

ITEM	HISTORICAL DETAIL	WORKS
	<p>≥ 1958</p> <p>Could you say something about your efforts at matching up some of the furnishings during the restoration?</p> <p>The acquisition of the internal embellishments of the house was obviously part of the restoration. And we decided, with Sir Albert's approval, not to try to recover the original furniture, and not to try to acquire original period pieces, but that we would be content with good reproductions. For about eight to ten years, one of my functions as Principal was to attend many of the sales rooms, and look for eighteenth century French furniture - side tables, ornaments, paintings. [Page 6] This is where Mr. Bletcher and I came into the picture because Sir Albert was unable to do this. We acquired the furniture from the Holbein Chamber, the fourposter bed - something like the original; the sofas and the settees of the Long Gallery. We got a firm in Bond Street to make the chairs in the Library, the Gothic chairs in the Little Parlour, the reproduction set of Chippendale chairs in the Diningroom of the Old House. We had some illuminating evidence of the London dealer proceed.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CRONIN 5+</p>	
	<p>1958 Dec</p> <p>Sir Albert Richardson Plan [plan recording and with proposal of the restoration of the north entrance. Room marked 'Holbein Room / Guest bedroom' Bathroom not opening into bedchamber, still accessed through Trunk Ceiled Passage and screens not marked.]</p> <p style="text-align: right;">BEDS ROLL RGH/2/335</p>	
	<p>1959</p> <p>This room, so called because of the painting by Holbein kept there, dates from 1759. It was in this room, we are told, that Walpole got his inspiration for his famous "Castles in Otranto.". Perhaps the most striking feature is the screen with the elaborate Gothic details, which divides the room. This was designed by Bentley, who derived his inspiration from the gates of the choir at Rouen. The chimney piece, the most ornate in the house, was again designed by Bentley, and was "chiefly taken from the tomb of Archbishop Warham at Canterbury." The ceiling was taken from "the Queen's Dressing Room at Windsor." The Holbeins, the treasures, the various curiosities - including "the Red Hat of Cardinal Wolsey, found in the Great Wardrobe by Bishop Burnet when Clerk of the Closet" - are all long since scattered. The present decoration was only recently carried out. The fine inlaid table now in this room is a collector's item, and of interest to historians. It originally belonged to the famous Irish politician, Daniel O'Connell, and was presented to the College after the celebrations to honour the centenary of Catholic Emancipation were held at St. Marys in 1929.</p> <p>Walpole's comment on this room in a letter to Stratford of October, 1759, may seem rather ironic: "It has a comely sobriety that I think answers very well to the tone it should have."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Dunning p 26</p>	

ITEM	HISTORICAL DETAIL	WORKS
	1983 Feb+ [Correspondence with AAP and Michael Snodin establishes cause of Dry rot - blocked down pipe] papier mâché not stripped but some elements added, replacing areas of loss.	