BEALE, Mrs Charles, née Mary Cradock

Barrow, Suffolk bpt 26.III.1633 – London brd 8.X.1699

Accomplished portraitist in oils and red chalk. The daughter of a clergyman, in 1652 she married another puritan and moved to London when he became deputy clerk of the patents office c.1660. She was a friend of Sir Peter Lely (*q.v.*), whose work she copied. Her husband Charles kept notebooks with details of her work. A large group of red chalk drawings in the British Museum are now known to be by her younger son Charles. Walpole wrote that "I have Mrs Beale's head and her son Charles's, in crayons by her; they were Vertue's: and her own and her son's, in water-colours, strongly painted, but not so free as the crayons." The works in the Strawberry Hill sale were however miniatures. It is unclear whether the 1677 drawing in the Wellesley collection used pastel (or was correctly attributed).

Monographic exhibitions

Beale 1999: *Mary Beale (1632/3—1699): portrait of a seventeenth-century painter, her family and her studio*, London, Geffrye Museum, 1999. Cat. Tabitha Barber & al.

Bibliography

Croft-Murray & Hulton 1960; Foskett 1987; Greer 2001; Oxford DNB; Walpole 1849, II, p. 544f; Woodward 1951, p. 37

Pastels

J.1335.031 CHARLES I in classical dress; J.1335.033 James I in brown doublet with breastplate; & J.1335.035 Catherine of Braganza, in dark dress, pstl (John Webb, collector; his daughter, Mrs Edith Cragg, of Wrotham Place; sale p.m., London, Christie's, 26.VI.1925, Lot 89 n.r.; Daniell) [??attr.; cf. Luttrell]

J.1335.101 Gentleman, aged 37, head and shoulders, to right, the eyes full, in a rose coloured coat with broad cloak, brown falling collar, long brown wig, crayons/ppr, 19x25.4, 1677 (Francis Wellesley, 1918; cat. no. 805; London, Sotheby's, 28.VI.1920, Lot 19 n.r.). Exh.: Bath 1919