verses alluding to the premature death of her son Marcellus. This clock must have been acquired during Whitworth’s last two visits to Paris in April and October 1819. Indeed, that caveat applies to everything at Knole that is not specifically mentioned in the 1802–03 documents.

When the Whitworths went to Ireland as Viceroy and Vicereine in 1813 on the princely salary of £30,000 p.a., the summit of Whitworth’s diplomatic career was darkened by the accidental death of the young fourth Duke of Dorset in an Irish hunting accident in 1815. Both Whitworth and the Duchess died in 1825. The 1864 Knole inventory reveals that their presence was still felt in the house. As well as the furniture described here, ‘Lord Whitworth’s dress Court Suit’ was in the King’s Bedroom, while his ‘Coronation Robe…Dress Sword and a silver Coronet’ were also listed. Although the claim that much of the French furniture was ‘presented to Lord Whitworth by the Emperor Napoleon the first’ cannot be substantiated, its connection with the Peace of Amiens is of considerable interest. Together with the purchases made by the third Duke of Dorset during his previous embassy to the doomed court of Louis XVI, this furniture bears witness to a distinguished episode in the long history of Knole.

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4. Sword Etiquette, Louis Delaigle: notes en yogi (1731–1790), Paris, 1966, pp. 52–53; ‘Le Comte de Duras’ was probably the title that he had assumed by courtesy as the heir to his uncle, the second duke, who died in 1769. Had the second duke had a son