

Window glass

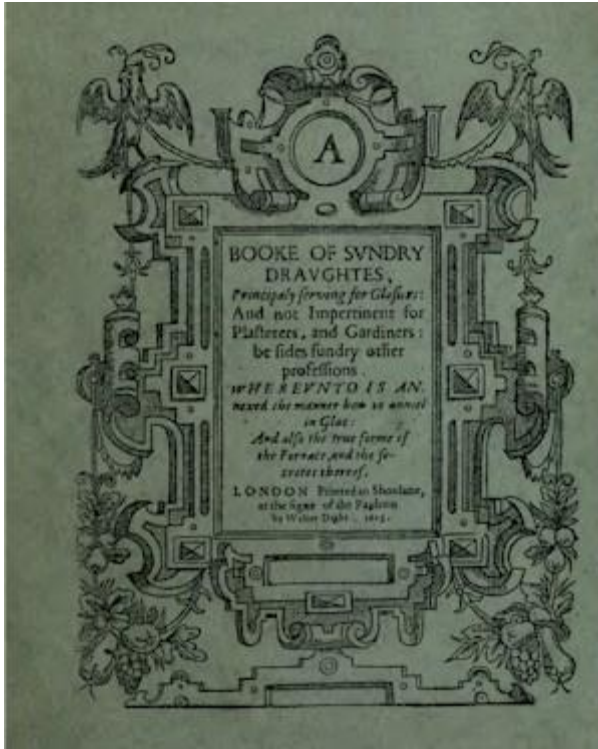
Mary Fielding

We found masses of fragments of thin window glass during the Campden House digs, which prompted questions about where it was made and whether the panes would have been square or diamond shaped.

While washing and examining the shards we noticed that a number of fragments seemed not only to have straight edges, but also *curved edges*. Certainly the consensus was that many panes were diamond shaped from the angles, but were others really cut to intricate shapes or was it a trick of the eye?

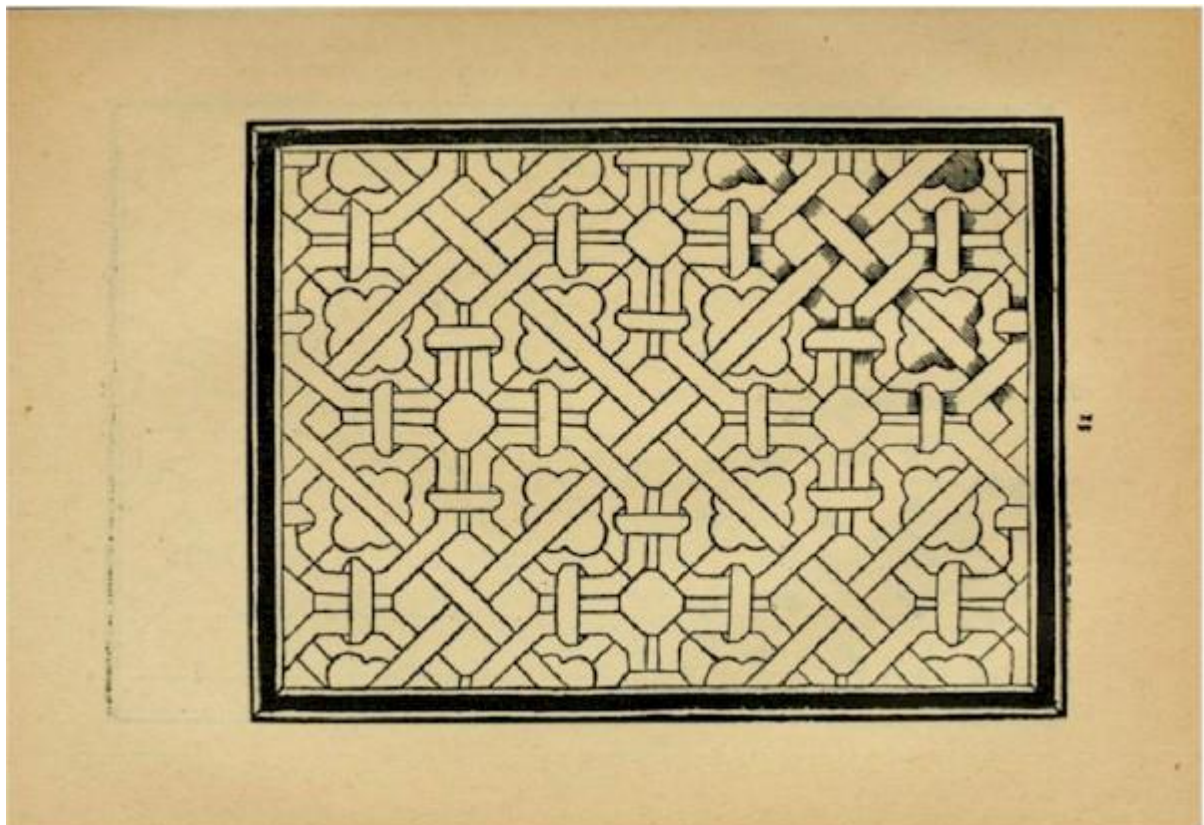


Are some of these fragments carefully shaped as part of a pattern?



Intrigued, I did an online search for “seventeenth century window glass” and, as well as discovering that green glass is English (ours is green), I found a digitised copy, courtesy of UCLA Libraries, of Walter Gidde’s *A booke of sundry draughtes principaly serving for glasiars: and not impertinent for plasters, and gardiners : besides sundry other professions. Whereunto is annexed the manner how to anniel in glas: and also the true forme of the fornace, and the secretes thereof*, published in 1615 and therefore contemporary with the building of Campden House. This proved a fascinating find; it included patterns for windows which seem to bear out the theory that at least some of the windows of Campden House could have been intricately patterned.

Frontispiece of Walter Gidde’s book



Pattern for window glass from Walter Gidde’s book