

The Tapestry Gallery

Gregory Gregory hung five stunning tapestries on the walls of what we now know as the Long Gallery. These were all based on designs by Boucher and manufactured at the French tapestry workshop at Beauvais. All of the tapestries had borders woven to depict a gilt picture frame with entwined acanthus leaves, surmounted by the Royal Crown of France with the arms of France and Navarre encircled by the Collar and Cross of the St. Esprit. They would have formed part of Royal orders made by Louis XV.



Above. *Bacchus et Arianne, Bacchus changé en raisin*. This example is from The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles (63.DD.6) which may have had the Royal arms removed from the top border. The Gregory *Bacchus* was a similar double weaving (26 ft. 3 in. by 12 ft.) and hung at the conservatory end of the Long Gallery. A tapestry of this size would take over 3 years to complete. There is a similar tapestry currently in an exhibition at the Design Museum, Copenhagen (601/1962). It is thought to have been one of the set ordered by Louis XV in 1756 for the Comte de Saint-Florentin, whose house is currently used by the US Embassy in Paris.

Below. *Vulcan and Venus*

This photograph, dated 1850-60, is of the Gregory *Vulcan* tapestry hanging over the fireplace in the Long Gallery (Front Circle end). It measured 25 ft. 9 in. by 12 ft. 2 in. and was a very unusual extended version. There is a similar tapestry in the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (49.2), without the Royal arms, but this could have been removed.



Four of the tapestries were from *The Love of the Gods* series, a set of 9 tapestries designed in 1749. These were woven between 1749 and 1779, in differing widths according to the commission, some as many as 17 times. The initials ACC indicate the Gregory tapestries were produced under the directorship of André Charlemagne Charron, who was active 1754-1780.



Above. *Apollo and Clytie* (example from Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge T.1-1949). The Gregory *Apollo* measured 15 ft. 4 in. by 11 ft. 10 in.



Above. *Neptune and Amymone* (example from La Galerie Boccara, 1977). The dimension of the Gregory *Neptune* was 12 ft. by 10 ft. 6 in.



Above right: *Psyche at the Basketmakers* forms part of the series *The Story of Psyche*. This tapestry has Gregory provenance, being acquired in 1938 by J. Paul Getty from Jacques Seligmann, Paris and is currently on view at the Getty Center (63.DD.4), South Pavilion, Gallery S104, Section 3. Dimensions: 344.1 x 253.3 cm.

