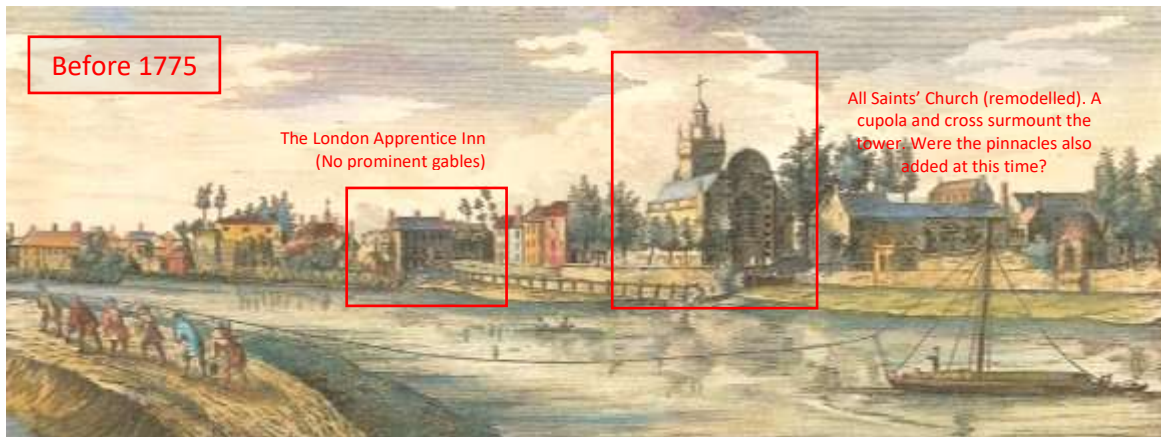
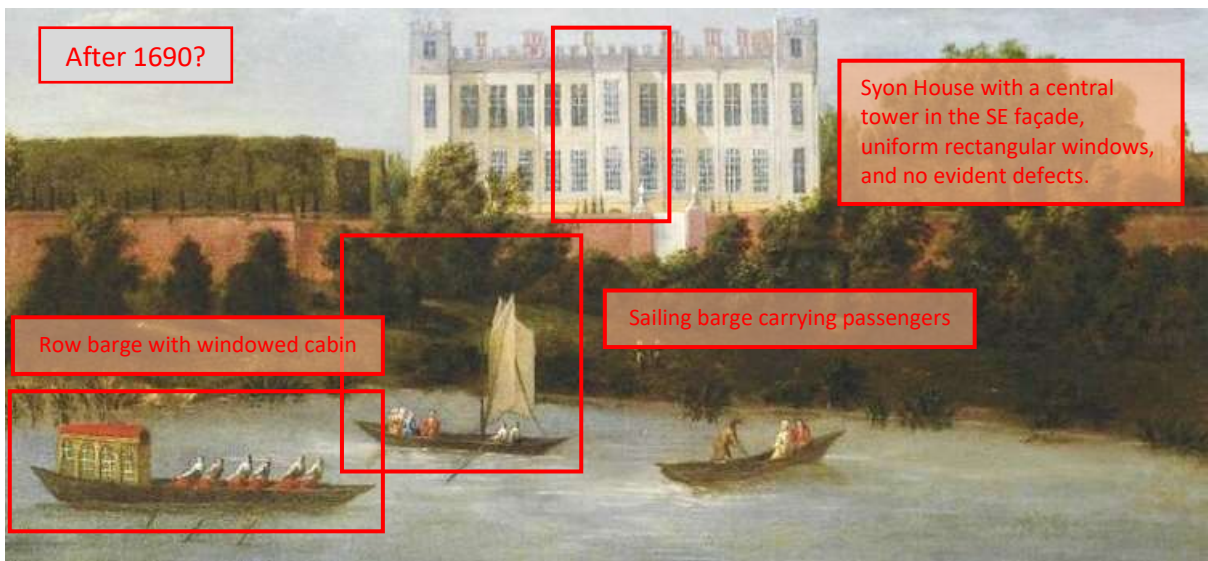
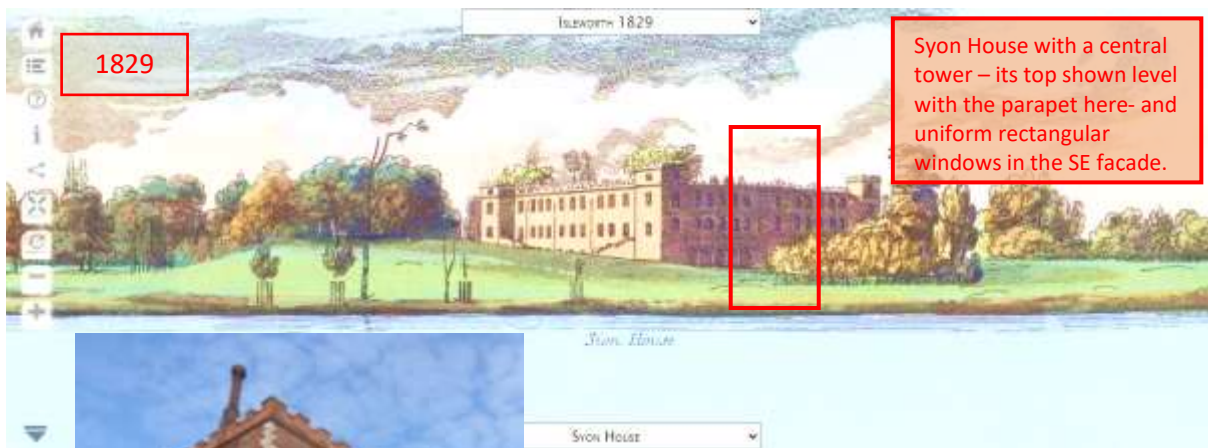
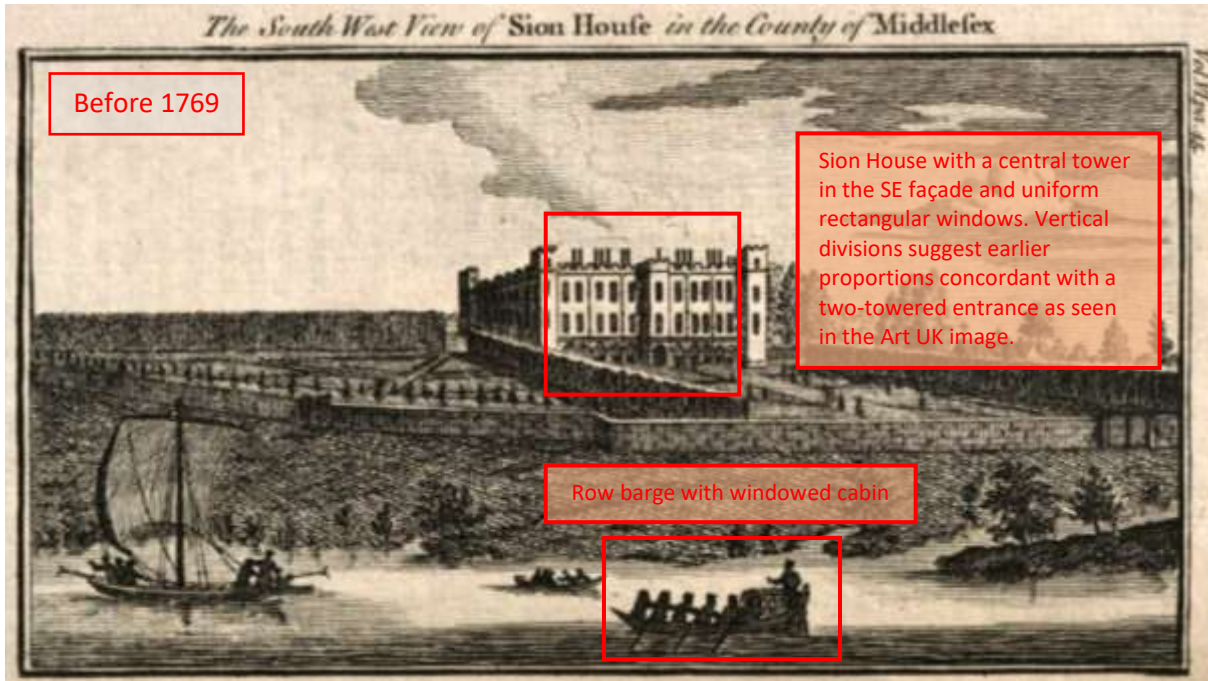
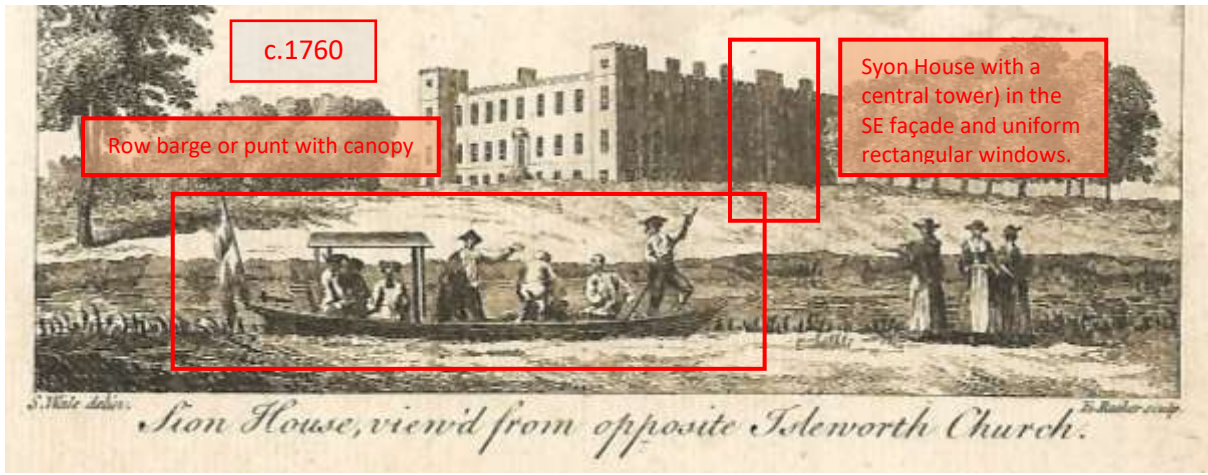


Could we date this London view and find out more about H. H. Burnell?

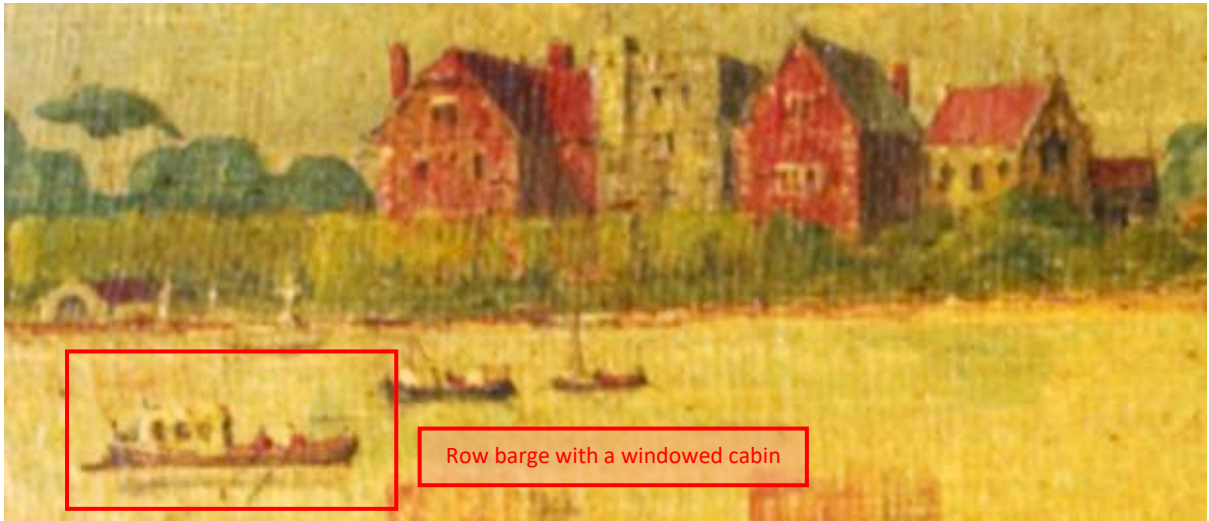
<https://www.artuk.org/artdetective/discussions/discussions/could-we-date-this-london-view-and-find-out-more-about-h-h-burnell>



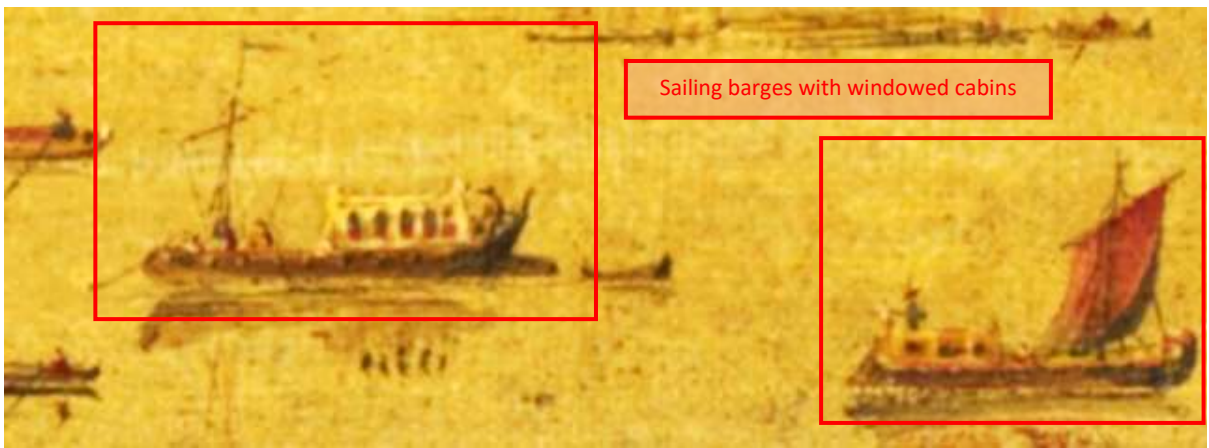




Morton's Tower at Lambeth Palace (c.1490) shows two square crenelated towers guarding a gate surmounted with an arched window. The arrangement resembles the centre of the façade of the great house in the ArtUK image.



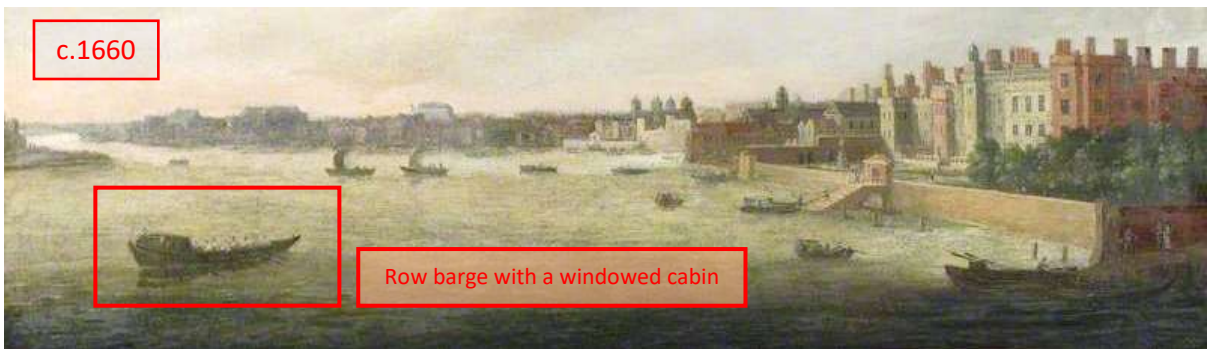
Row barge with a windowed cabin



Sailing barges with windowed cabins



Row barges carrying cargo?



c.1660

Row barge with a windowed cabin



c.1760

Row barge with a windowed cabin



Summary

None of the buildings in the ArtUK image show post-Restoration architectural features, so if the image depicts a real place, it depicts one that was either not developed in the late 17th century, or depicts it prior to that time.

Sion House?

The large, 3-storey rectangular building with a crenellated parapet and 4 square corner towers is a plausible candidate for Sion house, and stands in similar relation to the river and to a church whose tower resembles that of All Saints, Isleworth.

The principal difference between this building in the ArtUK image is what may be a grand entrance, framed by twin towers, surmounted by a Gothic window, and with 4 windows either side of it on each storey. Other, presumably later, images show a single, narrower central tower, with rectangular windows, and an additional matching window either side of it on each storey. In no other image does the house appear to be in a poor state of repair, as indicated by the staining on the towers and walls. These details suggest the image was made between the initial completion of Sion House in 1552 and its remodelling, either between 1604 and 1613 by Henry, Earl of Northumberland, or in 1659, under Inigo Jones. If so, it may be the earliest known image of the building.

All Saints' Church?

The tower of the nearby church in the ArtUK image lacks pinnacles on its parapet, which one would expect to have been installed by the 14th century (from which the tower dates), but 18th century images of All Saints' show substantial additions to the tower (a cupola and cross) and major rebuilds of the church itself, so it was possible that pinnacles were added after the creation of the ArtUK image. The church stands amidst a settlement that may be Isleworth village.

The London Apprentice?

A large building with right-angled gables at the L/H end of the settlement corresponds with the current site of the London Apprentice inn, and may have served the same function, if it was not instead a warehouse. The building in the ArtUK image is nevertheless architecturally distinct from the structure shown in 18th century images and extant today.

Water Transport

The water transport in the ArtUK image is characterised by row and sailing barges with windowed cabins. Similar row barges are seen in 17th and 18th century images, but no sailing barges of this pattern appear, and camined barges of either type appear less sophisticated as well as less numerous in successive images. Entirely absent from other images are the prominent barge-houses situated directly in front of the centre of the SE façade of the presumed Syon house.

These features, along with the apparent orientation of the main entrance of the grand house towards the river, suggest the ArtUK image dates from a time when travel to the location depicted was principally via river rather than by road. If the building is indeed Syon house, subsequent changes to it may reflect a lessening of the importance of water transport for the affluent, as roads improved and covered barges were replaced by carriages, that resulted in the demolition of the barge houses and the relocation of the principal entrance to the NW façade of the house, where it remains.

Real or Imagined

If the image indeed depicts Isleworth and Sion it does so as part of a composite designed to show the extent of the riverside. To achieve this, the artist broadens the river and removes obstructions such as eyots or bends. Nevertheless, the details of the watercraft, the rafts of timber, and the individual buildings of note suggest a degree of observation from life. Identifying the other major buildings has proved fruitless, but this may be attributable to the extensive development of the area, first in the Georgian period, in response to the establishment of the royal court at Kew, and subsequently as London's outlying villages were transformed into suburbs with the coming of the railway age.

REFERENCES

View of Isleworth from Richmond Gardens. Illustration from Walter Harrison, *A new and universal history, description and survey of the cities of London and Westminster, the borough of Southwark, and parts adjacent ...* (London: J. Cooke, 1775) [Cited elsewhere as: Thornton, William, *The new, complete, and universal history, description, and survey of the cities of London and Westminster, the borough of Southwark, and the parts adjacent* (London: Alex. Hogg, 1784)]

<https://www.abebooks.com/art-prints/View-Isleworth-Richmond-Gardens-HARRISON-Walter/30917584482/bd#&gid=1&pid=1>

A view up the Thames between Richmond and Isleworth, drawn and engraved by J. Boydell (c.1760).

<https://www.orchardhousegallery.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/LDORL-03175.jpg>

Ferry across the Thames to the 'London Apprentice' inn, Isleworth, London, 1926-1927. Donald McLeish (1879-1950)

<https://www.meisterdrucke.uk/fine-art-prints/McLeish/763026/Ferry-across-the-Thames-to-the-London-Apprentice-inn,-Isleworth,-London,-1926-1927..html>

SYON HOUSE

View across the Thames of Syon House, Attributed to Robert Griffier (fl. between circa 1690 and circa 1727)

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Robert_Griffier_-_Syon_House.jpg

View of Syon House, Unknown author, before 1760. A painting of Syon House dating from before Robert Adam and Capability Brown were employed to modernise the house and garden in around 1760. However no major changes were made to the external structure of the building. There are various distortions in this painting: the house is shown closer to the river than it really is, and either the river is shown too small, or the boats too large, or both.

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Painting_of_Syon_House.jpg

Syon House, view'd from opposite Isleworth Church. Series: London and its Environs. Engraving by Edward Rooker, from a drawing by Samuel Wale, c1760. The South West View of Syon House in the County of Middlesex, from *A Description of England and Wales: Containing a Particular Account of Each County ... Embellished with Two Hundred and Forty Copper Plates, of Palaces, Castles, Cathedrals* (London: Newbery and Carnan, 1769), VI, p.55

<https://archive.org/details/descriptionofeng06newb/page/n55/mode/2up>

Syon House, Middlesex, from Robert Goadby, *A New Display of the Beauties of England or a description of the most elegant or magnificent public edifices, royal palaces, noblemen's and gentlemen's seats, and other curiosities, natural or artificial in different parts of the kingdom: adorned with a variety of copper plate cuts, neatly engraved* (London, 1776)

View of Syon house from the Thames, Panorama of the Thames project. See John R Inglis and Jill Sanders, *Panorama of the Thames - A Riverside View of Georgian London* (New York: Thames and Hudson, 2015). A reproduction of a hand-coloured, tourist guide published in 1829 by London bookseller Samuel Leigh, the work shows both banks of the river between Westminster and Richmond upon Thames, a distance of 15 miles.

<http://www.panoramaofthethames.com/1829/river-map-1829/>

Syon, Jan Griffier c.1710, before transformation by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown (Duke of Northumberland).

<https://londongardenstrust.org/features/BrownatSyon.htm>

WATERCRAFT

View of the Thames, Somerset House to Westminster (C.1660). Cornelis Bol (1589–1666) (after). Government Art Collection. <https://artuk.org/discover/artworks/view-of-the-thames-somerset-house-to-westminster-27735>

QUOTATIONS

On pinnacles

“When the parapet carried pinnacles at the four corners, as was increasingly common from the end of the thirteenth and through the fourteenth centuries [...] square-topped towers at the west ends of parish churches became more fashionable in the second half of the fourteenth century and spires were eschewed by the more ambitious patrons and designers, greater emphasis was placed upon parapets and corner pinnacles” (p.57, p.59)

https://ueaeprints.uea.ac.uk/id/eprint/36359/1/2011SummersDJPhD_vol.1.pdf

On Isleworth

[ISI] The village was solidly established by the mid-17th century but nothing remains from this period. The 'very ancient' church of All Saints was rebuilt in 1707. The London Apprentice public house dates from 1731 and is said to have been named after the apprentice liverymen who rowed all the way here from the City of London on their days off.

<https://hidden-london.com/gazetteer/isleworth/>

Kew Palace [...] was originally built [...] in 1631. [...] In the 1720s, the royal family, George II [r 1727-60,] Queen Caroline and their children arrived and took leases on the palace and several other houses in the near vicinity.

<https://www.hrp.org.uk/kew-palace/history-and-stories/the-story-of-kew-palace/#gs.3ur3yu>

Sion House

Formerly the site of an abbey, the estate at Syon was acquired after the dissolution of the monasteries by Edward Seymour, 1st Duke of Somerset and Lord Protector to Edward VI. The duke built the house in Italian Renaissance style between 1547 and 1552. After his execution, Syon passed to his rival John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland.

<https://www.heritage-print.com/sion-house-viewd-opposite-isleworth-church-14967569.html>

In the year 1604, Sion-house and the manor of Isleworth were granted to Henry, Earl of Northumberland.

[Presumed] privy to the gunpowder plot, [h]e endured [...]fifteen years in the Tower, and was obliged to pay a fine of 30,000l. In a letter which he wrote to James I [...], dated April 14, 1613, [...] he offers the King Sion-house, with the manor of Isleworth [...]. In estimating the value of Sion, he states, that he had laid out £9,000 upon the house and gardens [...] Notwithstanding the sums of money expended by him on Sion-house, it appears to have undergone a thorough repair, and to have been considerably altered by his successor (under the direction, as it is said, of Inigo Jones) in 1659, which date is on all the leaden pipes.

<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/london-environs/vol3/pp79-122>

Daniel Lysons, 'Isleworth', in *The Environs of London: Volume 3, County of Middlesex* (London, 1795), pp. 79-122. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/london-environs/vol3/pp79-122>. [accessed 17 June 2022].

Somewhere there is a plan of Syon, made in 1607 by Ralph Tresswell