



There has over the years been some confusion over the portrait in the Library over the door to the Dining Room. It was originally thought to be of James II but we now know that it is actually Charles II. The above paintings should help to clear up any doubt.

The painting on the left is an original by Peter Lely of

Charles dressed in the robes of the Sovereign of the Order of the Garter which he re-established on the Restoration. As court painter, Lely painted several portraits of Charles, many of which were copied. The painting on the right is a copy by Mary Beale, contemporary with Lely. The original would have been painted between 1660 on the Restoration and 1680, Lely's death. Mary Beale died in 1699. The centre painting is the one hanging at Charlecote; by whom we don't know but could come from Lely's studio. One can see similarities in all three! The facial features would suggest that the original was painted during the latter years of Charles' life.



The other portrait of Charles II in the same room at Charlecote is a copy based on a miniature by Samuel Cooper, one of the leading miniaturists of his day. The original (left) was painted c1665 and is now housed in the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. It is not known when or by whom the Charlecote painting (right) was executed. *Frank Storr*



This 'Forage' is in lieu of my original number 24 which was not published due to the paintings involved being removed from that section of the house open to visitors.

I am indebted to Amanda Bradley, NT Curator of Paintings and Sculptures for information.