

# Decorators and Decorating

For most women, having become mistress, the refurbishment of their great house became a lifetime's work. Following an extended honeymoon travelling in Europe, Marianne, Lady Clifford Constable returned to her new home at Burton Constable determined to remodel its outmoded interiors. Alongside 'painters & paper hanger', she commissioned 'carvers, gilders' and even 'looking glass manufacturers'. The Great Drawing Room was refurbished in the 1840s when Marianne commissioned Thomas Brooks to repair and re-gild the Chippendale mirrors and tables. When refurbishing the boudoir, and with an eye for detail, she ordered Worcester Royal porcelain door knobs, finger plates, and escutcheon drops – all 'Green & Gold with flowers' from Chamberlain & Co. at New Bond Street, London.

The extensive collection of passementerie dates from this period and is mostly French. Although Marianne commissioned furniture and furnishings from Paris and London, including the carver and gilder Charles Nosotti of Oxford Street, she also patronised local suppliers in Hull.

