19. Cecil Gould, letter to F. St John Gorst, 27 October 1981, NT KLA/P/33. See also Gould’s Diary, 5 October 1977–22 May 1982, National Gallery Archive (London): NG/17/213, pp. 55–66. Monday 26 October 1981: I had agreed to join Vida Hall at Salisbury to go to see her old home, Kingston Lacy. Following a family feud she has not been there since 1925, apart from a visit in the 1960s as a member of the public. I have been twice – around 1947 when I first took Philip Hendy – and once in the ’60s with Robert Gill. The house is a palatial mid-17th century building with magnificent pictures. In the circumstances Vida might have been overwhelmed. But she was extraordinarily cordial and clearly did not care what we might have felt. It’s long been a scandal that works of art of this quality should not have been available for public benefit before now. 20. Vida Hall, letter to F. St John Gorst, 1 July 1983, NT KLA/P/33.
21. Tony Mitchell kindly offered to take me to see the Giogione room on my visit to Venice but I confess I was strongly advised not to go. He, of course, had seen it in process of cleaning. Not, myself, being used to such heights, I thought I’d be too much for me.