



2.20: *Baronial Hall, Holwood, ca. 1910*

Photographed by William James around 1910, Sir Joseph Flavelle's vaulted baronial hall boasted a magnificent, carved oak mantel, a (copy) of Raphael's High Renaissance Vatican fresco, the *School of Athens*, and (genuine) Art Nouveau frescoes by Gustav Hahn that still give the room a "subaqueous effect."<sup>47</sup> The Raphael aptly points to Flavelle's long association with the University of Toronto, while the Hahn underlines his tasteful material success. Gustav Hahn, who lived in the Arts & Crafts enclave of Wychwood Park, also decorated the Legislative Chamber at Queen's Park, Chester Massey's Art Gallery on Jarvis Street, and Sir Edmund Walker's library at Long Garth on St. George Street. A work by Hahn was a mark of distinction for the late-Victorians and Edwardians, but apparently not for later generations, since little of his work has survived either the decorator<sup>48</sup> or the wrecker.<sup>49</sup>

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multi-storey buildings as department stores and skyscrapers; and the introduction of exotic plants from the far-flung reaches of the Empire.<sup>43</sup> Seen from these perspectives, the conservatory was a perfect focus for upper-middle-class conspicuous consumption. (See 2.19.)

Arguably the "grandest of the Edwardian Georgian houses in Toronto"<sup>46</sup> was Sir Joseph Flavelle's Holwood built in 1901–02 at 78 Queen's Park

Crescent. Entered through a monumental Corinthian portal, the interior has been substantially altered since Flavelle's time. Only his vaulted baronial hall, created a decade or so before he actually became a baron, has been preserved, in all its dark, Jacobean splendour. (See 2.20.)

Joseph Flavelle was one of those self-made Victorian men who rose from humble beginnings to fame and considerable fortune. (Timothy Eaton and