

Smoking Room



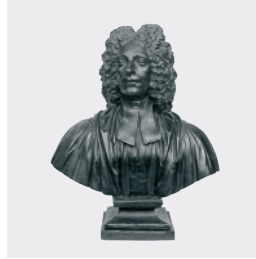
King William III (1650–1702)
by an unknown artist
Oil on canvas, c.1690
NPG 1026



Samuel Pepys (1633–1703)
by John Closterman (1660–1711)
Oil on canvas, 1690s
NPG 2100



James Vernon (1646–1727)
by Sir Godfrey Kneller (1646–1723)
Oil on canvas, 1677
NPG 2963



Samuel Clarke (1675–1729)
by Jamé Verhych (active 1719)
Patinated lead, 1719
NPG 4838



The Seven Bishops Committed to the Tower in 1688
by an unknown artist
Oil on canvas, c.1688
NPG 79

Corridor



King James II (1633–1701)
by an unknown artist
Oil on canvas, c.1690
NPG 366

Further Information

If there are other things that interest you, please ask the Room Steward.

More information on the portraits can be found on the Portrait Explorer upstairs.

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William III (1650–1702)
by an unknown artist, c.1690
NPG 1026

Although known as the Smoking Room, the original function of this room is uncertain. Being close to the Hall, and next to the service stair to the basement, it may originally have been an everyday living room known as the Common Parlour. It could also have been John Bouchier's business room. A door to the left of the chimney provided access to an inner book room (not open). This suggests that the East end of the ground floor may have been Bouchier's male domain with his own apartment – bedchamber, dressing room and closet – across the corridor.

The Exile of James II



King James II (1633–1701)
by an unknown artist, c.1690
NPG 366

James II was Charles II's younger brother and succeeded to the throne in 1685. A Catholic ruling a largely Protestant population, he was surprised by the so-called 'Glorious Revolution' of 1688–9. Overthrown by the Protestant Dutchman William of Orange – who was encouraged to invade by a group of leading English statesmen – James II and his family were forced into exile in France. Soon a small, continental industry of portraits, copies and prints developed around James and his heirs providing loyal Jacobite followers with icons of their 'once and future king'.

Caned Chairs On the Side



Walnut Side Chair

The three walnut and cane chairs date from about 1710. Caned chairs were a genuine English innovation in the later seventeenth century and virtually unknown elsewhere in Europe. The cane was made from the rattan plant, imported from Asia, and although cheaper than upholstery, it was strong and light. For extra comfort the chairs often had loose cushions, called 'squabs'.

Samuel Pepys (1633–1703)



Samuel Pepys (1633–1703)
by John Closterman, 1690s
NPG 2100

Pepys, an important naval administrator, is famous for the diaries that he wrote in shorthand between 1660 and 1669. His skill lay in close observation and total recall of the details of his private life and thoughts on social and political life in London. A passionate man, his great loves were his library, the theatre and 'music and women'. His professional interests were economics and politics, but he retired following the Revolution of 1688 after refusing to swear an oath of allegiance to William and Mary. Nevertheless, he remained a key figure in social, intellectual and naval circles.