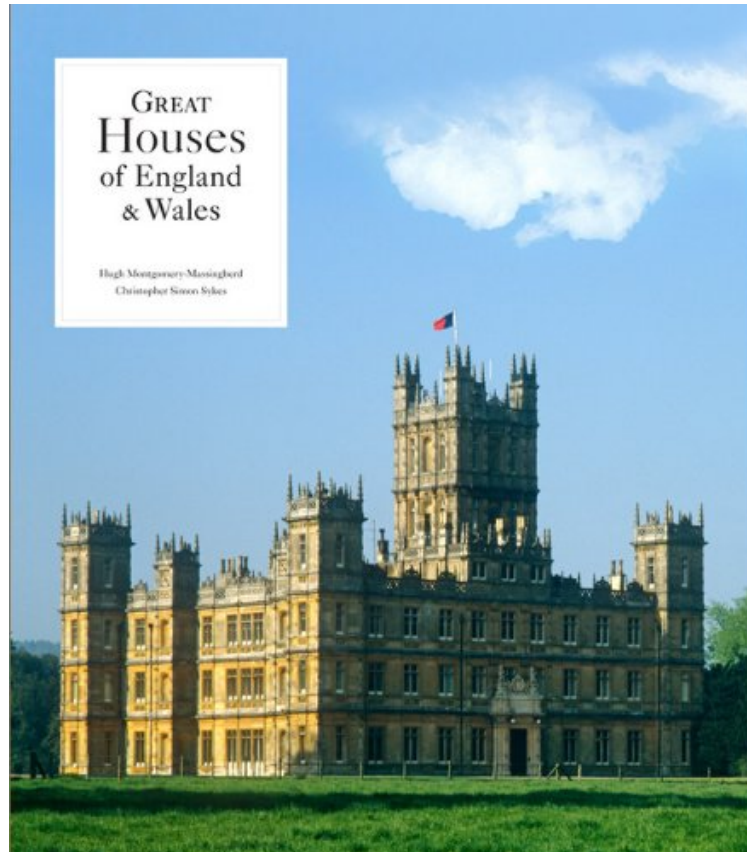


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Great Houses of England Wales

Hugh Montgomery-Massingberd

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Hugh Montgomery-Massingberd : Great Houses of England Wales before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Great Houses of England Wales:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Stunning Photos and Fascinating TextBy L. M. KeeferI bought the paperback version of this book which isn't large. It's about a medium-sized book with lots of gorgeous photos of English houses and brilliant text. The author has been writing about British country houses since 1960. Christopher Simon-Sykes is known for his photos. I teach classes on historical design periods and will use this book as a resource. I was wanting more background information on the houses.For example, I wondered why Hardwick Hall had more "glass than wall" - learned that Bess of Hardwick married a man who had a glass company.There's abundant details and fascinating insights about 25 homes in this book.You might spring for the hardcover version of this book as it's probably worth it. I'm happy with the paperback for my purposes as a reference book for my classes. It exceeds my expectations.13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. I didn't realize that it was smallerBy KathyThis is one time that I didn't read the description well enough. I saw the contents page on the sample and thought that I was getting that book. I went ahead and ordered the paperback as the price was lower and usually it is the same book as the hardcover. In this case, not so. The hardcover is a larger book in size with 424 pages and showing 32 houses. This book is much smaller in size, is 240 pages and shows 25 houses. It was totally my fault not to read the description

better so I just want to point it out to others so they will know what they are getting. From what I have read and seen of the smaller book so far, it is great.....BUT I can tell that I really would have liked to have had the bigger, extended book instead. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Handsome but Superficial By Claude Roessiger It's a handsome book, but it doesn't escape a certain superficiality: it's a coffee table book, and a nice one, but it could have been much more: detail, art, architectural comment, and history could all have been usefully included.

In this chronological selection of thirty-two of the most notable houses in England and Wales, Hugh Montgomery-Massingberd and Christopher Simon Sykes present a panoramic history of the evolution of the 'great house'. Featuring 32 notable residences of England's great families, including Highclere Castle, the real-life Downton Abby, featured on the book's cover. The selection tours acknowledged architectural masterpieces, such as Castle Howard, along with lesser-known delights, such as Tredegar one of a number of houses in this book that were closed to the public for many years. It is also a history of great families, seen as part of the houses they created, where their descendants, in many cases, still live today. Full of memorable characters and anecdotal insight, this book is a glorious tribute to what Evelyn Waugh called 'our chief national artistic achievement'. The original photographs show the unexpected as well as the familiar the private rooms and the servants' quarters as well as the grand exteriors and state rooms, the gardens and noble landscapes. They include some of the most splendid examples of English art and architecture, from awe-inspiring medieval stone to the beauties of the English Renaissance, the classical grandeur of the eighteenth century and the highest excesses of the High Victorian taste; illustrating the work of Inigo Jones, Sir John Vanbrugh, Nicholas Hawksmoor, Thomas Chippendale, William Kent, Robert Adam, and Lancelot 'Capability' Brown.

"This large-scale handsome volume is a stunning visual history of the evolution of the 'great house'." - Cotswold Life
"History of the 32 most notable great houses of England and Wales, featuring 'Downton Abbey'." - The Bookseller
Buyer's Guide
About the Author Hugh Montgomery-Massingberd began writing about country houses and their owners in the 1960s. The instigator and editor of an index covering some ten thousand country houses in the British Isles, he was also the author of *Blenheim Revisited*, *Family Seats*, *Great British Families*, *Royal Palaces of Europe*, and (with Christopher Simon Sykes) *Great Houses of Scotland*, *Great Houses of Ireland*, and *English Manor Houses*. He was also well known as a regular contributor of heritage columns to *The Field* and the *Daily Telegraph*, and wrote for *The Spectator*, *Town and Country*, *Harpers Queen* and numerous other magazines. Hugh Montgomery-Massingberd died in 2007. Christopher Simon Sykes specializes in the photography of architecture and interiors. The author of a number of books including *Private Palaces*, *Black Sheep*, *Country House Camera* and *Ancient English Houses*, his photographs also appear regularly in many periodicals, including *Vogue*, *Vanity Fair*, *The World of Interiors*, *House and Garden*, the *Telegraph Magazine*, and *Harpers Queen*. *The Big House*, a biography of Sledmere, his family's house in Yorkshire, was published in 2013.