

**MIDDLESEX, Countess of, née
Grace Boyle**

London 1723–10.v.1763

The only daughter and heir of Richard, 2nd Viscount Shannon, in 1744 she married Charles Sackville, while Lord Middlesex (two years after her death he became 2nd Duke of Dorset), bringing him a fortune of £30,000 (rather helpfully, as Middlesex had spent heavily on his Grand Tour, where he and his mistress, the opera singer La Muscovita, were portrayed by Rosalba). She was Mistress of the Robes and Lady of the Bedchamber to the Princess of Wales from 1743, and was reputedly mistress of Frederick, Prince of Wales. Horace Walpole said she was “very short, very plain, and very yellow; a vain girl, full of Greek and Latin, and music and painting, but neither mischievous nor political.” She may well have been a pupil of Arthur Pond. The pastel recorded by Walpole at Adderbury [J.612.191](#) (probably the one now in Drumlanrig [J.612.19](#)) was of Lady Mary Campbell whose sister Caroline owned the house after the death of the 2nd Duke of Argyll; it was inherited by her son, the Duke of Buccleuch. It is possibly the source of the amateurish, free copy in pastel of the same sitter at Holkham, traditionally attributed to Carriera, too poor to be by Katherine Read herself, and is speculatively included here.

Bibliography

Cockayne; Walpole 1928; Horace Walpole, *George II*, I, p. 76

Pastels

[J.5376.102](#) Lady Mary COKE, née Campbell, (1727–1811) pstl, 70x44.5, c.1760 (Holkham, as Carriera) [new attr., ?] ϕ

