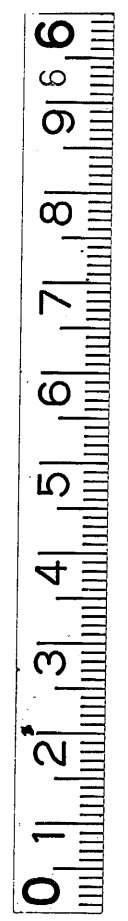


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AN
ACCOUNT
OF THE
NEW MANUFACTORY
OF
TAPESTRY, &c.

[Price Six-pence.]

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AN *h*
ACCOUNT
OF THE
NEW MANUFACTORY
OF
TAPESTRY,
AFTER THE
Manner of that at the *Gobelins*;
AND OF
CARPETS,
AFTER THE
Manner of that at *Chaillot, &c.*

Now undertaken at FULHAM,
By Mr. PETER PARISOT.

LONDON:
Printed for R. DODSLEY, in *Pall-Mall*
and Sold by M. COOPER, in *Pater-noster-row*.
MDCC LIII.



A N
A C C O U N T
 O F T H E
N E W M A N U F A C T O R Y
 O F
T A P E S T R Y, &c.

WHEN any probable Scheme is set on foot, either for the Improvement of our old Manufactures, or for the Introduction of new ones amongst us; one would naturally suppose, that every Gentleman

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A man of Fortune, who has the least regard for the Honour or Advantage of his Country, should be eager in his Endeavours to promote and encourage it to the utmost of his Power, and pique himself in being distinguished in so laudable an Attempt. The Nobility and Gentry of a Kingdom, should certainly be the first to promote whatever tends to advance the Riches and Power of that Country from whence their own Property, and their own Grandeur arise; both of which will certainly increase in Proportion to the Prosperity of that Community to which they belong. A Spirit of public Virtue hath, in many Instances, and on many Occasions, arisen amongst us, and been exerted to very good Purpose, and to the great Emolument of the Nation: And a new Instance, of very great Importance, now offers itself to the Notice of the Public in general, and to those of great Fortune in particular.

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A Manufactory of Carpets, Tapestries, and other House-Furniture, after the Manner of those of *Chaillot* and the *Gobelins* at *Paris*, is now set on foot, and carrying on at *Fulham*: Upon which an Attempt will be made towards founding an Academy of Drawing and Painting. There is also erected a Dye-house for dying Scarlet, after the Manner of the Dyers at the *Gobelins*; and Black, as they do at *Sedan*.

As this Undertaking was begun, and has been carried on, upon Views directly tending to the Honour and Advantage of this Country, it seems proper the Public should be informed of the Objects of it; which would have been done sooner, but that I was afraid it might be said, I was presenting them with bare Ideas only upon Paper. But now the Work is in such Forwardness, that any body, by taking the Trou-

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ble of going to *Fulham*, may satisfy himself, by what he will see already done, and doing there, as to what can be done in these new Manufactures; I am encouraged to lay the whole Design before the *British* Nation, and to give them a faithful and particular Account of this great Undertaking.

Experience shews, that how well soever a Plan for such an Enterprize may be laid, it is not easy to procure for it a good Reception in the World, if large Advances of Money are required for carrying it into Execution. Some fruitless Attempts have put People upon their Guard; and there will always remain a Suspicion, that those who offer to the World Proposals for a general Advantage, have reserved Views to a particular one.

The Sequel will shew how these Difficulties and Objections have been avoided

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avoided in the present Case, and it will then evidently appear, there could be no other Motives to the setting on foot this Undertaking, than the Honour and Advantage of the Nation, and it is to be hoped those Ends will be fully answered.

As the Establishment at *Fulham*, is formed upon the same Plan, and for the same sorts of Work (all quite new in this Country) as those of the *Gobelins* and of *Chailot*, I have thought it might not be disagreeable to the Public to receive some Information about those celebrated Manufactories.

The *Gobelins* is so call'd from two Brothers, Dyers from *Rheims* in *Champagne*, named *Gobelins*, who in the time of *Francis* the I. set up a Manufactory in *Paris*, where this now is, upon a little River which also took this Name.

The

The Manufactory of *Chaillot* is commonly call'd the *Savonnerie*, or the *Soap-house*, because Soap was formerly made there: But both have the high Title of *Manufactory of the Furniture of the Crown*, by an Edict of *Lewis* the XIV. who ordered it to be inscribed over the Door of each of the Houses. That of *Chaillot* is about a League from *Paris*, on the Road to *Versailles*.

In these Manufactories, (which His Most Christian Majesty is pleas'd to call *his own*, and to distinguish them from all others by particular Privileges) are made the finest Carpets, and the most magnificent Tapestry, and other Furniture, that are any where to be seen.

The Manufacture of *Chaillot* is altogether of Wool, and worked in the manner of Velvet. All Sorts of Figures of Men and Animals, may be imitated

imitated in this Work; but Fruits and Flowers answer better; and the properest Employment for this Art, is to make Carpets and all Sorts of Skreens.

This Manufactory is almost altogether employed in making Carpets and other Furniture for the *French King's* Palaces; and his Most Christian Majesty sometimes makes Presents of them to other Sovereigns. A most stately Carpet was lately sent to the *Sultan*, which was of great Value, and highly admired at that Court.

Henry IV. of *France* procur'd this Art from *Persia*: That great Prince and his Successors have not spared either Care or Expence to support it. The Carpets made at *Chaillot* are far superior for Beauty to those of *Persia*, where Drawing and Painting are not so well understood, and where perhaps the
Art

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Art of dying such a Variety of Colours is not so well known.

The *Gobelins* Manufactory is of another kind of Weaving, tho' not less beautiful. Both Wool and Silk are used in this, and sometimes Gold and Silver. The finest Paintings may be copied in this Work, and the greatest Masters have been employed in Draughts for the Tapestry Weavers. The celebrated Cartoons of *Raphael*, at *Hampton-Court*, were done for this Purpose.

This Manufactory has been always under the Protection of the Government in *France*, and employs great Numbers of People. Stipends are allowed to Painters and Draughtsmen to furnish Patterns. Each of these Manufactures have their respective Beauties and Uses. That of the *Gobelins* is properest for Hangings and Chairs,
and

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and that of *Chaillot* for Carpets and Skreens.

These Works are perform'd in very different Ways. The Weavers, after the Manner of *Chaillot*, sit before their Work, which is placed in the Frame upright; their Pattern lies slanting over their Head. This Work is done in the Manner of Velvet. The Objects represented, have a Beauty and Softness in the Shades, which exceeds Painting.

The Weavers of the *Gobelins* work behind, or on the Wrong-side of the Loom, which stands also upright. The Pattern is placed on either Side of the Workman.

As the Beauty and Perfection of these Manufactures, will depend a great deal upon the Patterns to work after, as well as the Liveliness of the
C Colours,

Colours, the utmost Care will be taken to procure the best Artists which can be had in these Kinds. It may easily be imagin'd what Advantages and Improvements will probably arise to many other Arts, by the Advancement of these two; in particular to the Silk, the Woollen, and stain'd Linnen Manufactures.

There is another sort of Workmen in this Manufactory, who are call'd in French *Rentrayeurs*, and might be expressed in English *Fine-drawers*. As the Tapestry of the *Gobelins* is made of Pieces of a certain Breadth only, these Workmen are employ'd in sewing or fine-drawing the several Parts together, so that no Seam is discernible, but the whole appears as one Design, like a Piece of Silk from a Loom. These Workmen are also very useful in Mending and Cleaning Tapestry when damag'd or sullied.

This

This is a Sketch of the two Manufacturers of *Chailot* and the *Gobelins*, which have done so much Honour to *France*, even in very distant Parts of the World. It is said and believ'd upon good Grounds, that on board a *French Ship*, bound to the *East-Indies*, lately lost on the Coast of *Brazil*, there was to the Value of between 40 and 50,000*l.* in different Kinds of these valuable Goods.

Tho' this is but a short and very imperfect Sketch of these Manufactures, it is to be hoped it will afford sufficient Motives for engaging this Nation to countenance, and encourage that at *Fulham*, formed upon the same Plan; and to induce the Government to give some Assistance towards its firm Establishment and Improvement. *Fulham* is near *London*; and every one may easily satisfy himself as to Facts.

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I will now give an Account of the Beginning, and of the present State of this Undertaking.

Two Workmen who, upon some Disgust, had quitted *Chaillot*, came to *London* in the Year 1750, to try to procure Employment. After they had been here some Months, and brought themselves into great Streights, they applied themselves to me.

By the help of some Money which had been rais'd by Subscription, they had begun a Carpet in a Room in *Westminster*; but they soon run themselves into Debt, and to stop the Pursuits they apprehended on this Account, they made a sort of an Agreement of Partnership with a Tradesman in *London*; and, at their Request, I drew up the Articles between them. But the Man not finding his Account in this Partnership, dropt it.

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They then began to be sensible of what I had before told them, that, to form an Undertaking of this Kind, it would be necessary to procure the Protection of some Person of Fortune, who, actuated by the Motive of Public-spiritedness, might be both able and willing to sacrifice a Sum of Money, to procure to the Nation the Advantage of such an Establishment.

As I am now become a Subject of *Great-Britain*, and had been consulted in this Affair, I was desirous to have some little Share in the Merit of whatever Success it might meet with; and therefore set myself to look out for such a Patron. It soon occurred to me, that there was the greatest Probability His Royal Highness the *Duke* would be pleased with so useful an Undertaking, especially as this was a new Woollen Manufacture. My Hopes were not disappointed. Upon the first Notice that

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was given to His Royal Highness, that there were such Workmen in Town, and upon the Sight of a Sample of their Work, He was pleas'd to go to see the Carpet then upon the Loom, and immediately gave Directions for engaging the two Workmen. Pursuant to this I sign'd Articles of Agreement with them in *May 1751*.

His Royal Highness ordered the necessary Sums to be furnish'd for paying their Debts, and returning the Money which had been taken upon Subscription for the Carpet.

The Work that was begun, was then transported to a more convenient Place at *Paddington*, and the Care and Direction of it was assign'd to me. This Carpet was not finish'd till *December* following, and then was presented by His Royal Highness the DUKE to Her
Royal

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Royal Highness the Princess Dowager of *Wales*.

These two Workmen were soon flattered and puffed up by the Concourse of People who resorted to see their Work, and by the Applause it met with. Whereupon, they immediately form'd great Schemes to themselves; and tho' they were upon a better Foot, as to Pay, than they had ever been before, yet they began to make very extravagant Demands; and at last refused to work, unless those Demands should be comply'd with. Upon this, they were taken at their Words, and dismiss'd. They fancied no other proper Workmen could be procur'd, and were not sensible of their Mistake till it was too late. A few Months after this, other Workmen, full as capable as the two first, that came over to *England*, offer'd themselves to me. These I engaged, and have enter'd into Agreement with them for a
Term

term of Years, in the manner prescribed by the Laws of this Country.

I had now got a competent Number of foreign Master-workmen, when Chance offer'd a much more commodious Situation for this Undertaking at *Fulham*. Many Reasons concurred to induce me to fix there, but more especially the Convenience of the River, and the great Number of spacious and commodious Buildings which I found there, all fully answering my Purpose, and which I came into Possession of upon very reasonable Terms.

Besides Room for all the different Branches of the Manufactory, and which is enough for 100 Master-workmen, there will be sufficient and separate Conveniencies for the Women it is proposed to employ in Works relative to it, and which are suited to their Sex; such is that of Fine-drawing mention'd before,

fore, the preparing of the Wool and Silks for the Manufactures, &c.

That nothing may be wanting to render this Manufactory as useful as possible to the Public, proper Workmen are retain'd for mounting and fixing all Sorts of Hangings and Furniture in the best Manner, for cleaning, repairing, and mending Tapestries, Carpets, &c.

By this Description, and which does not exceed Truth, it will be easily believed that an Establishment of this Extent, cannot have been carried so far without very considerable Expence.

I think myself obliged to declare that this has, with the greatest Munificence, been supplied by His Royal Highness the DUKE, as a Purchase for the Nation, of the Advantage of this Manufactory. His Royal Highness from the same Motive, and from his Love of these fine

D Arts,

Arts, is pleas'd to continue his Benefactions, in order to contribute to enable me to support the Weight of the Expence necessary for carrying on this Undertaking: I am encouraged to hope from the known Generosity and Public-spiritedness of the *British* Nation, that they will also contribute, on their part, towards the perfecting a Design so form'd for its Interest, as the following Considerations will shew this to be.

Drawing and Painting being the Arts on which all the fine Productions of this Manufacture are to be founded, particular Care will be taken to educate in these Arts the young People design'd to be employ'd in these Manufactures. With this View, all will be admitted who may have a Mind and shew a Disposition to learn them.

This will create an Emulation in the Youth, to produce such Designs as the
Workmen

Workmen may chuse to work upon; and will, besides, contribute towards the Progress of these Arts in this Country, which will be of great Use in many other Respects. An Academy of Drawing is a great Thing. This, therefore, must be consider'd only as an Attempt towards one. It will improve and get ground in Proportion as the Progress of the Manufactures may furnish the Means of bearing the Expence of it.

Dying is another Art of the highest Importance in the great Manufacture of this Country; and, tho' it is very well understood and practis'd here; yet, every Advance towards a further Degree of Perfection, is of Consequence. The *Fulham* Carpet and Tapestry Manufactures, require an infinite Variety of Shades of Colours. To come at these a great Number of Trials and Experiments are made there in this Art, which necessarily tend to its Improvement. In

time, a Magazine will be formed of all this Variety of Colours in Wool, for the Use of the Manufactory; and to which all People may also have recourse in their several Occasions.

It is also proposed to dye the *Scarlet* of the *Gobelins* which has been very much cryed up: as likewise, the *Sedan* Black Dye, which is esteemed the best. Complaint has been made, that the Black Dye is less perfect in *England* than it used to be formerly; which must, if true, have given Advantages to foreign Manufactures, to the Prejudice of those of this Country.

Skilful Workmen, in these several Branches, are employ'd in this *Fulham*-Manufactory; and they are under Obligation to take and instruct Apprentices, who will propagate these Arts in *Great-Britain*.

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The *English* Wool is found very proper for these Manufactures; the Consumption of which will be increased in Proportion as these are encouraged: And as Wool is the great Staple Commodity of *England*, every new Manufacture that can be made from it, must undoubtedly be consider'd as a Public Benefit; and this 'tis hop'd will be a Consideration that will excite every true Lover of his Country to encourage and promote the present Design.

Numbers of poor Children also may be educated and employ'd; and this Manufactory may be made to co-operate with some very charitable Foundations, by finding Employment, as they grow up, for Children preserved in their Infancy by the Benefaction of well disposed and generous People.

This Establishment offers Employment to both Sexes; to the weakly as well as the more robust; and some Parts
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of this Manufacture afford great Means of Help to many Families of the better Sort, who are burthened with a numerous Female Offspring. When the Art is once learned, the Exercise of it is not beneath the greatest, there being Scope for the finest Fancy, and the most exquisite Taste, as well as the most delicate Hand. All the smaller Pieces may be worked at Home in private Houses, with as little Inconvenience or Offence, with regard to Cleanliness, as the finest Piece of Needle-work.

No Apprentices, or young Persons, who may be desirous to be instructed in any Branch of this Manufacture will be received, but such as are natural born Subjects of HIS MAJESTY, and they will be all educated in the Protestant Religion.

To conclude: I take the Liberty of acquainting the Public, that all such
Persons

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Persons as are willing to favour the Progress of this Manufacture, either by bespeaking any of its Productions, or placing young Persons there, or in any other manner, are desired to apply to me [*Peter Parisot, at Fulham*]. I shall always be ready to satisfy all Enquiries of these Kinds; and to give such further Information as may be asked concerning the several Branches of this Establishment.

It will be impossible to give any general Ideas with regard to Price for the Works of these Manufactures. That must depend on the Designs and Patterns, as well as the Degree of Fineness of the Works which may be chosen. Persons may also find their own Patterns for any Piece of Work in the one or the other way. When these Points shall be settled, the Conditions will be agreed on before the Work shall be put in Hand, and it is not doubted but they will be as reasonable, as for things of the same
kind

kind brought from *France*. There are to be seen at *Fulham*, several Pieces now begun and in some Forwardness; and others already finished, which may be purchas'd.

I wish heartily that this Establishment at *Fulham* of which I have here given an Account, may be acceptable to the Nation; and that it may give me an Opportunity of shewing my Zeal to serve the Country, which by Choice I have made my own.

Fulham, April
the 2d, 1753.

F I N I S.