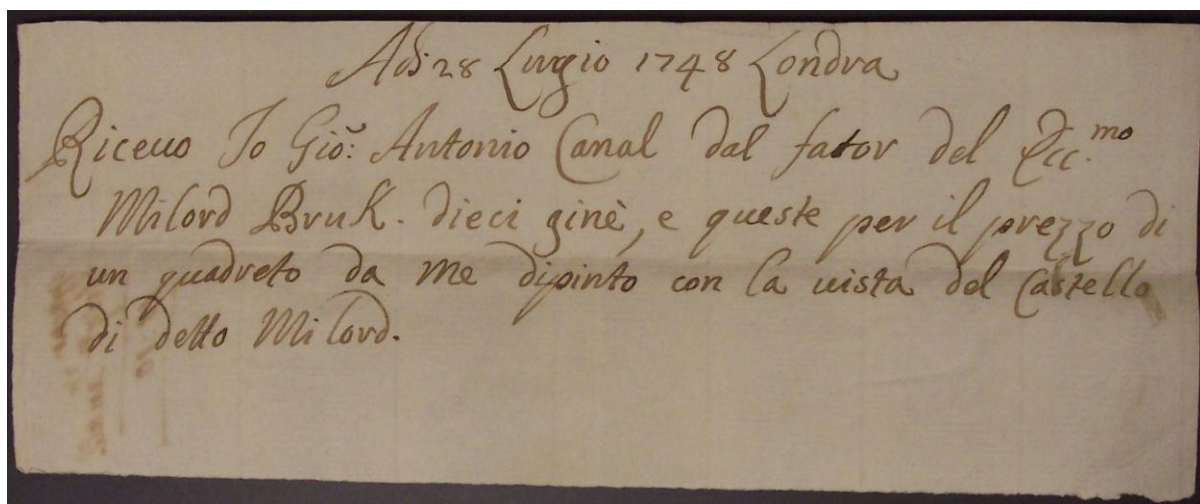


Canaletto and Warwick Castle

Voucher, 1748 (CR1886/Box 490/Bundle 10)



Canaletto

Zuane Antonio Canal, famously known as Canaletto was a Venetian born painter and draughtsman, born in 1697.

Canaletto was well known for his paintings of Venice, which were popular with members of the English aristocracy. However, after the War of the Austrian succession, tourism had dipped and so Canaletto decided to travel to England. He arrived in May 1746.

Lord Brooke

Francis Greville was the 8th Baron Brooke, 1st Earl Brooke, and 1st Earl of Warwick. In the period that Canaletto was painting for him, he was known as Lord Brooke. After leaving education Brooke set out on a grand tour of Europe and visited Rome, Florence, and probably Venice. By 1741, his accounts show that he had acquired a piece of work by Canaletto. After his marriage in 1742, Brooke began making major alterations to Warwick Castle, and hired Lancelot Brown to redesign the gardens. Brooke's commission of Canaletto could have been part of this new vision of the castle and its grounds.

Accounts

Payments in Brooke's account at Hoare Bank and in the accounts for his estates reveal that Canaletto worked at the castle in late 1747 and early 1748. There were five payments made, plus this receipt, which accounts for the five known paintings and three drawings Canaletto created for Brooke of the castle.

He also produced two drawings of Warwick. One is a view of Church Street, and the other is the town seen from the gardens of the Priory (now the site of Warwickshire County Record Office).

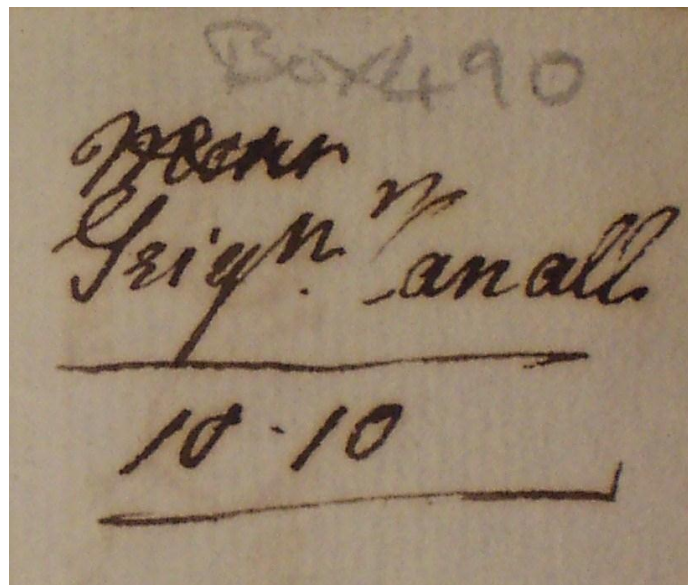
Transcription and translation

A di 28 Luglio 1748 Londra

Riceuo lo Gió: Antonio Canal dal fator del Eccmo. Milord Bruk, dieci ginè, e queste per il prezzo di un quadroto da me dipinto con la vista del Castello di detto Milord

Could be translated (by David Buttery) as:

‘As of 28 July 1748 London Received I Giovanni Antonio Canal from the agent of the most excellent My Lord Brooke. Ten guineas, and this for the price of a small picture by me with the view depicted with the view of the castle of the said My Lord’



The voucher

This voucher or receipt is one of only a few surviving documents written in Canaletto's hand.

It describes the payment of ten guineas for 'un quadroto', which could imply a small painting. However, David Buttery, who has researched the subject, suggests that it could also mean a drawing.

This is supported by Brooke's estate accounts which refers to payment of 10 guineas and describes 'drawings' (this is probably a mistake because Canaletto's receipt only refers to one). Buttery believes the receipt is for a drawing in pen and ink of Warwick Castle, the south front.

The drawing can be viewed on the following website, or in our searchroom in the book, *Canaletto and Warwick Castle* by David Buttery, p. 25 (B.WAR.But on our reference shelves)

[Canaletto: view of Warwick Castle](#)

Out of Warwick

Canaletto's paintings and drawings of the castle had varied fates. Two have remained in the Midlands at the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. The others are scattered around America in museums and private collections, and one is in Switzerland. The drawing that relates to this receipt is now held in a private collection.

References

Buttery, David, *Canaletto and Warwick Castle*, Phillmore, 1992.

Buttery, David, 'Canaletto at Warwick', *Burlington Magazine*, v. 129, no. 1012, July, 1987, pp. 437-40.

CR1886/TN129 Account book (with references to payment of 10 guineas)