

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

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 but now lost 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 pastel of the same sitter at Holkham, traditionally attributed to Carriera; it is reminiscent of, but too poor to be by, Katherine Read, and is speculatively included here.

Bibliography

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

Pastels

J.5376.101 Lady Mary COKE [née Campbell (1727–1811)], crayons (Adderbury House, Duke of Buccleuch, c.1770). Lit.: Walpole 1928, p. 66 n.r.

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

