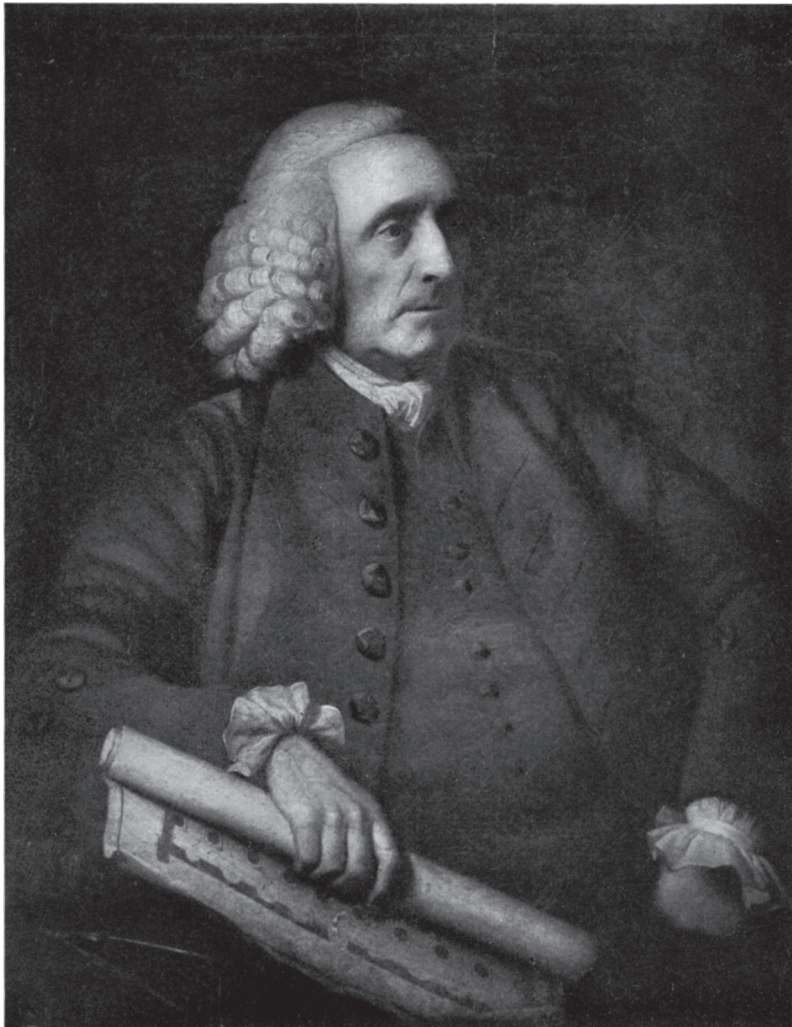


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THE HISTORY
OF
THE MANSION HOUSE

BY

SYDNEY PERKS
F.S.A., F.S.I., F.R.I.B.A.

CITY SURVEYOR TO THE CORPORATION
OF THE CITY OF LONDON

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PREFACE

WHEN it was decided in 1728 to build the Mansion House a Committee was formed and it was known as the Mansion House Committee, the name was altered to the General Purposes Committee in 1789, and that Committee is still entrusted with all matters arising in connection with the building, but in addition it has, as its name implies, other duties.

For many years I had considered the idea of writing a history of the building and had collected material, and when the War broke out, the customary holiday in France or Italy became impossible, and I had time to devote to research work in London, Oxford and elsewhere.

In 1916 the Chairman of the General Purposes Committee kindly mentioned my work to his Committee, which resolved "that permission be sought for him to search the records in Guildhall, and also have permission to search the records at the Mansion House at any time convenient to the Lord Mayor." Consequently I had exceptional facilities for carrying on my researches.

I am very grateful to many people for kind assistance and particularly to Mr J. H. C. Evelyn; Mr J. Bevan, the Secretary, and the Burlington Fine Arts Club; the Governors of the Bank of England; Mr C. F. Bell, Keeper of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford; Mr J. P. Gilson, M.A., and Mr Reginald A. Smith, F.S.A., of the British Museum; Mr Alfred Conder, F.R.I.B.A.; Mr P. M. Evans and the Clothworkers' Company; Miss Dance, of Bath; Miss J. Broadwood; Miss E. M. Thompson; Messrs Devonshire, Monkland & Co.; Sir Charles W. C. Oman, M.P., and the Authorities of All Souls College, Oxford; Mr Edward Tanner, Solicitor to the London County Council; the Medici Society; Mr R. W. Bobbins, Renter and Registrar of Guy's Hospital; the Trustees of Sir John Soane's Museum; Mr R. V. Somers-Smith and the Grocers' Company; the trustees of the Radcliffe Library Museum, Oxford; Messrs Mackrell & Ward; Mr Francis W. Reader; Captain Arthur Anderson of

York; Mr Edward R. Warre and the City Parochial Foundation; Sir William Treloar, Bt; Mr F. W. Spurr, City Engineer of York; and to Messrs J. H. Willett, F. J. Craker and J. F. Coldwell, of the Guildhall.

I am also much indebted to Mr F. Madan and the Assistant Librarians of the Bodleian Library, Oxford; to Mr Bernard Kettle, the Guildhall Librarian; to Mr Thomas, Records Clerk at the Guildhall; to Mr Robert Harrison, Librarian to the Royal Society; to Mr A. Cecil Piper, City Librarian, Winchester; to Mrs J. Lindsay-Wood for assistance in London and at Oxford; and to many others, for it is very gratifying and encouraging to find so many people interested in research work.

The City of London has many sites and buildings of great interest; and we have many little guide-books giving a short description of a building on one page and a photograph opposite. Books of that description show little, if any, original research work; inaccurate statements are handed on from one edition to another, and inaccuracies like those originated by Elmes are hard to kill. The training of an architect is of great value and there are many opportunities in the City for energetic men who are interested in the subject.

S. P.

CLARIDGE HOUSE,
SEVENOAKS.
14th March 1922.

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