

State Bedchamber Suite

18



?Mary Bouchier (d.1700)
by John Verelst (active 1697–1734)
Oil on canvas, 1699
NT



?Sir Barrington Bouchier
(1672–1700)
by John Verelst (active 1697–1734)
Oil on canvas, 1699
NT



William Congreve (1670–1729)
studio of Sir Godfrey Kneller
(1646–1723)
Oil on canvas, after 1709
NPG 67



John Locke (1632–1704)
by John Greenhill (1644–1676)
Oil on canvas, oval, c.1672–6
NPG 3912



James Brydges, 1st Duke of Chandos
(1674–1744)
by Herman van der Myn (1684–1741)
Oil on canvas, 1725 or before
NPG 530



John Dryden (1631–1700)
by James Maubert (d.1746)
Oil on canvas, c.1695
NPG 1133

State Dressing Room



George Legge, 1st Baron Dartmouth
(c.1647–91)
after John Riley (1646–91)
Oil on canvas, after c.1690
NPG 664

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.

State Bedchamber Suite A Bed fit for a King



In early eighteenth-century England, the art of upholstery reached a new level of sophistication with the creation of state beds with elaborate cornices and a multitude of trimmings. Like this bed in the State Bedchamber, they were made of patterned French silk, richly trimmed with hand-made decorations known collectively as *passementerie*. They were often made by immigrant French Protestants, or Huguenots, who had settled in London. Such beds were enormously expensive and, although rarely used, they symbolised their owner's social standing and hospitality. In the 1720s, when most types of hardwood furniture cost only a few pounds, and a Kit-Cat portrait by Kneller about £22, the Duke of Chandos's state bed, with window curtains, and various matching chairs and stools, was valued at £844.

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John Dryden



John Dryden (1631–1700)
by James Maubert, c.1695
NPG 1133

The poet, dramatist and literary critic Dryden, was appointed Poet Laureate by Charles II in 1668. He wrote over twenty plays, including *All for Love* (1678), and numerous political satires and poems in heroic verse. Maubert's modest portrait may have been painted for the bookseller Jacob Tonson, founder of the Kit-Cat Club (see Dining Room), who published Dryden's works. The painting alludes to the poet's classical inspiration, notably in the pile of books on the table – titled *Montaigne, Horace, Virgil, Homer* – and the distant view of Parnassus, home to the mythological Muses.

Porcelain-Mania



The porcelain on the stepped chimneypieces in the State Closet and Dressing Room is mostly eighteenth-century Chinese. This hard, white ceramic was first made in China in the eighth century – the technique was not mastered in Europe until 1000 years later. Thus porcelain was highly prized in Europe. By the end of the seventeenth century the British East India Company was importing over a million pieces of Chinese porcelain a year, much of it for display. There was a craze for collecting porcelain, which was arranged on furniture or shelves or, as here, on specially designed chimneypieces.