

Contents

<i>Note on spelling and dates</i>	x
1. Introduction	1
2. A Christian art	
The impact of religion	27
2.1 The image of our Lord on a board: Augustine arrives in England 27	
2.2 The making of the Lindisfarne Gospels: a tenth-century account 27	
2.3 Culture in the north: the cosmopolitan influence of the monks of Northumbria 28	
2.4 Art from Gaul and Rome: Benedict Biscop furnishes the abbey church of St Peter 29	
2.5 An altar from Rome, c. 700: Aldhelm embellishes a church 30	
2.6 The pride of Rome: Wilfred, bishop of York, recreates Roman splendour at Hexham and York 31	
2.7 The gifts of Athelstan: a king's gifts to the shrine of St Cuthbert 32	
2.8 The relics of St Cuthbert: Reginald of Durham's account of the saint's robes 32	
2.9 Books for St Albans, c. 1080: the bequest of a Norman knight 36	
2.10 Edward's church: the building of Westminster Abbey 37	
2.11 Mishaps: the hazards of medieval building 38	
2.12 The rebuilding of the choir of Canterbury: a twelfth-century account 39	
2.13 Rules for houses: the London Assizes of 1189 43	
2.14 Activities at St Albans: achievements and failures in building 44	
2.15 Royal Building: the activities of Henry III 47	
2.16 A week of wages at Westminster: expenditure during the second week after Easter, 1253 50	
2.17 An English scribe abroad: a contract for the work of Robert of Normandy 51	
3. Knights and burghers	
A secular art appears	53
3.1 Artists' materials, 1284: a debt in the Letter Book of the City of London 53	
3.2 Censoring images: a letter from the bishop of London, 1306 53	
3.3 Private possessions: the paternal inheritance of Johanna le Blund 54	
3.4 A house for a pelterer: the contract between Simon de Canterbury, carpenter, and William Hanington, 1308 55	
3.5 Fake brass pots: the potters of London complain to the Mayor 56	
3.6 Rebuilding the tower	

of Ely: the achievement of Alan of Walsingham 57 **3.7 Royal portraits:** Edward II views his ancestors at Gloucester 58
3.8 Materials for a coronation: John de Feriby and Thomas of Useflete's accounts for the coronation of Edward III 58 **3.9 The rules of the tapestry-makers:** approving the ordinances of the Tapicers in 1331 61 **3.10 The pewterer's craft:** the regulations of the pewterers, 1348 63 **3.11 How angels should look:** John de Trevisa's translation of Bartholomew de Glanville's *De Proprietatibus Rerum* 65 **3.12 The king's painters:** working on St Stephen's chapel, Westminster under Edward III 66 **3.13 The economics of stained glass:** the expenses for St Stephen's chapel under Edward III 69 **3.14 No labour problems, 1361:** Edward III's conscription of masons from Norfolk and Suffolk 71
3.15 London work for Durham: Sir John de Nevill's gifts to the Cathedral 72 **3.16 Painting at Durham:** payments in the Account Rolls, 1377–1469 73 **3.17 A haul of jewellery:** the stolen property of John Frensshe and Thomas Stoke, goldsmiths of London 73 **3.18 An ideal castle:** John Lydgate's account of Priam's palace, 1414–20 74 **3.19 A Chaucerian chamber:** Chaucer describes his own room 77 **3.20 A contract for building a church:** building the nave at Fotheringay, 1434 77
3.21 Marriage sampling: Henry VI's commission for the portraits of the daughters of John, Count of Armagnac 81
3.22 Designing Eton College: Henry VI's instructions of 1447 82 **3.23 A heaven of timber:** the theatrical trappings of the church of St Mary Ratcliffe, Bristol, 1470 86 **3.24 Peeces of Arras:** Henry VII buys Arras cloth from John Grenier of Tournay in 1488 86 **3.25 The king's chapel and the king's tomb:** Henry VII's instructions for his tomb at Westminster 87

4. The new spirit

Merchants and courtiers in the Tudor period

90

4.1 Sources of patronage: legacies to the church from Bedfordshire wills, 1500–26 90 **4.2 'Like an earthly paradise':** Henry Bradshaw sings the praises of tapestry work in *The Life of St Werburgh* 92 **4.3 Sartorial splendour:** the Venetian ambassador describes Henry VIII's court at Westminster 94 **4.4 Graphic art:** the embellishment of legal documents for Cardinal Wolsey 95
4.5 A cardinal entertains: Cardinal Wolsey prepares to receive the French ambassadors at Hampton Court in 1527 96 **4.6 A contract for windows:** the commissioning of the stained glass for King's College Chapel 98 **4.7 A painted head:** John Nicholson and John Cottingham go to law over a head of St John the Baptist, 1529 98 **4.8 'Payntyng of dyvers tabull's':** Henry VIII's expenditure on Hampton Court, c. 1530 99 **4.9 A garden to walk in:** the President of Queen's College, Cambridge acquires his own garden, 1532 99 **4.10 Embellishing Hampton Court:** the improvements of Henry VIII in 1535 and 1536 100
4.11 The expenses of a princess: excerpts from the account

books of Mary Tudor, 1536–44 101 **4.12 Domestic images:** Anne Buckenham bequeaths an alabaster table in 1539 104

4.13 The pursuits of Henry VIII: the royal interest in music, painting and embroidery 104 **4.14 A tomb for King Henry VIII:** the varied duties of the king's Sergeant-Painter 105

4.15 The Royal Collection: Sir Anthony Denny's inventory of the contents of Westminster Palace, 1542 106 **4.16 'A newe churche':** commissioning the woodwork for Trinity College Chapel in 1556 110

4.17 Decorating a ship: the advice of Jehan Bythorne, Gunner to the King, 1543 111 **4.18 Post-Reformation treasures:** an inventory of liturgical objects at York Minster during the reign of Edward VI 112

4.19 How a man should build his house or mansion, 1547: the advice of Andrew Boorde, doctor of physic 116 **4.20 Deface and destroy:** legislation against superstitious images, 1550 116

4.21 Royal possessions: a list of articles missing from Westminster Palace in 1553 117 **4.22 Tergiversations:** pulling down altars in St John's College Chapel in 1559 119

4.23 Ancient monuments: a royal proclamation against attacks on secular monuments, 1560 119

4.24 A woman painter c. 1560: paying monies to the widower of Levina Teerlinc 121 **4.25 Worthy of his hire:** the economic status of artists and craftsmen in 1563 121

4.26 Elizabethan stained glass: payments to William Blithe and Miles Jugg for work on Trinity College Chapel, 1562–64 122 **4.27 Preserving the royal image:** a proclamation on royal portraits, 1563 124

4.28 Royal advice: Nicholas Hilliard remembers a conversation with the Queen 125 **4.29 Romish images:** Queen Elizabeth reproves the Dean of the Chapel Royal 127

4.30 A priest's vestments: the bequest of John Howe, priest, in 1563 129

4.31 Reluctance to reform: the survival of images in Ripon, 1567 129 **4.32 Glass popular:** the growth in demand for glass from 1567 to 1630 130

4.33 The Elizabethan home: a passage from William Harrison's *Description of England*, 1577 132 **4.34 Modest possessions:** the inventories of Thomas Greene, Elizabeth Sly and William Downing, 1544–88 135

4.35 Hanged with tapestry: Imogen's room in *Cymbeline* 136 **4.36 Building restrictions, 1580:** a royal proclamation 137

4.37 Art in the service of the law: using posters to hunt down the Babington conspirators 139

4.38 One of the most beautiful houses in England: the Duke of Wurtemberg's secretary describes Theobalds, the home of Lord Burghley 139 **4.39 Royal powers:** Queen Elizabeth grants her Sergeant-Painter the authority to appropriate goods and services 141

4.40 Use before uniformity: the principles of building according to Francis Bacon 142 **4.41 Tenements:** alarm at the spread of speculative slum development 144

4.42 'A kind of true gentility': Nicholas Hilliard on the connection between gentility and art 145 **4.43 Magnificently built:** a German traveller is impressed by Hampton Court 146

4.44 Fashions regulated: the proclamation of 6th July, 1597 147

4.45 Elizabethan gardens: Thomas Platter describes the gardens

at Nonsuch and Hampton Court 150 **4.46 Engraved portraits forbidden:** a warning from the Privy Council in 1600

5. Kings and courts

A new gentility under the Stuarts

155

5.1 Hall furnishings, 1603: an inventory of the furnishings of Hengrave, Suffolk 155 **5.2 The Masque of Blackness, 1605:** Ben Jonson describes Inigo Jones's design for a royal masque 156 **5.3 A mosaic picture and others:** Sir Henry Wotton's commissions in Venice for the Earl of Salisbury 157 **5.4 Arts and manufactures:** the report to King James on establishing a tapestry works in England 159 **5.5 Gravity and licence:** Inigo Jones on private and public tastes in art 161 **5.6 Trade in Venetian glass:** John Chamberlain's letter to Alice Carleton, 1615 161 **5.7 An application:** William Smith offers to acquire *objets d'art* for the Earl of Arundel 162 **5.8 Rubens does a deal:** an exchange of pictures for antiquities, 1618 163 **5.9 Commendable and useful:** Thomas Peacham discusses drawing in *The Complete Gentleman* 166 **5.10 'Well-seen in statue-craft':** Peacham on the appreciation of classical statuary 168 **5.11 Enlarging a great chamber:** repairs for the Earl of Northumberland at Petworth, 1619 169 **5.12 Doting on new fashions:** Thomas Peacham discusses 'following the fashion' in 1622 170 **5.13 Paintings for the Duke:** Balthasar Gerbier acquires art treasures for the Duke of Buckingham 172 **5.14 'Old idolls':** Sir Thomas Roe describes the adventures of the Earl of Arundel's chaplain in collecting sculpture for his master 176 **5.15 A great deal:** Daniel Nys writes to Endymion Porter about the royal acquisition of the collection of the Duke of Mantua, 1628 177 **5.16 A contract for a stately tomb:** the widow of Sir Charles Morrison gives directions to Nicholas Stone 179 **5.17 A memory to outlive our lives:** Izaak Walton describes the building of John Donne's tomb 182 **5.18 A bad bargain, 1630:** the Auditor-General discusses Charles I's purchase of tapestries from Sir Francis Crane 183 **5.19 Patching up St Paul's:** Inigo Jones reports on the danger of the church of St Gregory to the cathedral, 1631–2 186 **5.20 Art from Madrid:** Sir Arthur Hopton, ambassador to Spain, buys paintings for the Earl of Arundel 187 **5.21 Setting up an organ:** the Dean and Chapter of York Minister petition the king, 1631 190 **5.22 'The privie barge':** the bill from John Dessent, Sergeant Painter, for repairing the royal barge, 1630 194 **5.23 Carpenters or joiners?:** a demarcation dispute settled by committee, 1632 195 **5.24 The furnishings of a noble household:** an inventory of the Earl of Northumberland's possessions at Petworth, 1632 197 **5.25 Various purchases:** the acquisitions of Nicholas Stone Junior in Florence and Rome, 1638–40 199 **5.26 Charles I as a connoisseur:** the king views a picture at Whitehall 201 **5.27 The Golden Gate for England:** Sir Thomas Roe

hunts for statues in Constantinople, 1625 201 **5.28 Learned in antiquities:** Thomas Nabbe discusses antiquarianism in 1640 203

6. The Civil War and after

Puritanism and affluence

205

6.1 Parliamentary iconoclasm: an Ordinance of 1643 208 **6.2 'To be taken away and defaced':** the Earl of Manchester and William Dowsing, Gent, enforce the Ordinance 206 **6.3 Caring for pictures:** Charles I asks a favour of one of his captors 209 **6.4 Histories:** Edward Norgate discusses painting in *The Art of Limning*, 1648 210 **6.5 'A fair renown':** the memorial to Henry Stone, painter and sculptor 213 **6.6 'An ingenious wife':** the activities of Mrs Charles Beale, artist 214 **6.7 Tapestry exports:** English tapestries owned by Louis XIV, 1675 216 **6.8 Small statues:** Francesco Fanelli exploits a fashion 218 **6.9 A Yorkshireman in Florence, 1657:** John Reresby of Thybergh Hall comments on the Pitti Palace 218 **6.10 The taste of Pepys:** Samuel Pepys on art, 1660–69 221 **6.11 Plasterers versus painters:** the Painter-Stainers' Company proposes a bill, 1664 225 **6.12 Wren in France:** a visit to Paris in 1665 227 **6.13 A merchant's tastes:** John Evelyn visits Mr Bohun in Kent 229 **6.14 Daily concerns:** extracts from the diary of Robert Hooke 229 **6.15 Painterly sensibilities:** John Riley suffers from his clients 232 **6.16 A fine house:** Celia Fiennes on Broadlands, c. 1680 232 **6.17 Oriental textiles:** the inventory of Sir John Finch, former ambassador to Turkey 234 **6.18 Keeping control:** Wren discusses his relationship with builders 236 **6.19 A printer's feast:** Joseph Moxon on the banquet of the London Printers 237 **6.20 Evelyn and Gibbons:** the diarist advances the career of the artist 239 **6.21 A great house, 1677:** Evelyn at Euston 241 **6.22 Convenient offices:** Sir Roger Pratt on the design of houses, 1660 242 **6.23 The beautifying of ceilings:** Sir Roger Pratt discusses principles and practice 244 **6.24 Laying out the grounds for a house:** advice on landscaping, c. 1670 247 **6.25 Of glass and casements:** Pratt on choosing good windows 248 **6.26 Wallpaper appears:** the account of John Houghton, 1689 250 **6.27 Garden design: walls, grottos, fountains:** advice from John Woolridge 250 **6.28 Sash windows:** excerpt from *The Wonders of the Peake* by Charles Cotton 251 **6.29 The life of an apprentice:** the recollections of John Fryer 251

Bibliographical index

254

Index

274