

## THE DUKE OF CHANDOS AND CANNONS

By FRANK MARCHAM

A COMPARISON of the actual surveyors' figures with various accounts of the original mansion of James Brydges, Duke of Chandos, will prove a certain amount of exaggeration, especially in contemporary descriptions. Chandos, in 1717, had a proper survey and map made of his Middlesex estates and from the Book of Reference the following table is taken.

	a.	r.	p.	
Cannons House and Inner Court.....	2	10		Building
The Court before the West Front .....	1	0		Wast
The Landry Chappell and Drying yard....	1	20		Building and wast
The Kitchen back court and Cole yard....		30		Building and wast
The Stables Court.....	1	1	36	Wast
The North Stables Coach house wood yard back yard and Poltry yard.....	2	12		Building and wast
The South Stables Coach house Lodg and back yard .....	1	13		Building and wast
The sum of the Buildings Courts and yards	3	3	1	
The South Court.....	3	21		Garden
The Cannal by the Gardeners Lodg with ye Ground about it.....	1	0	3	Water and Garden
The Great Bason .....	7	1	26	Water
Alcove Wilderness .....	3	1	21	Wood
The Starr Wilderness .....	4	1	16	Wood
The Parterre with ye Rest of the walks within ye Iron Palizadoes.....	10	2	19	Garden

	a.	r.	p.	
The Sum of what is within the Iron				
Palizadoes .....	27	2	26	
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The Physick Garden.....	1	3	29	Garden
The remaining part of the Garden.....	61	1	25	Garden
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The Sum....	63	1	14	
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The Sum of the Pleasure Garden.....	91	0	0	
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Kitchen Gardens .....	5	1	4	Garden
Millon Ground .....		1	0	Garden
The Ground between ye Rails and Kitchen				
Garden Walls .....		2	27	Garden
The Orchard .....	4	3	23	Orchard
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The Sum of ye Orchard and Kitchen Gardens	111	0	14	
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The Sum of the House Courts and Gardens	105	3	15	
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The Marsh House and Barnes and Yard..		2	13	Wast
Dove House and Pond.....			8	Wast
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The Sum....		2	21	
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After this are details of the walks and basons of water amounting to just over 61 acres, and various closes, amounting in all with the house to 147 acres.

A drawing of the "East Front" dated 15th January, 1716-17, shows a frontage of 150 feet, and fourteen life-size figures on a roof balustrade. A smaller plan, not part of the complete survey, says "the garden front extends 150 foot." From what I remember there is a set of plans bound up in a book labelled "Canons" now in the Huntington Library, California. From the Rental Book of 1735 to 1743 (folio) we note that for one year's window lights for Cannons the sum of 30s. was paid. In 1735-6 Gaetano Brunetti received £21 for the fourth and last payment for painting the staircase in Cavendish Square, but ten days before, Paul Vaillant,

the bookseller, was paid £18 for two sets of a Chinese History in sheets, so the half-year's salary of £20 paid to the Curate of Kingsbury does not appear extravagant. The earlier rental from 1713 does not give the details as in the second volume, but it gives valuable lists of tenants in Boswell Court and Queen Square (see *Wheatley and Cunningham*, III, 134). Lord Derby is shown in the Square paying £90 per annum in 1714.

A short history of these documents will explain what they are. There is a Stowe Collection in the British Museum which is so called from having been collected by the Buckingham and Chandos family and kept at Stowe. It is a miscellaneous collection such as many people made and is not part of the family history. The letters and papers, title-deeds, maps, plans, etc., which concerned the family and their estates, remained at Stowe till 1921. Many of them were burnt, but I was instrumental in rescuing some tons from this fate. They were thrown in heaps and mixed up regardless of what they were, but after long labour I made some sort of order in them and wrote a long account which is called "The Muniments of the Ducal Family of Buckingham and Chandos." The papers mentioned therein are now in the Huntington Library, California, and may be called The Stowe (Huntington) Collection. Much of my book has been used by various writers in *The Bulletin* of that library. What is not there is all the papers and deeds relating to the properties of the family from the first Duke of Chandos to the middle of the nineteenth century concerning estates in London and Middlesex, which I kept and may be called "The Stowe (Frank Marcham) Collection. These Dr. Idris Bell, Keeper of the Manuscripts in the British Museum, refused as a gift, though his predecessor, Dr. Gilson, had agreed to accept them. To tell the truth, I am not sorry now, for my experience is that the officers of that Department do not understand these manuscripts and could not make the best use of them. I gave the Department

a photograph of a hitherto unknown Treaty between Mary Queen of Scots and Queen Elizabeth which I picked out of a barrow-load meant for burning. It will be found described in my account referred to, and it is one of the items that ought to have been handed over with the original Stowe Collection sold to the government.

One of the original title-deeds of Cannons was lost and, at the beginning of the reign of James I, it was made into an Act of Parliament, and is now represented by an exemplification under the Great Seal. Our member, Mr. Percy Davenport, has used some portion of the Collection in his *Old Stanmore*, though that book relates to Great Stanmore. The title-deeds of Cannons, I understand, he has used in some papers in the Whitchurch Parish Magazine, which our members will hope to see printed in book form one day.



ONCE THE F.O. ENTRANCE—MR. DENNIS FLANDERS'S DRAWING OF PEMBROKE HOUSE

(See page 672)