from the settings in which they have stood for so long. It is much to be regretted that such things should be, but hard facts must be faced. In almost every instance, the mansions in which these old rooms stood are too expensive to maintain as residences in these days. In addition to requiring a small army of servants to keep them in order (and these are difficult enough to secure for even a small house in a town!), they incur great liability in the form of taxation and renovation.

Few people have sufficient income nowadays to maintain one of these large houses, some of which have sixty or more bedrooms, and those who have, prefer smaller and more economical homes. Accordingly "Commerce," in the course of its ever-onward progress, takes a hand.

Usually the old "Hall," "Manor," or "Abbey" is demolished by a house-breaker to make room for a factory, while in the surrounding park is built a Garden City in which the employees may live.

It should not be thought for one moment that the descendants of the early owners of these manorial houses view with equanimity the loss of their treasured heritage. On the contrary, many a family of noble descent are at the present time content to live in comparative penury rather than part with the home that has housed their ancestors for unbroken centuries.