



# *Vistas of vast extension*

**F**or a distinguished 18th century contemporary of my ancestors Ralph, Duke of Montagu and his son John, their gardens at Boughton were on an almost unimaginable scale. “*Vistas of vast extension*” were the words of the celebrated antiquarian William Stukeley and spreading out as they did over 100 acres of intricate design with more than a mile of canals and over 30 miles of avenues, it is easy to understand his amazement.

A huge project of restoration still has much to achieve, but with this new exhibition we hope to explain the early vision of the Montagus. For me, part of the fascination rests in the nuts and bolts of how those forebears set about their garden creation and how over the years tastes evolved from the formal baroque parterres with their stone basins, statues and fountains, to the simpler and more direct relationship with the natural landscape that came to characterise the English garden. At the same time we hope to remind viewers of how the love of gardening has inspired poets and writers, craftsmen and musicians over the centuries.

It is our ambition that you, our visitors, will step from study of the stories and plans from centuries past directly into Boughton’s vast landscape, better able to understand why a contemporary like Daniel Defoe could write that “...even in Italy I have never seen the like”.

The Duke of Buccleuch

July 2017





# A Most Brief and Pleasaunt Treatise



Sir Edward Montagu of Boughton.  
© Buccleuch Collection.

1557: FEBRUARY

**S**ir Edward Montagu of Boughton (1531 – 1602) succeeded his father the 1<sup>st</sup> Sir Edward 460 years ago in 1557. In the same year, after declaring war on France, Queen Mary Tudor commanded Sir Edward to form a 60 strong militia from his tenants and servants to defend the realm, to include horsemen and footsoldiers.

In 1579 Sir Edward extended the original house and built the Long Gallery, now the “Flower Gallery” at Boughton. His brother Roger, a London merchant, regularly sent seeds and plants, including apricot trees, from London to stock the gardens.

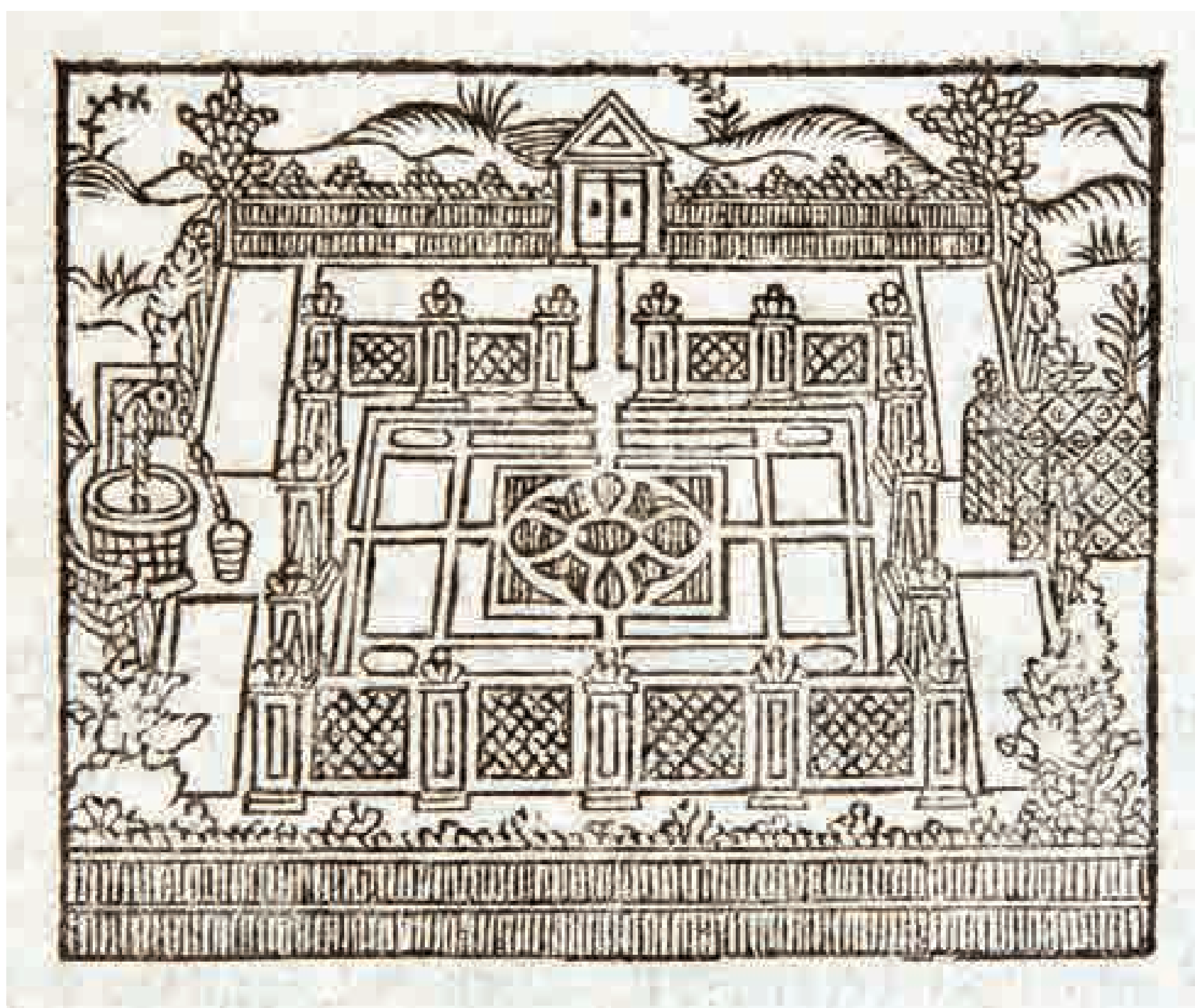
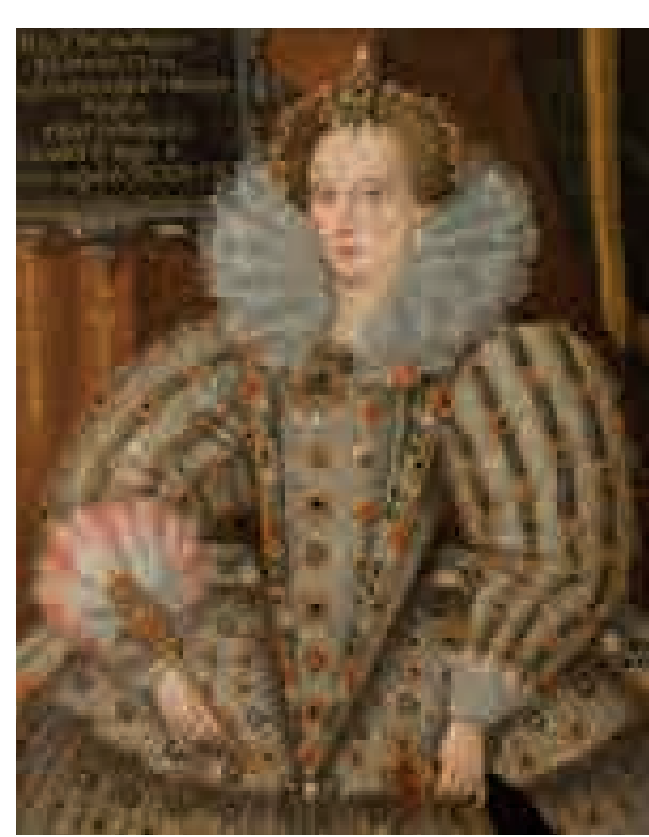


Plate from Thomas Hill's 'The Profitable Arte of Gardening', 1558.  
© Buccleuch Collection.

Poet, theologian, playwright and Latin translator, Nicholas Grimald was born at Leighton Bromswold, Huntingdonshire, just 20 miles from Boughton. Chaplain to Bishop Ridley of London he recanted his Protestantism after imprisonment for heresy under Queen Mary, but returned to his faith on the accession of Elizabeth I.



Queen Elizabeth I.  
© Buccleuch Collection.

**The Garden** (1557) by Nicholas Grimald (1519-1562)  
From: *Songes and Sonnetes*

The issue of great love Jove, draw near, you Muses nine!  
Help us to praise the blissful plot of garden ground so fine.  
The garden gives good food and aid for leech's<sup>1</sup> cure; (1doctor)  
The garden, full of great delight, his master doth allure.

Sweet <sup>2</sup>sallet herbs be here, and herbs of every kind; (2salad)  
The ruddy grapes, the seemly fruits, be here at hand to find.  
Here pleasance wanteth not to make a man full fain;  
Here marvelous the mixture is of solace and of gain.

To water sundry seeds, the furrow by the way  
A running river, trilling down with liquor, can convey.  
Behold, with lively hue fair flow'r's that shine so bright  
With riches, like the orient gems, they paint the mould<sup>3</sup> in sight. (3soil)

Bees, humming with soft sound (their murmur is so small).  
Of blooms and bloffoms suck the tops; on dewed leaves they fall.  
The creeping vine holds down her own bewedded elms,  
And, wandering out with branches thick, reeds folded overwhelms.

Trees spread their coverts wide with shadows fresh and gay;  
Full well their branched bows defend the fervent sun away.  
Birds chatter, and some chirp, and some sweet tunes do yield;  
All mirthful, with their songs so blithe, they make both air and field.

The garden it allures, it feeds, it glads the sprite<sup>4</sup>; (4spirit)  
From heavy hearts all doleful dumps the garden chaseth quite.  
Strength it restores to limbs, draws and fulfillls the sight;  
With cheer revives the senses all and maketh labour light.

O, what delights to us the garden ground doth bring!  
Seed, leaf, flow'r, fruit, herb, bee and tree, and more than I may sing!

1558: ACCESSION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH 1



© Buccleuch Collection.



© Buccleuch Collection.

Thomas Hill's 'A most briefe and pleasaunte treatise, teaching how to dresse, sowe, and set a garden' of 1563 was the first book on gardening published in England.

It was so successful that it was republished several times under the title 'The Profitable Arte of Gardening'.

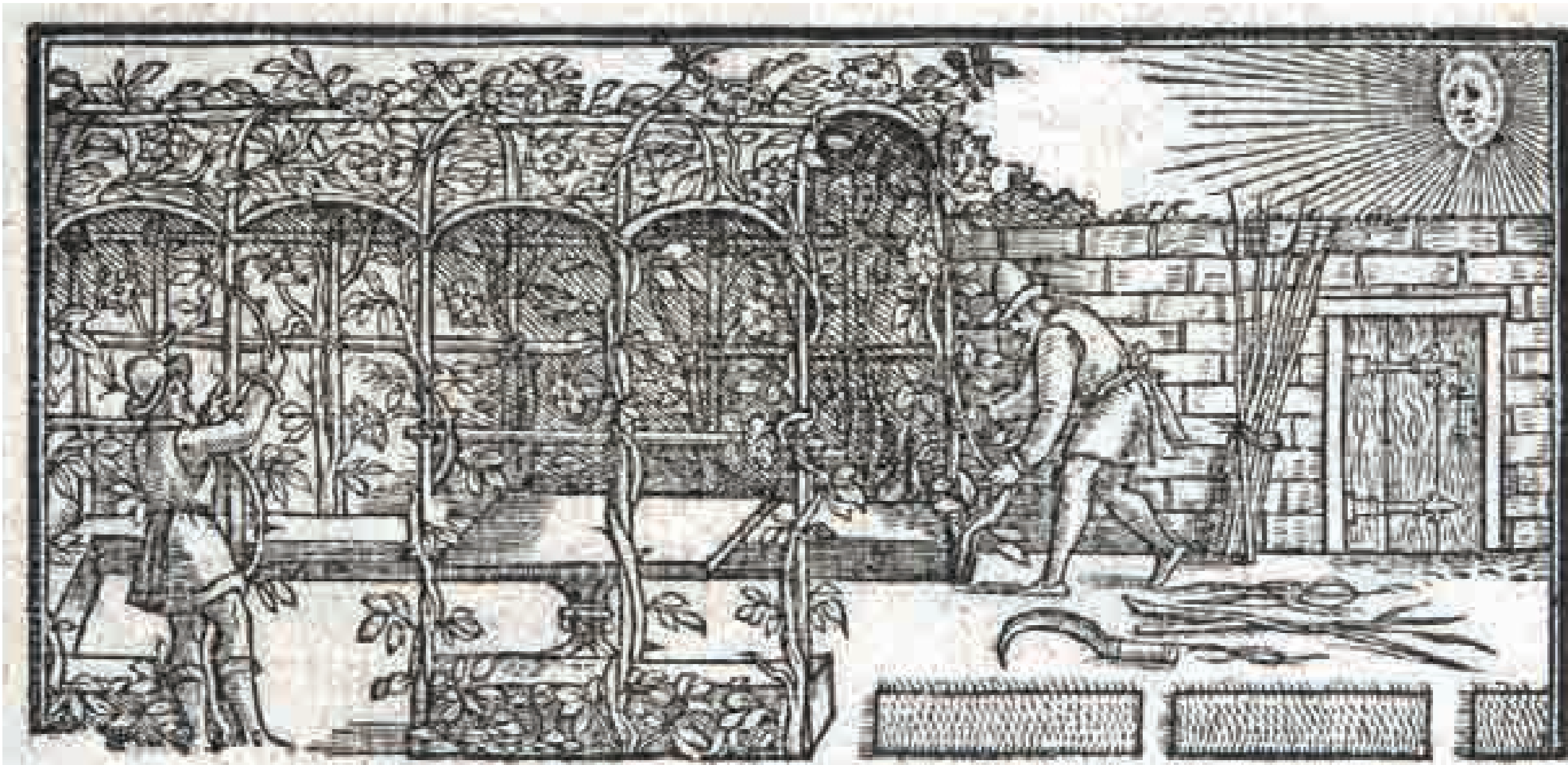
Boughton's 1574 edition has a design for a maze and a detailed appendix on beekeeping.





# Greene and Fragrant

1564: BIRTH OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

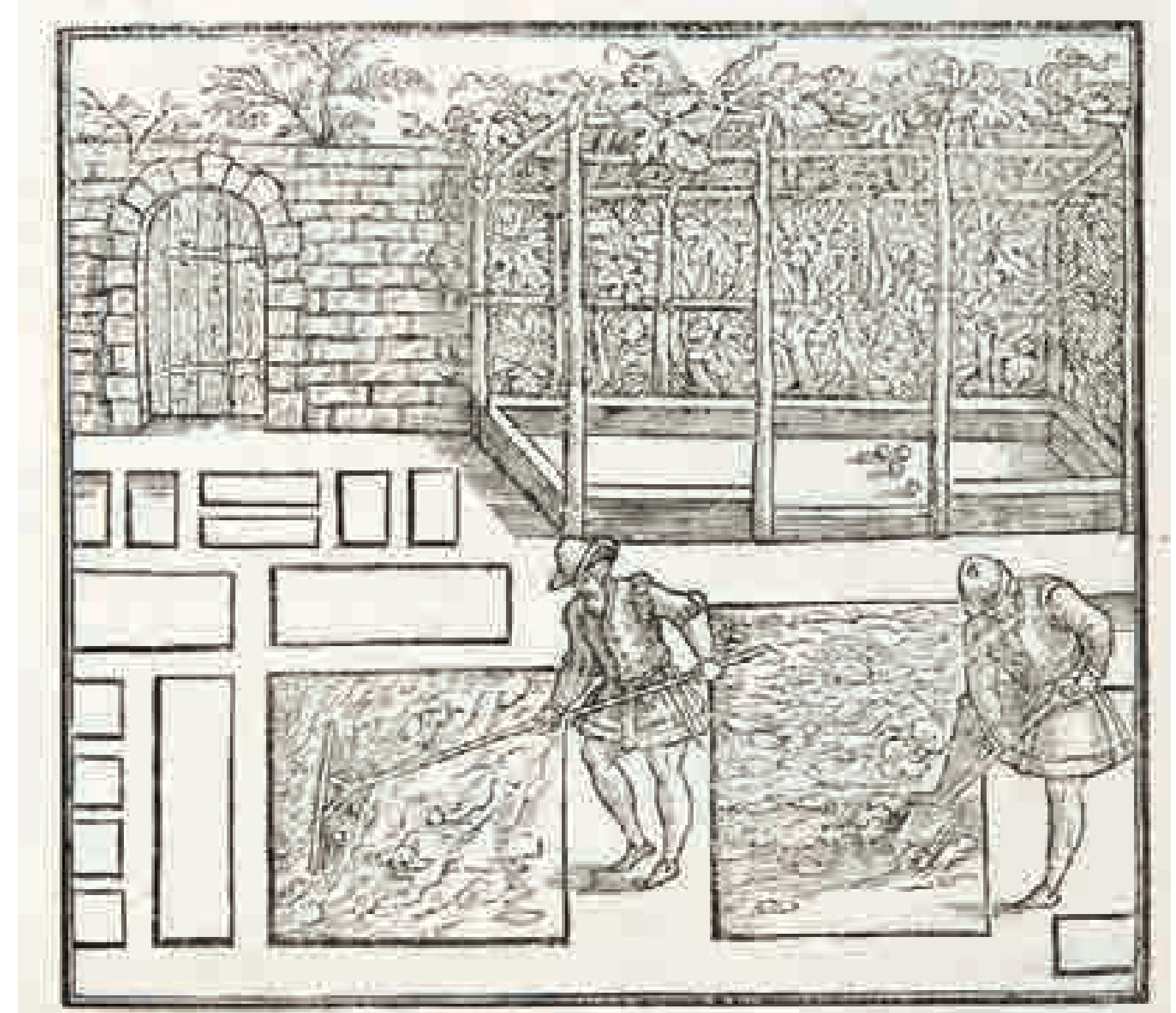


A plate from Thomas Hill's "The Gardener's Labyrinth", 1577.  
© University of Glasgow Special Collections.

Thomas Hill's – alias Didymus Mountain – *The Gardener's Labyrinth*, published in 1577, contains 69 short chapters of comprehensive and practical advice on gardening including the choice of seeds, apt times for planting and watering, designs for knot gardens and mazes as well as advice on the medicinal properties of herbs and flowers through their essences.

The woodcut illustrations alone are fascinating and lead the reader straight into an Elizabethan garden, where the sun is shining, the bees buzzing and the gardeners tending their rose arbour or digging their flower beds.

**T**he quarters well turned in, and fatted with good dung a time before, & the earth raised through the dunging that in handsome manner by a line set downe in the earth, be troden out into beddes and seemely borders



© University of Glasgow Special Collections.



And in the Sommer-time whilst floures be greene and fragrant, yee shall not have any Gentlewoman almost, no nor yet any droye<sup>1</sup> or pussles<sup>2</sup> in the Cuntrey; but they will carye in their hands, nosegayes and posies of floures to smell at, and which is more, two or three Nosegayes sticked in their brests before, for what cause I cannot tel, except it be to allure their Paramours to catch at them whereby I doubt not but they get many a slobbering kisse, and peradventure more friendship besides...

(<sup>1</sup>drunken woman)  
(<sup>2</sup>slattern)

From: *Anatomie of Abuses* (1583)  
by Phillip Stubbes

Phillip Stubbes (1555 – 1610) was a puritanical, social reforming pamphleteer and ballad writer. Although his lengthy *Anatomie of Abuses* is an indignant rant against the manners, amusements and fashions of the time, it is also a highly revealing window onto Elizabethan daily life.

1587: EXECUTION OF MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS NEARBY AT FOTHERINGHAY

Sir Edward Montagu was present as county administrator.

1588: THE SPANISH ARMADA

1603: DEATH OF QUEEN ELIZABETH I, ACCESSION OF KING JAMES I

James I attends a feast at Boughton, 1604.

1605: GUY FAWKES' GUNPOWDER PLOT

3<sup>rd</sup> Sir Edward Montagu of Boughton ensured that November 5th be declared an official day of thanksgiving.

I know a bank where the wild Thyme blows  
Where Oxflips and the nodding Violet grows  
Quite over canopied with luscious Woodbine,  
With fweet musk Rofes, and with Eglantine,  
There fleeps Titania, fometime of the night,  
Lull'd in these flowers, with dances and delight:

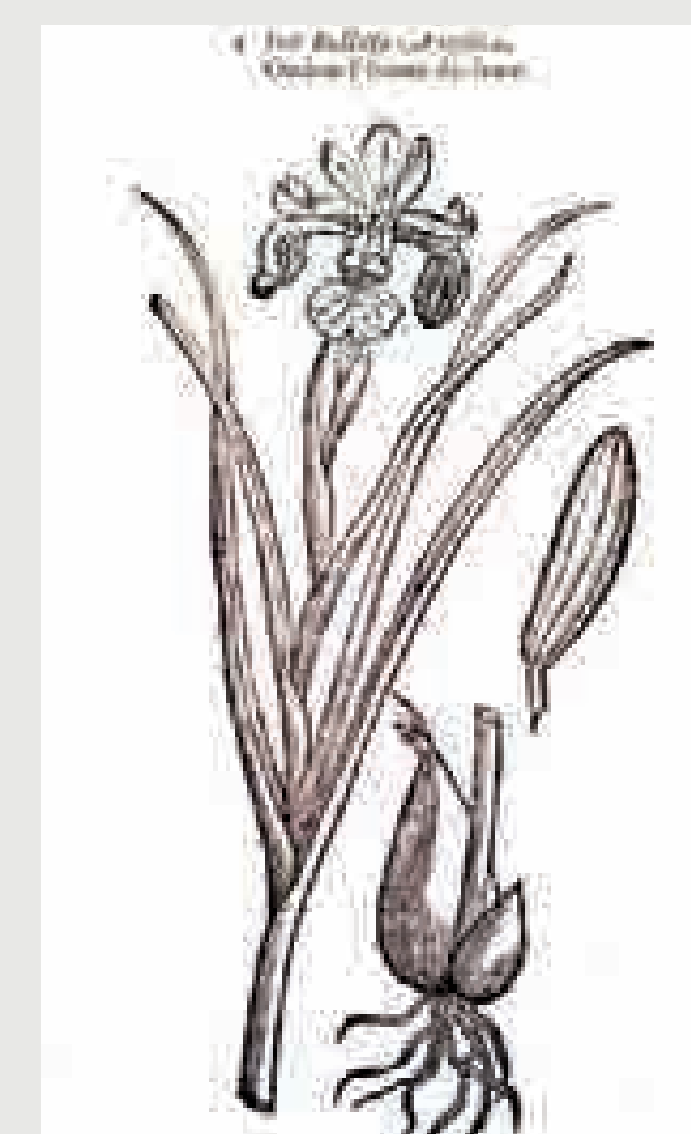
From: *A Midsummer Night's Dreams* (1594)  
by William Shakespeare



Daffodils,  
That come before the swallow dares, and take  
The Winds of March with beauty; violets dim  
But sweeter than the lids of Juno's eyes  
Or Cytherea's<sup>1</sup> breath; pale primroses,  
That die unmarried, ere they can behold  
Bright Phoebus in his strength, a malady  
Most incident to maids; bold oxlips and  
The crown-imperial; lilies of all kinds  
The flower-de-luce being one.

From:  
*The Winter's Tale* (1611)  
by William Shakespeare

1(Cytherea = Aphrodite,  
goddess of love)

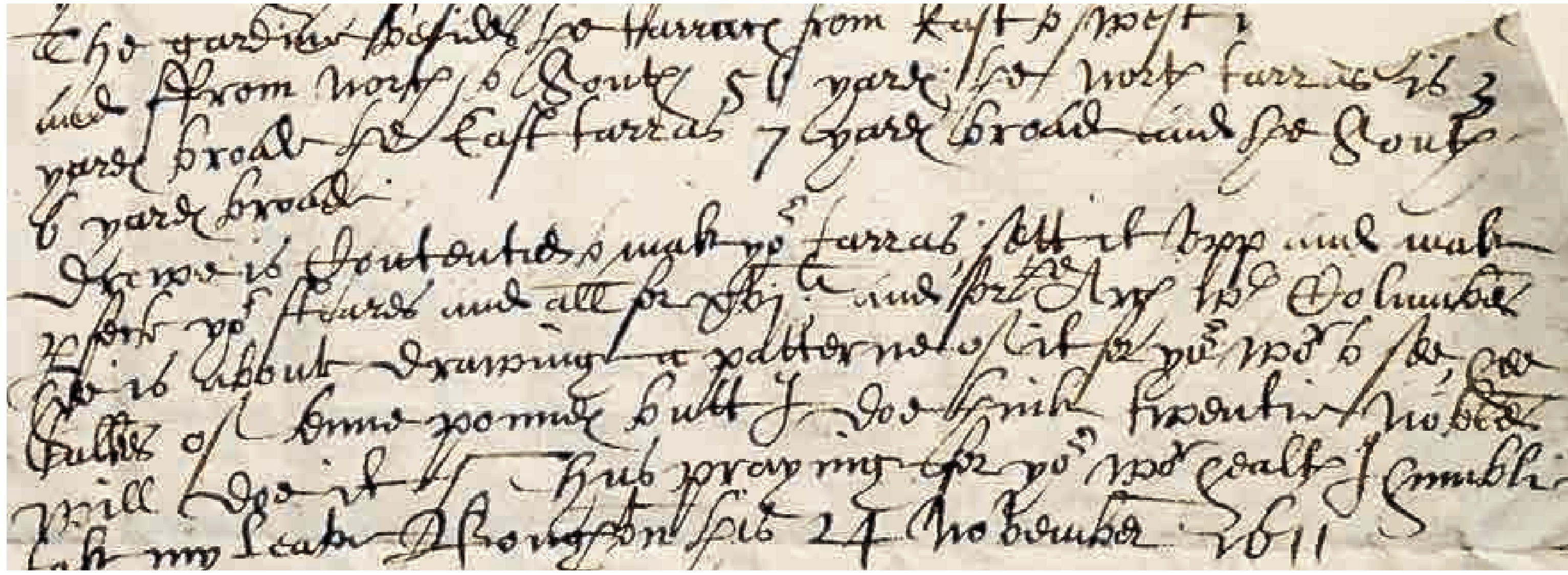


Illustrations from  
*John Gerard's Herball*, 1597.





# Blossomes, Birds and Bowers



1611: NOVEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>

A letter from John Hunt to 3rd Sir Edward Montagu outlining the new garden at Boughton.

“The garden besides the terraces from east to west is [...missing] and is from north to south 56 yards; the north terrace is 3 yards broad, the east terrace 7 yards broad and the south 6 yards broad.”

“Drewe is contented to make your terrace, set it up and make perfect your stairs and all for £16 and for the arch with columns he is about drawing a pattern of it for Your Worship to see, he talks of £10 but I do think twenty Nobles\* will do it”. [\*a high-value gold coin]

Without the hall, and close upon the gate,  
A goodly orchard-ground was situate,  
Of near ten acres; about which was led  
A lofty quickset. In it flourished  
High and broad fruit trees,  
that pomegranates bore,  
Sweet figs, pears, olives; and a number more  
Most useful plants did there produce their store,  
Whose fruits the hardest winter could not kill,  
Nor hottest summer wither.....

Pear grew after pear,  
Apple succeeded apple, grape the grape,  
Fig after fig came; time made never rape  
Of any dainty there. ....

Two fountains graced the garden; of which, one  
Pour'd out a winding stream that over-run  
The grounds for their use chiefly, th' other went  
Close by the lofty palace gate, and lent  
The city his sweet benefit.

From: *The Gardens of Alcinoüs* (1614)  
part of George Chapman's translation of Homer's *Odyssey*

## 1616: DEATH OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

3rd Sir Edward Montagu created 1<sup>st</sup> Lord Montagu of Boughton 1621.

Throw hither all your quaint enamelled eyes,  
That on the green turf suck the honied showers,  
And purple all the ground with vernal flowers.  
Bring the rather<sup>1</sup> primrose that forsaken dies,  
The tufted crow-toe<sup>2</sup>, and pale jessamine<sup>3</sup>,  
The white pink, and the pansy freaked with jet,

<sup>(early)</sup>  
<sup>(unidentified, possibly bluebell)</sup>  
<sup>(Jasmine)</sup>

From: *Lycidas* (1637)  
by John Milton  
(1608 - 1674)



Charles I 'grisaille' portrait by Van Dyck c1640. © Buccleuch Collection.

## 1625: ACCESSION OF KING CHARLES I

GOD ALMIGHTY first planted a garden; and, indeed it is the purest of human pleasures.

First line of Francis Bacon's famous essay *Of Gardens* (1625)

Charles I grants Lord Montagu permission to clear the forest and extend the park at Boughton, 1639.

I sing of Brooks, of Blossomes, Birds, and Bowers:  
Of April, May, of June, and July-Flowers.

From: *The Argument of his Booke* (1648)  
by Robert Herrick (1591-1674)

## 1649: EXECUTION OF KING CHARLES I

With strange perfumes he did the roses taint,  
And flowers themselves were taught to paint.  
The tulip, white, did for complexion seek,  
And learned to interline its cheek:  
Its onion root they then so high did hold,  
That one was for a meadow sold.

From: *The Garden* (c1655)  
by Andrew Marvell



The poet Andrew Marvell was an MP under both Cromwell and Charles II and his influence helped release the poet John Milton from prison during the Restoration. Here he refers to the economic bubble - 'Tulipmania' – when Dutch botanists competed to breed ever more beautiful cultivars by exploiting a virus which caused striations to appear on the petals. In the booming Dutch economy of the early 1630's the bulbs had become an ever more expensive commodity with bulbs traded for the price of a house. The market suddenly collapsed in 1637 resulting in an economic depression.





# Ralph the Magnificent

1660: RESTORATION OF THE MONARCHY, CORONATION OF CHARLES II

1661: LOUIS XIV COMMISSIONS ANDRÉ LE NÔTRE TO DESIGN THE GARDENS AT VERSAILLES

1666: GREAT FIRE OF LONDON

1684 : ACCESSION OF RALPH, 3<sup>RD</sup> BARON MONTAGU OF BOUGHTON



Ralph Montagu by Gennari.  
© Buccleuch Collection.

Ralph Montagu is Charles II's ambassador to France from 1669-1672 and again from 1676-1678. Louis XIV moves into the Palace of Versailles 1678.

Living a French-style, gilded existence Ralph Montagu "The Magnificent" (1638 -1709), ambitious grandson of the first Lord Montagu of Boughton, was inspired not only by the sight of Versailles but also by William and Mary's royal gardens at Het Loo and later at Hampton Court, both of which had similar bosquets (enclosed gardens), labyrinthine wildernesses, multitudinous fountains, 'embroidered' parterres and radiating walks designed by the Huguenot Daniel Marot, whom Ralph then employed to decorate Montagu House, his palatial London mansion, which later became the British Museum.



Panel from Montagu House by Hauduroy to a design by Daniel Marot. © Buccleuch Collection.

1685: DEATH OF CHARLES II, ACCESSION OF JAMES II

In Spring 1685 the Dutch gardener Leonard van der Meulen becomes head gardener at Boughton. Like other artists, artisans and technicians, he had probably been brought to England by Ralph and came with valuable knowledge as a land surveyor and water engineer and became head of the team responsible for Boughton's extravagant acres of formal gardens, lakes and canals as well as the trees-lined avenues and walkways.

In 1687 the young physician and botanist Hans Sloane accompanied the Duke and Duchess of Albemarle to Jamaica, where the Duke had become governor. It was in here that Sloane began his celebrated collection of plant specimens, which was meticulously documented and illustrated.



Far left:  
Illustration from Sloane's 1687 Voyage to Jamaica.  
© Buccleuch Collection.

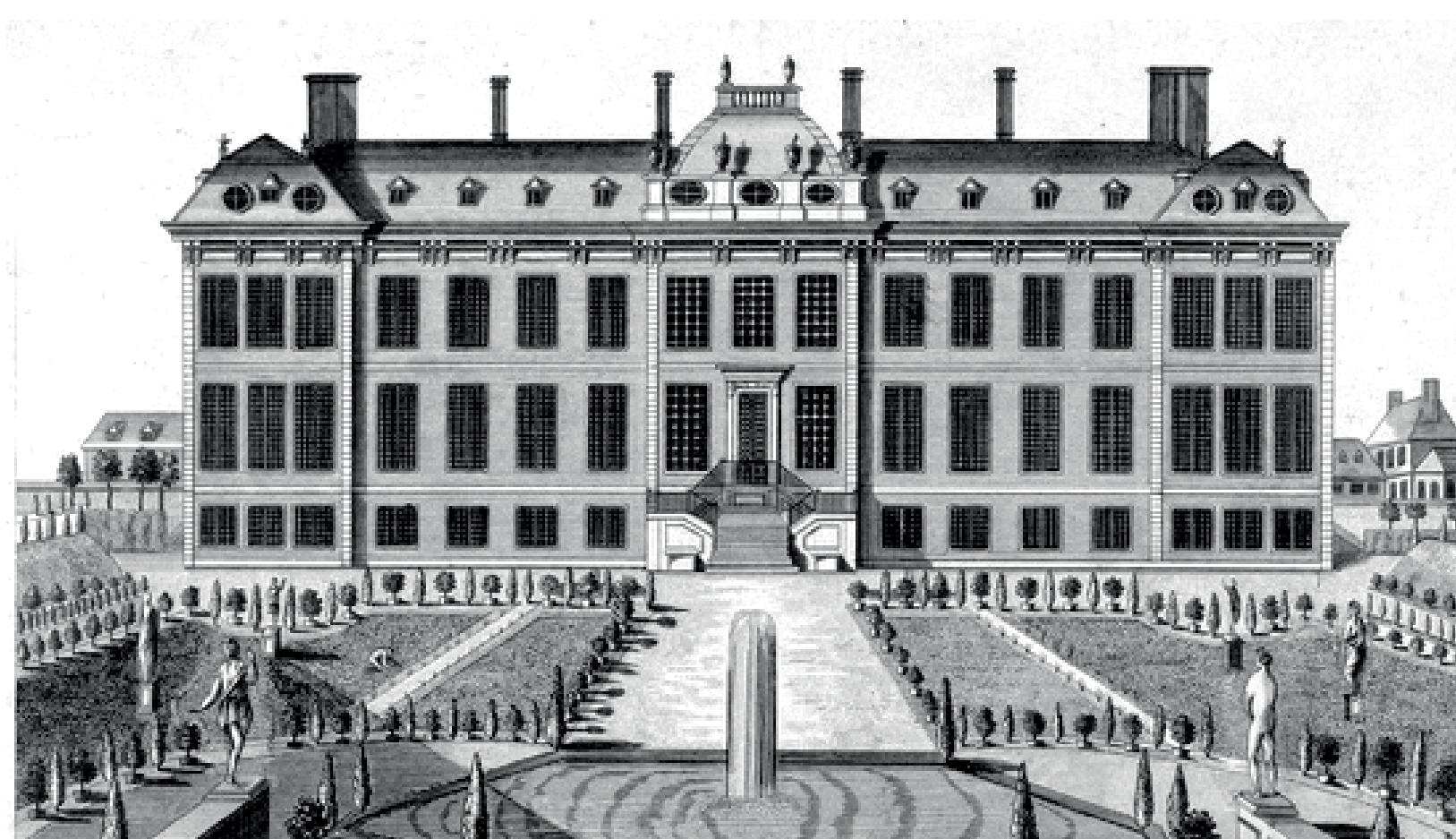
Left:  
Chelsea porcelain plate c 1755 showing Anguria Cucumis catalogued by Sloane in Jamaica, 1687.  
© Private Collection.

When the Duke died, just 15 months after arriving, Sloane was required to embalm the body for the journey home, which took four months. The widowed Duchess was forced to endure a ship laden not only with the late Duke's preserved body and Sloane's specimens, drawings and records, but also a number of live animals including an iguana, a crocodile and a seven foot long snake, none of which survived.



© Buccleuch Collection.

Ralph Montagu marries the widowed Duchess of Albemarle in 1694. Her vast fortune enables Ralph to embark on his audacious plans for Boughton House and gardens. She retains Hans Sloane as her physician.



© Buccleuch Collection.

From 1712 Hans Sloane was the landlord and patron of the Chelsea Physic Garden. He amassed one of the world's most significant natural history collections, which on his death aged 93, along with his wider collections of antiquities and ethnographic objects and his vast library, provided the founding nucleus of the new British Museum at Montagu House (pictured) in 1753.





# The Gardener's Contract

**1688:** JAMES II IS DEPOSED IN FAVOUR OF KING WILLIAM III OF ORANGE AND HIS WIFE QUEEN MARY STUART

Ralph Montagu had supported the cause of William III and became a member of his Privy Council. The new Dutch King of England was a passionate garden lover, particularly keen on architectural evergreen shrubs, and on his visit to Boughton in July 1695 Ralph would have been keen to impress the monarch with his developing gardens and his Stateroom ceilings, painted by the Huguenot artist Louis Chéron to co-incide with the royal visit.



'Persephone'  
a detail from  
Chéron's 5<sup>th</sup> State  
Room ceiling.



Detail from the garden plan drawn by Gabriel Delahaye, 1712.  
© Bodleian Library, Oxford.

To create the water gardens Ralph Montagu diverted the River Ise into a canal system flowing through various complex features all linked by terraces and tree-lined walks and ending in a great cascade.

*"There is great talk of vast gardens at Boughton but I hear my Lord Montagu is very much concerned that the water with which he hoped to make so fine fountains hath failed his expectations".*

Charles Hatton of Kirby Hall near Corby, Northamptonshire, to his brother, 29th September 1694.

'Tis all enforced: the fountain and the grot  
While the sweet fields do lie forgot  
Where willing nature does to all dispense  
A wild and fragrant innocence.

by Andrew Marvell

*"I hope the Cascade, the Octagon, the Water-Sheafs and the Water-Spouts, shall have made my Lady Sandwich forget France"*

The exiled Marquis de St. Evremond writing in 1700 about the water gardens at Boughton, which by then were in their magnificent prime. Ralph's cousin Elizabeth, Countess of Sandwich, who had spent much time in France, lived nearby at Hinchingsbrooke.

**1702:** DEATH OF WILLIAM III, ACCESSION OF QUEEN ANNE STUART

*"Ralph first Duke of Montagu, polished Lord, magnificent, zealous defender of the freedom of his country, has so much embellished by the buildings, by the grand gardens, by an extensive canal, by the large ponds, by the extraordinary water jets, by a waterfall that outshines any in Italy and in France."*

Michel le Vassor - from his  
*Histoire du Regne de Louis XIII*, 1705.

**1705:** RALPH BECOMES THE 1<sup>ST</sup> DUKE OF MONTAGU

The parterre from the house looking west sketched on his first visit in 1706 while still a student by Rev Dr. William Stukeley, the renowned antiquary, garden designer and pioneer of field archaeology.



© Bodleian Library, Oxford. (MS. Top. Gen. d.14, folio 36 recto).

**1707:** ACT OF UNION BETWEEN ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND, FACILITATED IN SCOTLAND BY THE 2<sup>ND</sup> DUKE OF QUEENSBERRY

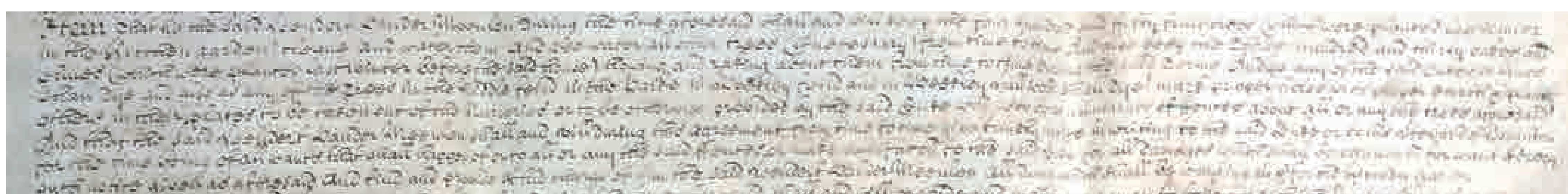


**1709:** ACCESSION OF JOHN, 2<sup>ND</sup> DUKE OF MONTAGU - "JOHN THE PLANTER"

July 1709. A new head gardener's contract is agreed between the Second Duke and Leonard van der Meulen. One of the detailed clauses from the Articles of Agreement stated:

***"that the said Leonard Vander Meulan during the time aforesaid shall and will keep the four hundred and fifty fruit trees clean and water them and also water all other trees from time to time, and also keep the three hundred and thirty oaks and elms clean, hoeing and raking about them..."***

He received £250 per annum, paid in quarterly instalments and in addition was allowed three horses, all the tools, iron rods for the yews and junipers and charcoal to preserve the bay trees and orange trees in frosty weather. He was also allowed all the fruits, roots and herbs not required by the Duke.



© Buccleuch Collection.





# An Exceeding Delightful Place

**"The first thing our sight was entertained with was the great cascade, which has abundance of a jette d'eau and falls of water, the other water works are very fine, from one pipe the water plays, as Mr Van der Muhl the chief gardiner said, 58 foot high."**

Sir Justinian Isham of Lamport Hall, Northants, July 1709.

*"But what deserves our more particular notice are the Gardens, which contain fourscore and ten aces of Ground, in which are a many Statues of Marble and Metal, and flowerpots and Urns, many very large basons with Variety of Fountains playing... here are aviaries, fishponds, very large and long Canals, admirable greens, Wildernesses &c.*



John Montagu by Kneller.

## The 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke's gardeners

### HEAD GARDENERS

**Leonard van der Meulen**, head gardener 1685-1717  
**Joseph Burgis**, head gardener 1717-1730  
**William White**, under gardener 1726 -1730  
**William White**, head gardener 1730-1740  
**Samuel Collis**, head gardener 1741-1750

### KITCHEN GARDENERS

**John Ball** 1702-1704  
**Benjamin Burgis** 1730-1731  
**Thomas Stratton** 1732-1735  
**Samuel Cave** 1742-1749  
**Thomas Meadows**, assistant 1746



*The Cascade is very Fine, the Fall of the Water makes a prodigious noise... In one part of the Garden is an Engine of neat Workmanship, to force up Water in great Draughts, which cost above a thousand Pounds..."*

William Stukeley on his second visit to Boughton in 1710. His journal *Iter Oxoniensis* details the buildings and places he visited with friends on a tour from Oxford to Boston, Lincs.

...an exceeding delightful place and nobly adorn'd with basins, jet d'eau, statues, with the platanus, lime tree, beech, bays etc. all in exquisite form and order.

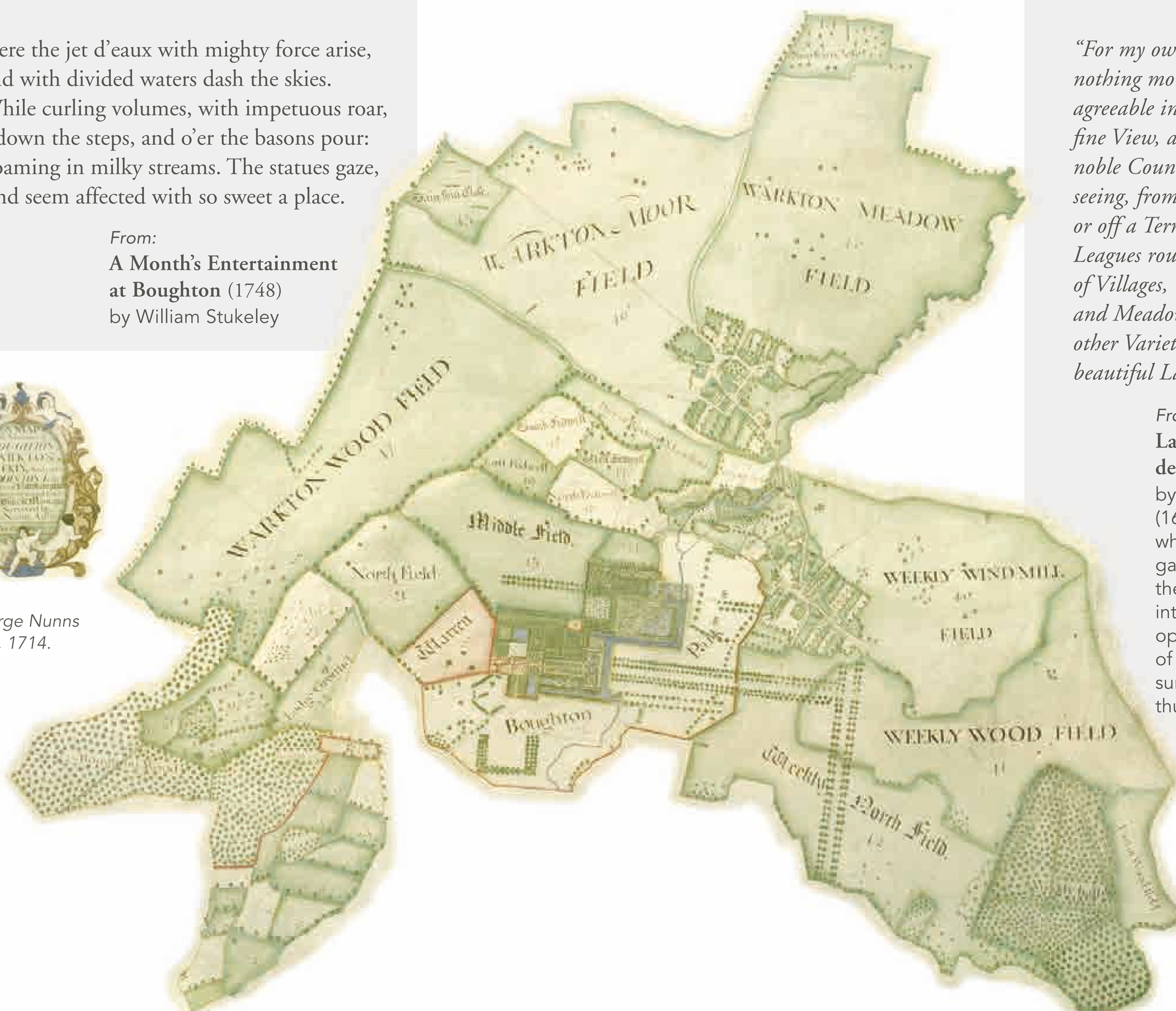
From: *The Natural History of Northamptonshire* (1712) by John Morton

Here the jet d'eau with mighty force arise, and with divided waters dash the skies. While curling volumes, with impetuous roar, Adown the steps, and o'er the basons pour: Foaming in milky streams. The statues gaze, And seem affected with so sweet a place.

From: **A Month's Entertainment at Boughton** (1748) by William Stukeley



George Nunns plan, 1714.



*"For my own part, I esteem nothing more diverting and agreeable in a Garden, than a fine View, and the Prospect of a noble Country. The Pleasure of seeing, from the End of a Walk, or off a Terrass, for four or five Leagues round, a vast Number of Villages, Woods, Rivers, Hills, and Meadows, with a thousand other Varieties that make a beautiful Landskip".*

From: **La Théorie et Pratique de Jardinage** (1709) by Dézallier D'Argenville (1680-1765) whose famous book on garden design introduced the notion of the ha-ha into English practise, opening the relationship of the garden to the surrounding land and thus to nature itself.

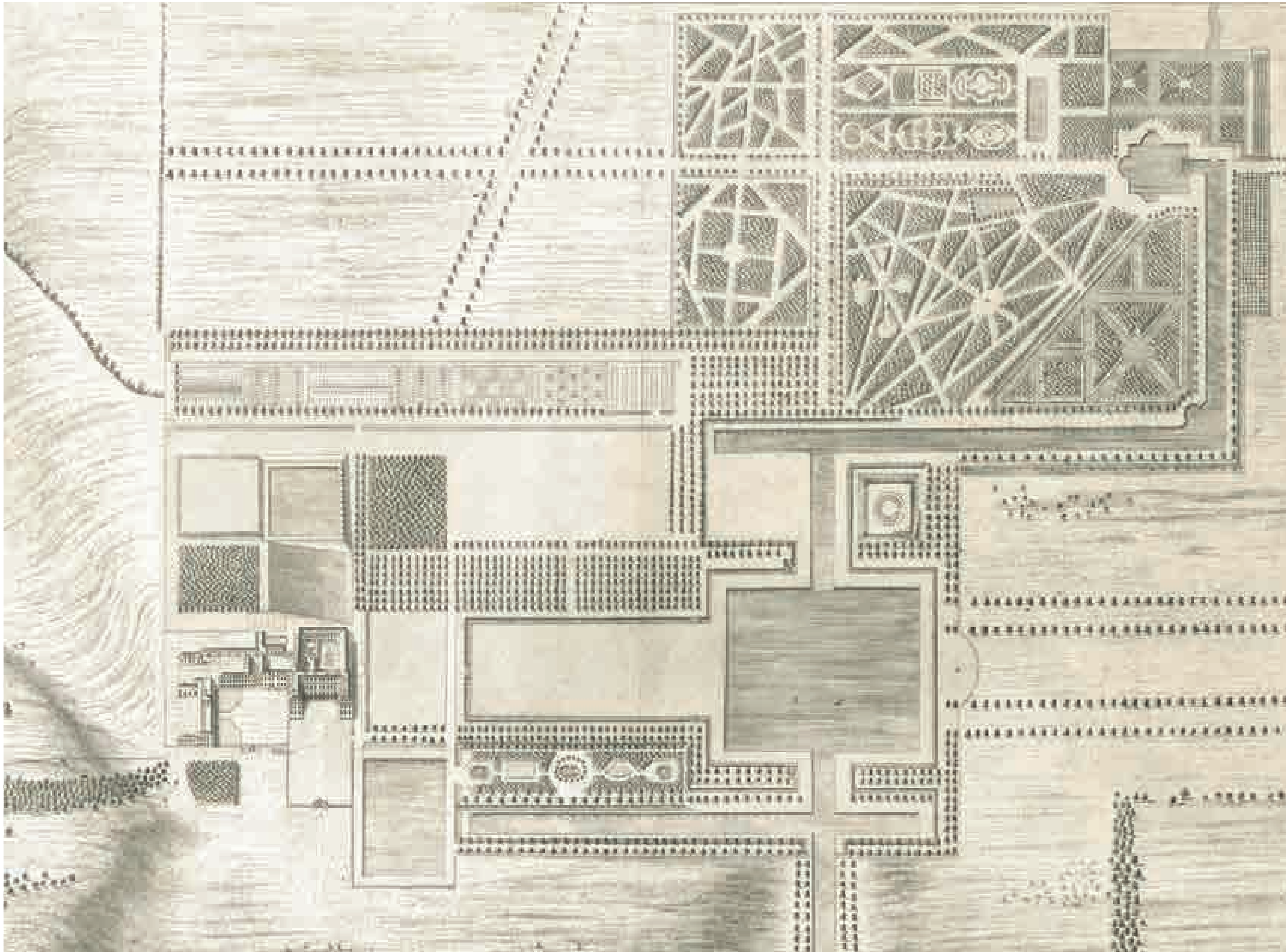




# Too Great a Variety of Business

**1714:** DEATH OF QUEEN ANNE STUART, ACCESSION OF GEORGE I OF HANOVER

**1717:** BOUGHTON'S KEY HEAD GARDENER LEONARD VAN DER MEULEN DIES AND IS BURIED AT WARKTON CHURCH



**R**ev. Charles Lamotte, Duke John's Huguenot chaplain, suggests having two men for the garden, '...for there is too great a variety of business for one man, without he be one of a great capacity, as Van der Meulen was'. 1720.

Badeslade's plan clearly shows the layout of Boughton's gardens with their parterres, allées and rides radiating through wooded plantations in the Baroque style that was fast becoming old-fashioned and expensive to maintain.

Thomas Badeslade's 1735 plan.  
© Buccleuch Collection.

"On the left of the Parterre is a most noble Wilderness of Forest Timber, full of long Avenues, 10 of which, center in a Star, near a Cascade, which has 27 small jette d'eaux & 13 above in a reservoir. There are also nine Islands & many small jette d'eaux in the Wilderness, part in the Orange Grove. Here is also 3400 yards of clip'd Hedges, & the Duke is making a mount 72 feet high".

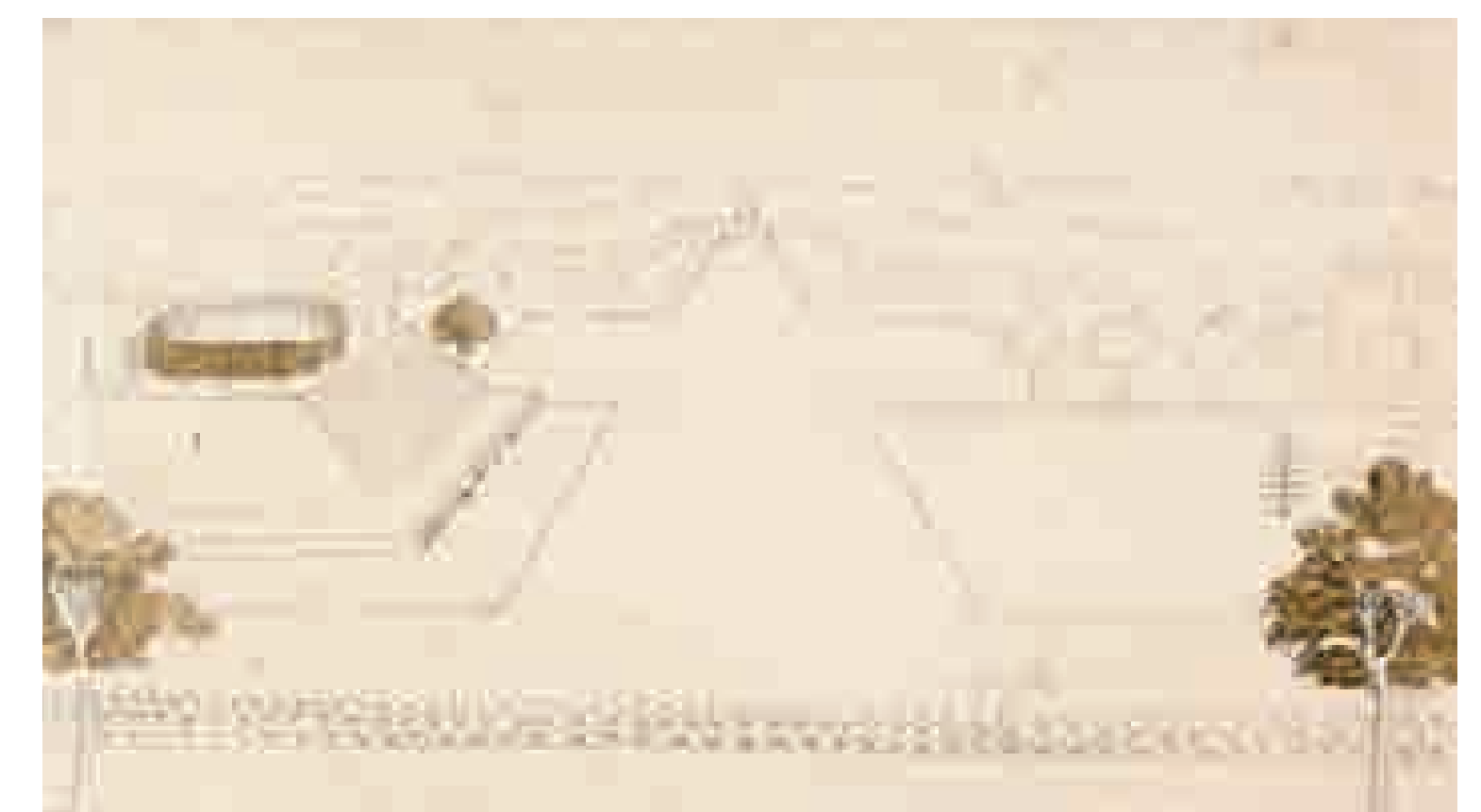
Edward Southwell MP, Anglo-Irish lawyer, Fellow of the Royal Society, 1724.

**1722:** A NEW CANAL IS DUG AS FAR AS THE NEW BRIDGE

**1723-29:** A NEW 'GREAT PIECE OF WATER' IS INSTALLED THE MOUNT IS BUILT FROM THE RESULTING SPOIL

If we with weary steps the summit gain,  
The extensive prospect round us quits the pain.  
Then gentle Isis, all her visits paid,  
At once precipitates a vast cascade.  
A work most costly, grand and exquisite.  
Where all the company together meet.

From:  
**A Month's Entertainment at Boughton** (1748)  
by William Stukeley



'A view in Boughton gardens' as seen by Stukeley on Sep 16, 1744 showing the Mount and his proposed mausoleum.

© Bodleian Library, Oxford. (MS. Top. Gen. d.14, folio 45 recto).



Stukeley's view of the Cascade and 'Star' pond as seen on 8 Sept 1746.  
© Bodleian Library, Oxford. (MS. Top. Gen. d.14, folio 44 verso).

"A river has been diverted for a distance of five miles, and after forming a lake of about ten acres in front of the house, it makes a bend and divides into several very long channels before falling into a cascade similar to the one at Chantilly, with five separate foaming falls, ending in a large basin of geometrical design. ... Above the great cascade, there are another thirteen jets of water... Since this cascade consists of the actual river itself, it never ceases to flow, and is of very great beauty."

Edward Southwell, 1724.

Under Duke John the surrounding countryside estate was transformed by the construction of 23 miles of interlinking tree-lined avenues: "We rode out every day, & generally twice a day, in the fine ridings, forests, woods, vistas, & plantations, which exceedingly out-do Chantilly, as the best judges declare."..

William Stukeley to Samuel Gale, 1744.

Vistas of vast extension, like the sun,  
Travel from East to Western horizon.  
Thro' all directions their huge lengths are seen,  
And stamp the country, Montagu's domain.

From:  
**A Month's Entertainment at Boughton** (1748)  
by William Stukeley





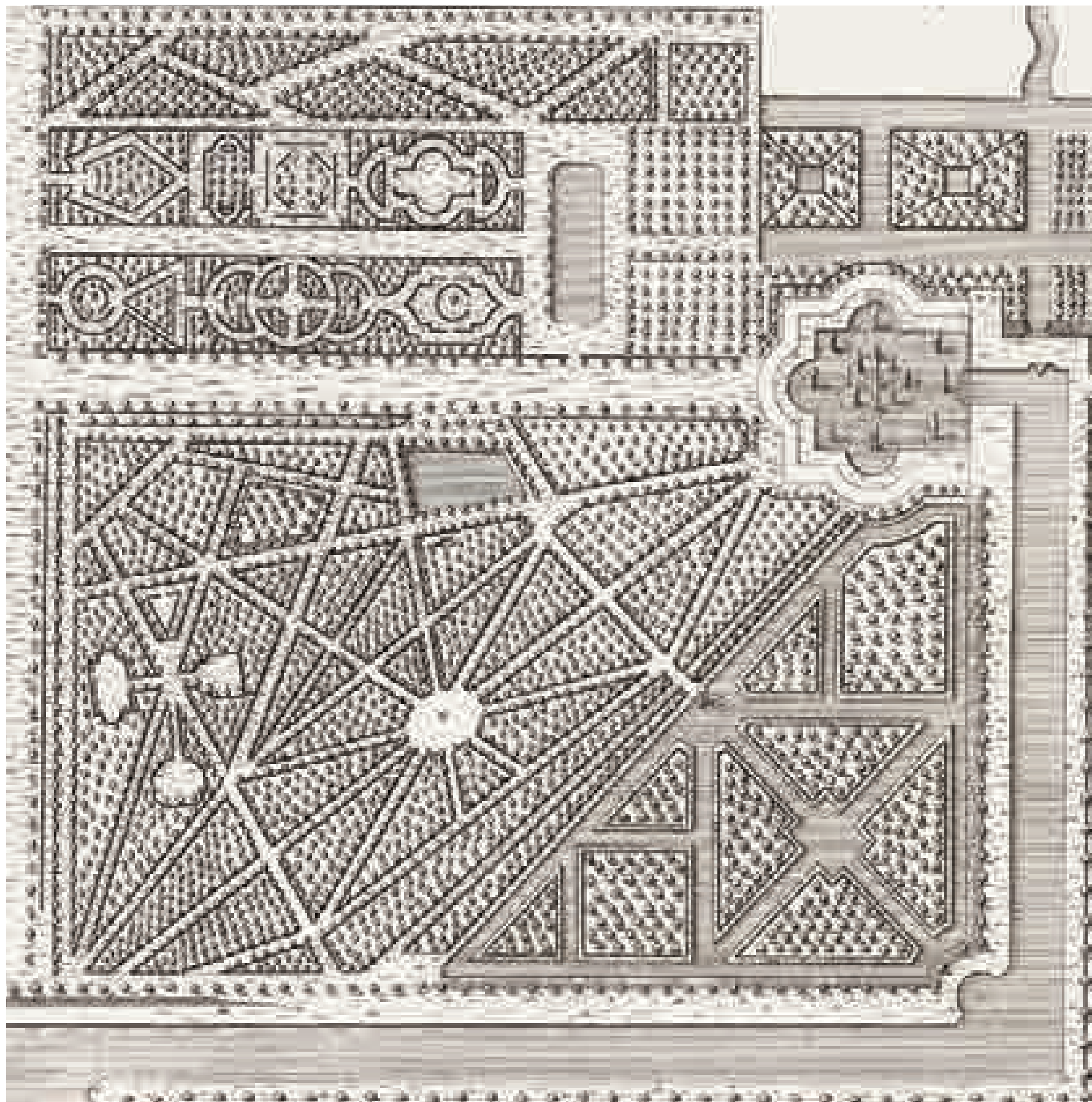
# The Genius of the Place

“The park itself is wall’d round with brick, and so finely planted with trees, and in such an excellent order, as I saw nothing more beautiful, no not in Italy itself, except that the walks of trees were not orange and limon and citron, as it is in Naples and the Abruzzo...”

Daniel Defoe (1660-1731) author of Robinson Crusoe. From his three-volume travel book, *Tour Through the Whole Island of Great Britain*, published between 1724 and 1727.

“But the Gardens, good God! The gardens are wonderful! Terrace walks, groves, wildernesses, a canal above a mile in length, a pond of 2 acres in the middle of the garden communicating with the canal. .... Then the cascade was a noble sight! The basin large, the pipes that threw up the water, nine in centre, four in circumference and 13 playing from the uppermost steps of the cascade, with as mighty a torrent as can be imagined!

Dr. Charles Perry. From *A journal to the North of England*, 1725.



Detail from Thomas Badeslade's plan for Colen Campbell's *Vitruvius Britannicus*, 1725. © Buccleuch Collection.



Aerial view possibly by Charles Bridgeman showing the gardens and park looking east, c1730. © Buccleuch Collection.

Consult the Genius of the Place in all;  
That tells the Waters or to rise, or fall,  
Or helps th' ambitious Hill the heav'n to scale,  
Or scoops in circling theatres the Vale,  
Calls in the Country, catches opening glades,  
Joins willing woods, and varies shades from shades,  
Now breaks or now directs th' intending Lines;  
Paints as you plant, and, as you work, designs.

From:  
**Epistle to Burlington** (1731)  
by Alexander Pope

## 1735: DUKE JOHN BUILDS THE NEW FRUIT GARDEN WALL

The celebrated botanist Philip Miller, curator of the Chelsea Physic Garden, advised Duke John on his gardens.

Miller had published *The Gardener's and Florists Dictionary* (1724) and the immensely popular *Gardener's Dictionary containing the Methods of Cultivating and Improving the Kitchen, Fruit and Flower Garden* (1731) dedicated to Hans Sloane, which went into 8 editions.



Part of Duke John's 1720 list of fruit trees for his garden at Beaulieu, Hampshire. © Buccleuch Collection.



A plate from Robert Furber's *The Flower Garden Display'd* London, 1732. © Buccleuch Collection.



Title page from Philip Miller's *Gardener's Kalendar*, 1739, also dedicated to Sir Hans Sloane. © Buccleuch Collection.





# Rev. Dr. Stukeley



Rev. Dr. William Stukeley, attributed to Richard Collins, 1726-29. Oil on canvas.  
© Society of Antiquaries of London.

First Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries, council member of the Royal Society, William Stukeley was a friend of Sir Hans Sloane and Sir Isaac Newton, whose biography he published in 1752. He saw the Gothic style as springing from England's ancient Druidic tradition of worship close to nature in sacred, wooded groves where treetops meet overhead.

He proposed designs for a bridge over the River Ise in the park and for a chapel in the Unfinished Wing. Neither was realised but they remain among the earliest designs of the Gothic revival.

Stukeley and Duke John's 40 year-long friendship is recorded in Stukeley's diaries and letters.

His influence introduced early romantic stirrings into Boughton's gardens and it is to his keen and poetic eye that we owe some of the most accurate descriptions on his frequent visits to Boughton.

Led by the great Montagu we here enjoy  
The rites of ancient hospitality.  
Gates as open as his heart admit the throng:  
The gay, the grave, the ancient and the young.

From:  
*A Month's Entertainment at Boughton* (1748)  
by Rev. William Stukeley

**B**orn in Lincolnshire, the Rev Dr. William Stukeley (1687 – 1765) was an avid designer of gardens, landscapes and garden buildings. He studied medicine, astrology, natural history, theology and became a renowned antiquary, one of the pioneers of field archaeology.

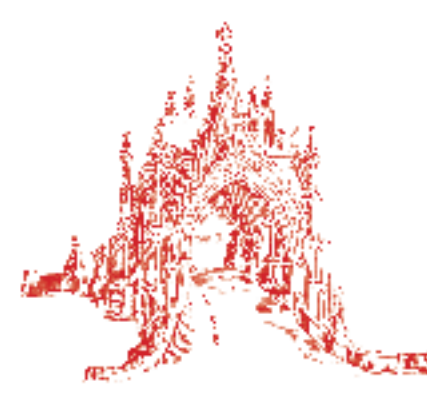
Despite being an Anglican clergyman he was fascinated by early Druidic culture, preparing detailed surveys of many ancient sites, including Stonehenge whose builders, he proposed, had used knowledge of the Earth's magnetism to align the stones.

For his own garden at Grantham he created a Druidic temple of trees imitating Stonehenge and later conceived a gothic 'Temple of Flora' for his garden at Stamford, where he became vicar in 1730.

After a splendid, suitable repast:  
A dish of coffee crowns the feast.  
To the delightful gardens we repair.  
Some to the shady walks, or open air:  
Some thro' meandering wildernesses bend,  
Their careless steps, uncertain where they end.  
Some the straight walks of fragrant limes frequent,  
Whose blossoms yield an odiferous scent:  
And arched tops o'er head, like cloisters met;  
For sweet discourse, or contemplation fit.

From:  
*A Month's Entertainment at Boughton*  
(September, 1748)  
by Rev. William Stukeley





# Twilight



Stukeley's sketch of the mount and his proposed Montagu mausoleum, 1742.  
© The Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford (MS. Top. Gen. d.14, folio 43 recto).

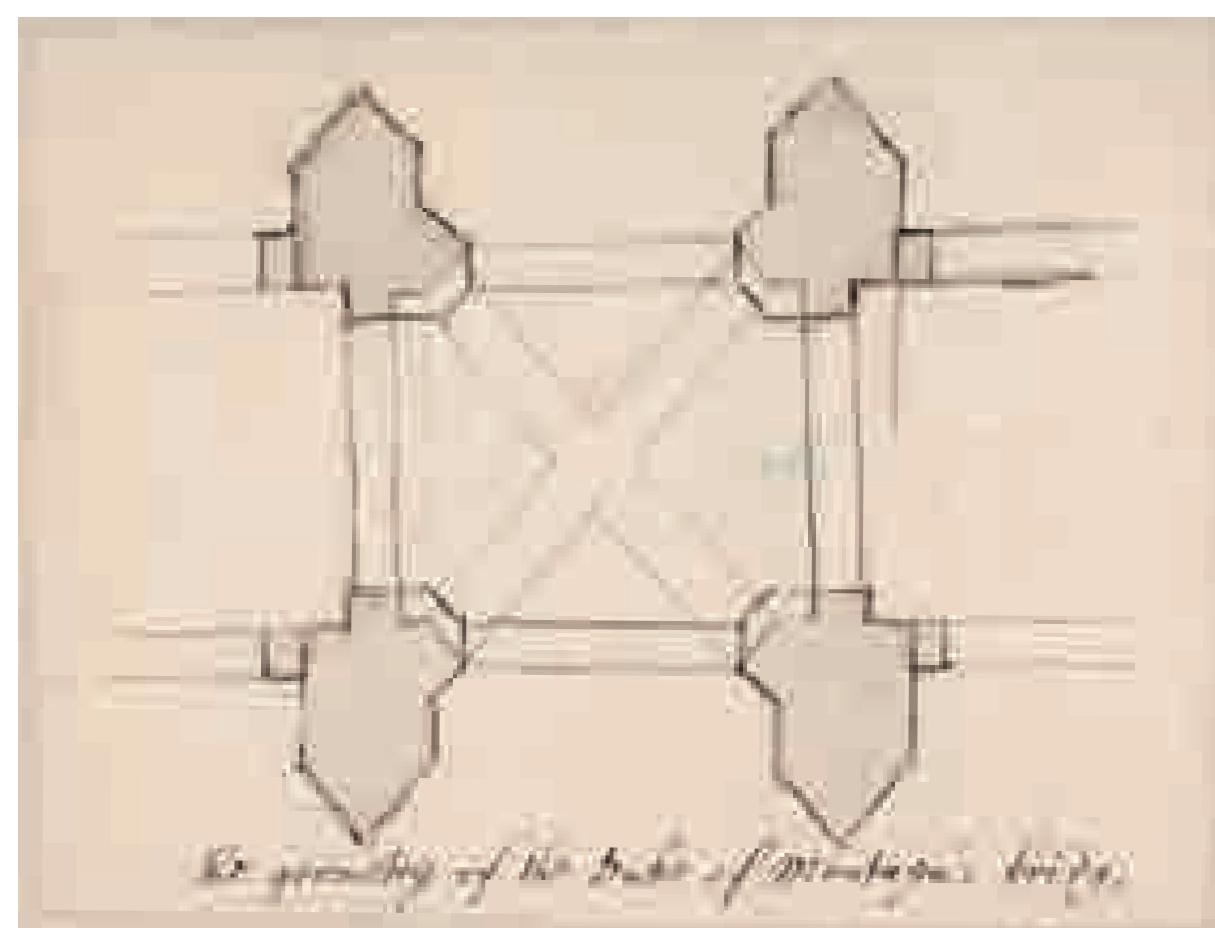
Rich in her weeping Country's spoils Versailles  
May boast a thousand Fountains, that can cast  
The tortur'd Waters to the distant Heav'ns;  
Yet let me choose some Pine-topt Precipice  
Abrupt and shaggy, whence a foamy Stream,  
Like Anio, tumbling roars; . . .

Yet why should Man, mistaken, deem it nobler  
To dwell in Palaces and high-roof'd Halls,  
Than in God's Forests, Architect supreme!  
Say, is the Persian Carpet, than the Field's  
Or Meadow's Mantle gay, more richly wov'n;  
Or softer to the Votaries of Ease  
Than bladed Grass, perfum'd with dew-dropt Flowers.

From:  
**The Enthusiast: or, The Lover of Nature**  
(1744) one of the earliest stirrings of  
Romanticism in literature  
by Rev. Joseph Warton

“**I** made a gothic design for a temple on a bridge which the Duke was highly pleased with and ordered a model to be made of it. He proposes to build it in the park at the end of the great canal.”

William Stukeley, 18 September 1744.



© The Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford MS. Top. Gen. d.14, folio 60 recto.

Writing in poetic form in 1748 Stukeley describes an idealised stay at Boughton, enjoying the Duke's legendary hospitality, walking in the park, boating on the Ise and finishing with a concert in the Long Gallery as darkness descends.

Sometimes the walks of Weekly's beauteous grove,  
We pass along; famous for tales of love.  
And now we penetrate thro' thickest woods,  
Where ancient Druids made their fam'd abodes.

From:  
**A Month's Entertainment at Boughton** (1748)  
by Rev. William Stukeley



Stukeley's drawing of his proposed Gothic bridge, 1744.  
© The Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford (MS. Top. Gen. d.14, folio 46 verso).

**1748:** A SIMPLE, CLASSICAL BRIDGE IS BUILT IN THE PARK ●

**1749:** DEATH OF 2<sup>ND</sup> DUKE OF MONTAGU, 5<sup>TH</sup> JULY ●



Roubiliac's Monument to Duke John at Warkton Church.

Fair Isis and her nymphs pour forth their urns  
With floods of tears, and in redoubled tide,  
Run headlong down, in hast, the great cascade,  
In loudest noise to sound thy obsequies;  
To meet thy noble ashes passing by  
In solemn pace. While Warkton's doleful knell  
Receive thy great remains, in darksome tomb.

From:  
**For August** (1749)  
by William Stukeley

**1751:** DEATH OF THE DUCHESS OF MONTAGU ●

**1753:** ROUBILIAC'S MONUMENTS TO THE DUKE AND DUCHESS ARE INSTALLED IN WARKTON CHURCH ●



Boughton begins its slumber. Benign neglect takes over...

“In the year 1792 Boughton gardens were thrown open to the park and the deer and other stock were admitted. A considerable improvement has been made in them by means of the mud which was taken out of the ponds.”

Boughton land steward Robert Edmonds, 1797





# Slumber

When once the sun sinks in the west,  
 And dewdrops pearl the evening's breast;  
 Almost as pale as moonbeams are,  
 Or its companionable star,  
 The evening primrose opes anew  
 Its delicate blossoms to the dew;  
 And, hermit-like, shunning the light,  
 Wastes its fair bloom upon the night,  
 Who, blindfold to its fond caresses,  
 Knows not the beauty it possesses;  
 Thus it blooms on while night is by;  
 When day looks out with open eye,  
 Bashed at the gaze it cannot shun,  
 It faints and withers and is gone.

From:  
**The Evening Primrose**  
 by John Clare (1793 – 1864)

**F**rom unlikely beginnings near the edge of the Fens John Clare only became recognised as one of the greatest English poets long after his death. Born into a farming community at Helpston, Northamptonshire, he experienced a childhood of extreme rural poverty, with just a basic education until the age of 11 when he started work as an agricultural labourer. Surrounded however by a close knit community with its own strong folk culture of literature and music he began writing in his mid teens, weaving the local language into his informal, almost conversational poetry. His work was inspired by his native surroundings, but when he moved away he began to experience the mental difficulties, which today we might characterise as bipolar depression. He spent his last 23 years creatively and amiably in the Northampton County Asylum, where he had been abandoned by his wife.

I mind me in the days departed,  
 How often underneath the sun  
 With childish bounds I used to run  
 To a garden long deserted.

The beds and walks were vanish'd quite;  
 And wheresoe'er had struck the spade,  
 The greenest grasses Nature laid,  
 To sanctify her right.

I call'd the place my wilderness,  
 For no one enter'd there but I.  
 The sheep look'd in, the grass to espy,  
 And pass'd it ne'ertheless.

From:  
**The Deserted Garden**  
 by Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806 – 1881)



Lady's Walk in 1861, reminiscent of Stukeley's gothic cloister. © Buccleuch Collection.

Lady Evelyn Montagu Douglas Scott (1865 – 1948), remembered the famous cascade still functioning during her childhood ie. as late as c1875. But after a pair of estate cart-horses were drowned in the canal just above the cascade the sluice gates had to be opened and the stream was allowed to return to its normal level.



A lead urn overlooks the site of the old formal gardens, 1861. © Buccleuch Collection.



The North Façade in 1909. © Country Life Picture Library.





# Re-awakening



© Country Life Picture Library.

**D**uke John's timber and oilcloth Chinese Pavilion started life in 1745 in the Thames-side gardens of the new Montagu House at Westminster.

A corner of it was captured by Canaletto in his contemporary riverscape painting. In 1917 it was brought to Boughton where it was used as a summer pavilion on the West Lawn until the late 1960's.

It is now permanently in the Unfinished Wing.

Boughton was requisitioned during the Second World War and the house was used by the British Museum as a safe repository, while the Park was taken over by the military, causing extensive damage during tank exercises.

Hutments were built by the Porter's Lodge to provide accommodation for staff at Grafton Underwood airfield and for use as a general stores, a medical depot and to train American mobile field units in bread baking, after which it was turned into a prisoner of war camp housing nearly 1300 prisoners at its peak.



© Buccleuch Collection.



© Buccleuch Collection.

Duchess Mary (Mollie, 1900 -1993, wife of the 8th Duke) seen here pouring tea in the garden in 1952, made important contributions to the gardens, particularly in 1930's, when there were 37 gardeners.

She and her sister Diana planted the rose garden opposite the South Wing.



© Buccleuch Collection.

A 1950's aerial view, showing the residual outline on the West lawn of the formal parterre walls, whose sunken brick vestiges are skirted today by the inevitable molehills.

The extensive walled flower, fruit and vegetable gardens, which also supplied the family's Scottish houses, are clearly visible.

Boughton was always filled with flowers when the family was in residence – usually from April to July each year. Along with cut flowers, large pots of highly scented *Datura* and *Humea* were particular favourites.



© R. Lister.

## 1967: DUTCH ELM DISEASE DESTROYS THE ELM AVENUES



© Buccleuch Collection.

Sir David Scott (1887 – 1986), the ex-diplomat and cousin of the 8th Duke, who lived at Boughton for many years, was a keen plant collector and established the romantic private garden by the Dower House.

He was joined here in 1971 by his second wife, the renowned plantswoman and alpine specialist Valerie Finnis (1924-2006), recipient of the RHS Victoria Medal of Honour and the Kew Medal for her contribution to horticulture.

Here at Boughton she found and bred a number of plants including *Artemisia stelleriana* 'Boughton Beauty', *Helleborus X sternii* 'Boughton Beauty', *Hebe recurva* 'Boughton Silver' and *Helianthemum* 'Boughton Double Primrose'.





# Orpheus

**1975:** JOHN, THE 9<sup>TH</sup> DUKE RESTORES THE BROADWATER LAKE AND INSTALLS A NEW SLUICE GATE TO DAM THE RIVER ISE •——  
The restoration of the landscape begins.

The first sorrow of autumn  
Is the slow goodbye  
Of the garden who stands so  
long in the evening-  
A brown poppy head,  
The stalk of a lily,  
And still cannot go

From:  
**The Seven Sorrows**  
by Ted Hughes  
(1930 – 1998)



Geraniums are returned from the West Front urns after summer 1991. © R. Lister.



The walled garden stock beds and some of the extensive greenhouses in 1991. © R. Lister.

**1982 - 2004:** ROY LISTER – HEAD GARDENER •——

Using modern techniques, equipment and ideas, Roy Lister revitalised the gardens and reclaimed areas like the Wilderness and the Orchard. He also created a successful garden centre with greenhouses supplying the locality with quality plants and the Family with flowers and vegetables.



The Star Pond being cleaned out in 2002. The remains of the cascade are clearly visible. © R. Lister.



The wooded Mount skirted by the canalised River Ise in 2002. © R. Lister.



Winter 2006/2007 - the Mount is cleared. © R. Lister.

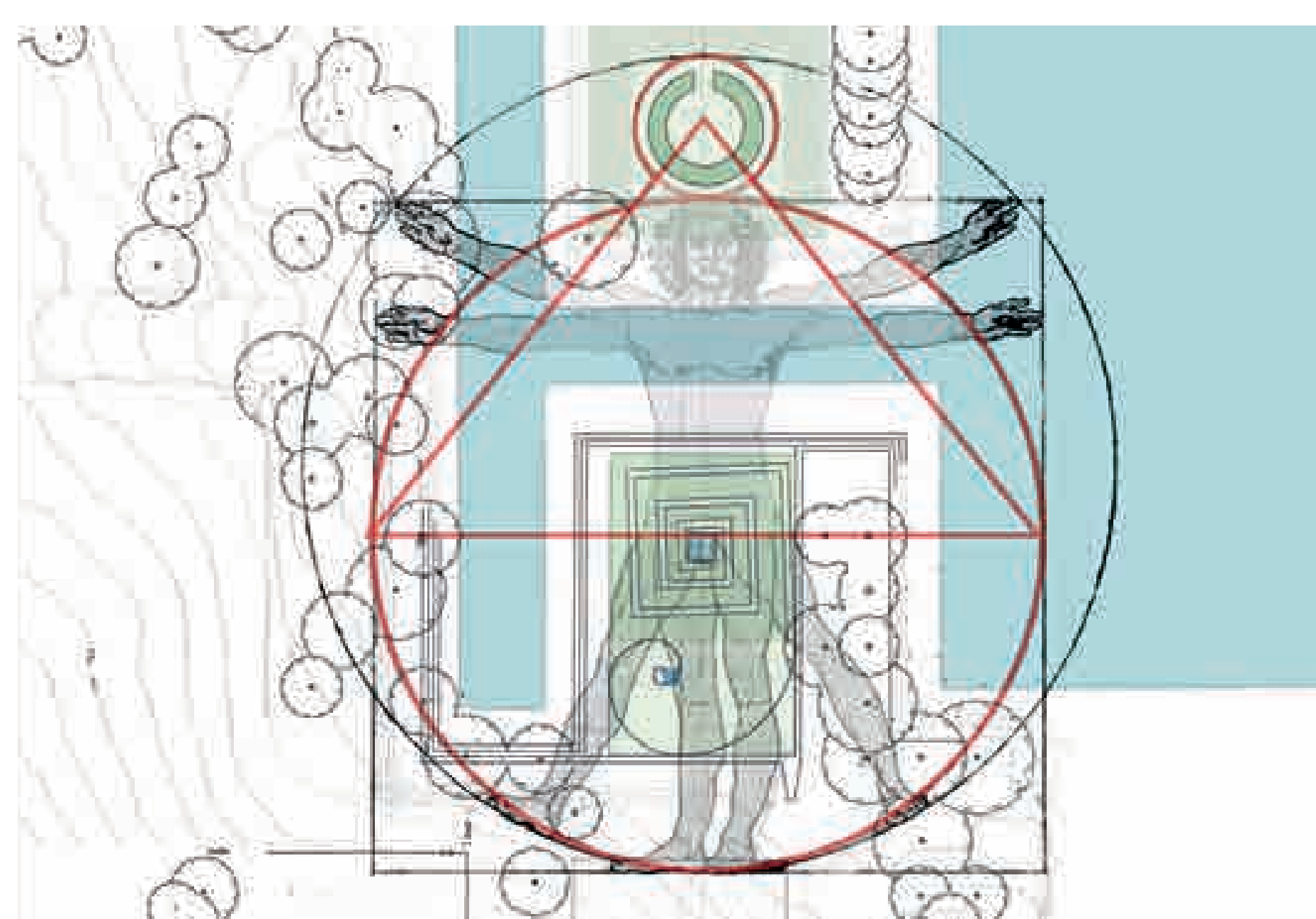
**2003:** RICHARD, LATER 10<sup>TH</sup> DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH AND QUEENSBERRY, COMMISSIONS THE LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN FROM THE LANDSCAPE AGENCY •——

**2006:** LANCE GOFFORT-HALL APPOINTED LANDSCAPE MANAGER AND OVERSEES THE 5 YEAR PROJECT TO RESTORE THE CANALS AND CLEAR THE MOUNT OF TREES •——

**2009:** 10<sup>TH</sup> DUKE COMMISSIONS KIM WILKIE TO CREATE A NEW LANDFORM FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY, "ORPHEUS" •——



Aerial drawing in the style of Bridgeman, c1730.



Kim Wilkie's concept.



An aerial view.

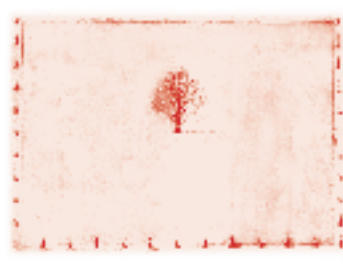
**T**he new space is inspired by the scale, mass and elements of the historic landscape. An Orphean Hades has been created to complement the Olympian Mount. The inverted grass pyramid descends 7 metres below the level of the restored terraces. Walking around the landscape, the new design is invisible, but drawing near to the mount, a gentle grass path spirals down to a square pool of still water deep underground, where the water reflects the sky. Next to it a stone rill traces Fibonacci's Golden Ratio.

"Before anything else, it has to work on an emotional and sensual level. You should be able to walk into it without knowing anything about Eurydice or the Golden mean and be moved by it."

Kim Wilkie

Bernard Opara leads the creative gardening team. David Cullum is Parks and Gardens manager.





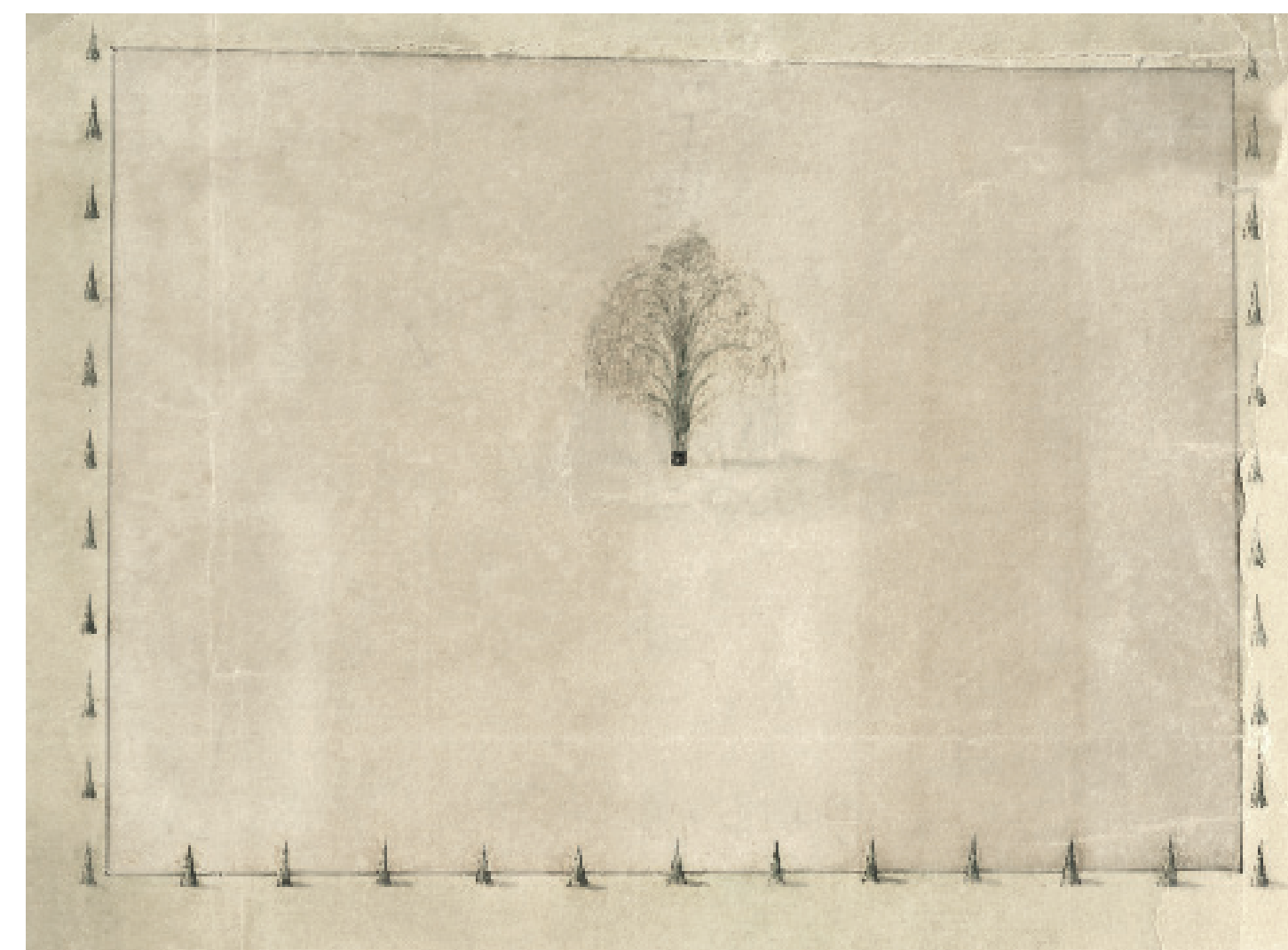
# The Grand Etang

In 2014 the original acre of water by the North Wing was re-dug, relined and refilled to re-instate the Grand Etang, with its jet d'eau, reflecting the house once again after nearly 250 years.



Now in an open lake, diffusive, wide,  
Of vast extent; she rolls her silver tide.  
Pleased with her form renew'd, she smooths her face;  
Reflects fair Boughton in her watery glass.

From:  
**A Month's Entertainment at Boughton**  
(September 1748) by Rev. W. Stukeley



The Grand Etang as shown in Delahaye's 1712 plan.

Two miles of ha-ha walls lay concealed beneath centuries of leaf mould, and Ralph Montagu's intricate parterres are now largely laid to grass, their hidden brick geometries occasionally traced by molehills.

But 3 miles of 19th century fencing have now been replaced, 2 miles of lime avenues replanted from stock in the estate nursery, 70,000 cubic metres of silt dug out of the canals and Broadwater and the canals lined with 2 miles of 6-foot deep oak boarding.

The celebrated Cascade, once surmounted by 13 fountains and where the water fell over 5 stages flanked by statues, is now being considered for restoration.



**Plants veiled ready to be married into summer**

**Rocketing Fountain Display**

**Power purity kindness freedom**

**Elements represent...**

**Warm - relaxed - feel the soft grass beneath my feet**

**Clouds smudge in the changing sky as the sun hides**

**Arrogant winds howl persistently pushing through newly sprouted spring flowers**

**Herd of deer run free from the snow beneath the trees**

**Inverse mound feels like it fits into the breathtaking landscape**

**To be free within the power of the elements**

**Rustling of the trees like sounds of the sea**

**Tasting the gritty air as winds blow across my face**

**Calm sculptures stood strong on the ground**

**So many wonderful experiences in such a small space of time**

**Ponder on inspiring stories of history inscribed onto statues**

Shape poem by students at Kettering Buccleuch Academy.