

The Famous Blackamoor of Slindon House



Before the restorations of 1914

A rare early 18th century Blackamoor stood on the island lawn at the entrance to the House. It is not known when it was placed there but it is clearly visible in some of the earliest prints of the House dating from the late 18th Century. It was boarded up for protection during the 2nd World War. When the Squire, Mr. Isaccson, and his sister, Violet, Lady Beaumont returned to Slindon in 1945 they decided not to live at Slindon House but at The Dower House and the Blackamoor was positioned on the front lawn. It sadly deteriorated over the years and Reuben Pleydell-Bounverie, who was then living with his family at the Dower House brought it to the notice of the National Trust who took it away in the 1970s for safekeeping.

The expensive restoration was carried out by Lord McAlpine for the gardens at West Green House, Nr. Basingstoke which he leased from the National Trust.

Happily it can now be readily seen again on public open days in this beautiful garden created by the present lessee, the Australian, Marylyn Abbott. Unfortunately it is no longer painted black with a gilded skirt as it was originally.

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