

AWAY WITH WORDS

LET'S GO ROCOCO!

Step inside a sumptuous room... The Back State Room is one of the spaces where, in the 19th century, Sir Richard and Lady Wallace would entertain their guests.

This room displays many examples of the Rococo style. Rococo style is full of curves, seashells, leaves and flowers, cherubs and elements from mythology. Rococo style is not symmetrical; everything appears free-flowing. Many things in this room have been gilded – covered in paper-thin strips of gold leaf – to create a dazzling effect.

Talking points

Find words to describe this room; explore Rococo style.

Creative Challenges

Descriptive writing prompts.

KEY WORKS



Cup and saucer



Ewer and basin



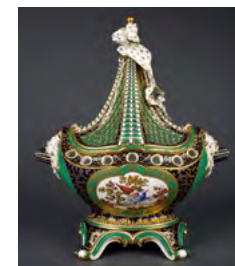
Cup and saucer



Fire dogs



Louis XV's Commode



Pot-pourri vase and cover



Jan Weenix, *Flowers on a Fountain with a Peacock*, c. 1700-1710



The Back State Room with chandelier, Hertford House

THE BACK STATE ROOM

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FILM> THE BACK STATE ROOM

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/YUKITNOOJ7M](https://youtu.be/yukitnooj7m)

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AUDIO TRANSCRIPT

Let us go inside the Back State Room which is decorated in the Rococo style. Here is the large marble fireplace. Inside the fireplace stand two fire dogs to protect the logs from falling. One is decorated with a lion and the other has a wild boar nestling amongst the leaves.

On the mantelpiece, in front of a large ornate mirror, sits a splendid golden clock. Can you spot the dog?

On each side of the clock is a candelabra with some cheeky cherubs. Notice the reflection of the clock in the mirror which shows off the decoration on the back.

Here is a large painting with a peacock. The marble top is part of a Rococo style chest of drawers that belonged to the French king, Louis XV.

There are several display cases in this room. The ewer and basin are very rare objects because they are carved out of rock crystal. Can you see the little golden dog at the top?

In this room are many porcelain objects that were made at the famous Sèvres factory in France. There are elaborately painted vases, cups and saucers and this magnificent ship-shaped pot-pourri vase.

There is another clock in this room. If you are quick, you'll catch a glimpse of its magnificent base in the reflection. Can you hear it ticking?

GLOSSARY

Rococo

A style of art, architecture and decoration that began in France in the 18th century. It uses lots of details, decoration and curving asymmetrical forms where one half of the design does not mirror the other.

Candelabra

A branched candlestick or lamp with several lights.

Fire dogs

A pair of decorative metal stands used to support logs in an open fire.

Cherub

A kind of angel that is represented in art as a beautiful, chubby, naked child with wings.

Porcelain

A type of fine, hard white pottery, first made in China more than two thousand years ago.

Gold leaf

Gold beaten into extremely thin sheets, which can then be added to objects.

DISCUSS



- How many examples of the Rococo style can you find in the Back State Room?
- Can you use the word Rococo in a sentence?

ACTIVITIES



- Write a description of this room when it is evening and is lit by candlelight.
- Pick one of the artworks in the room and write a detailed description using adjectives, adverbs, similes or metaphors. Re-arrange the sentences to create a short poem.
- Write a new script to accompany the short film of the Back State Room.

VOCABULARY

gold	glossy	sparkling	candelabra
golden	bright	shimmering	fire dogs
gilded	burnished	crimson	cherubs
gold leaf	gleaming	chandelier	
shiny	lustrous	porcelain	



DATE c. 1752

SIZE 55 x 55.5 cm each

MATERIALS Gilt bronze, wrought and cast iron and steel bolts

MAKERS Attributed to Jacques Caffiéri
Probably assisted by his son Philippe Caffiéri

DATES 1678-1755 & 1714-1774

PLACE France

EWER AND BASIN

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DATE 1727 or 1730
SIZE 18.9 cm, ewer
5.3 x 23 x 19.9 cm, basin

MATERIALS Rock crystal and gold

MAKER Jean Gaillard, goldsmith
DATES active between 1695-1754
PLACE France

LOUIS XV'S COMMODE

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DATE 1739
SIZE 88.8 x 195.5 x 80.6 cm
MATERIALS Oak veneered with kingwood and satiné, mahogany drawers, red linen lining inside, gilt bronze, gilded brass hinges, brass locks, serpentine marble top

MAKER Antoine-Robert Gaudreaux
DATES 1682-1746
MAKER Bronze mounts: Jacques Caffiéri
DATES 1678-1755
PLACE France

CUP AND SAUCER

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DATE 1765

SIZE Cup, 7.4 cm height

Saucer, 13.5 cm diameter

MATERIALS Soft-paste porcelain,
painted and gilded

MAKER Manufacture de Sèvres

PAINTER Louis-Jean Thévenet

DATES 1707-1778 (Painter)

PLACE France

CUP AND SAUCER

AWAY WITH WORDS
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DATE 1765

SIZE Cup, 8.3 cm height

Saucer, 15.3 cm diameter

MATERIALS Soft-paste porcelain,
painted and gilded

MAKER Manufacture de Sèvres

PLACE France

FLOWERS ON A FOUNTAIN WITH A PEACOCK

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TITLE Flowers on a Fountain
with a Peacock
DATE c. 1700-c. 1710
SIZE 177 x 165 cm
MATERIALS Oil on canvas

ARTIST Jan Weenix
DATES 1642-1719
PLACE The Netherlands

POT-POURRI VASE AND COVER

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DATE c. 1761
SIZE 44.1 x 36.9 cm
MATERIALS Soft-paste porcelain,
painted and gilded

MAKER Manufacture de Sèvres
DESIGN attributed to
Jean-Claude Chambellan
Duplessis, the Elder

DATES 1695-1774 (designer)
PLACE France

CHANDELIER

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DATE 1751
SIZE 179 cm x 190 cm
MATERIALS Gilt bronze, wrought iron
and iron bolts

MAKERS Attributed to
Jacques Caffiéri
Probably assisted by his
son Philippe Caffiéri

DATES 1678-1755 & 1714-1774
PLACE France