



Louise de Keroualle, Duchess of Portsmouth Peter Lely

English, 1671 - 1674

"Louise de Keroualle, who worked as a spy for Louis XIV, came to England from France as a Maid of Honour to the sister of King Charles II in 1670. Soon afterward, she became Charles's favorite mistress, and in 1673 he created for her the position of Duchess of Portsmouth. She used her influence to strengthen the friendship between Charles II and Louis XIV."

http://mcweb.getty.edu/museum-cgi/object\_detail.pl?f\_objectid=774&f\_id=222&f\_occ=%25&f\_gender=&f\_natl=%25&f\_line no=545



Nell Gwyn 1650-1687 Actress; mistress of Charles II by Simon Verelst circa 1680

Nell Gwyn "came to London as an orange-seller and rose to become one of the leading comic actresses of the day, and mistress to . . . Charles II . . . Dryden supplied her with a series of saucy, bustling parts, ideally suited to her talents. She had two sons by the King, the elder of whom was created Duke of St Albans, and she was said to have been remembered by Charles on his deathbed with the words 'Let not poor Nelly starve'."

http://www.npg.org.uk/2496.htm



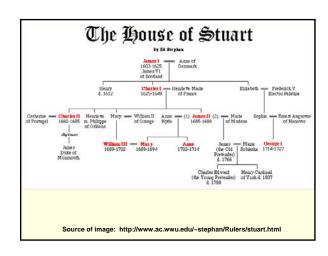
Catherine of Braganza 1638-1705 Queen of Charles II by or after Dirk Stoop circa 1660-1661

"The Roman Catholic queen of Charles II and daughter of John, Duke of Braganza, afterwards King of Portugal, Catherine came to England in 1662, bringing a dowry of Tangier, Bombay and £300,000. Shy, solemn and pious, she was devoted to Charles who, although he hurt her by his infidelities, was genuinely attached to her."

In this portrait Catherine is

dressed in the Portuguese court style, which was mocked in England and which she quickly abandoned."

http://www.npg.org.uk/2563.htm



# James II. William III and Mary.

James II



Mars



William



Source of images: http://www.britannia.com/history/monarchs/mon50.html and http://www.britannia.com/history/monarchs/mon51.html

Some background notes that may be useful to you: Exclusion Crisis

1680 November: The House of Commons voted for the Exclusion Bill, in this case a bill to exclude James (with a view to offering the throne to James's daughter Mary and her husband, William of Orange). The bill did not pass in the House of Lords. Charles dissolved Parliament in January 1681.

1681 <u>Mid-March</u>: Charles's economic pressures relieved by an agreement with Louis XIV. He received substantial funds in return for agreeing not to call Parliament for 3 years.

#### Background notes, cont.

1681 March 24: Parliament met in Oxford (favorable to the Tories) and again passed an Exclusion Bill. It was here that the Earl of Shaftesbury proposed that James be excluded in favor of the Duke of Monmouth. Charles refused:

Let there be no delusion; I will not yield, nor will I be bullied. Men usually become more timid as they become older; it is the opposite with me, and for what may remain of my life I am determined that nothing will tarnish my reputation. I have law and reason and all right-thinking men on my side; I have the Church and nothing will ever separate us. (Qtd in Californian Dryden commentary (pp. 224) from historians K.H.D. Haley,The First Earl of Shaftesbury and David Ogg, England in the Reign of Chalres II.)

Absalom and Achitophel published about 1 week (Nov. 1681) before Shaftesbury was brought before a grand jury (he was acquitted).

## The Restoration Restored: Absalom & Achitophel

Once more the god-like David was restor'd,
And willing nations knew their lawful lord" (1030-31)

The myth of the restoration is used here by Dryden to interpret the Exclusion crisis—and to win the political battle by his interpretation.

... Th'Almighty, nodding, gave consent; And peals of thunder shook the firmament (1026-27).

This restoration, even more dramatically than that celebrated in 1660, is blessed by God. Dryden depends on Miltonic allusiveness to create a divinely approved kingship—an idea that can only be authenticated by poetic reference.

## Glorious Revolution chronology

http://www.lawsch.uga.edu/~glorious/chron.html

#### Some Events in 1685

- ¶ Death of King Charles II; accession of King James II.
- ¶ Coronation of James II.
- ¶ Titus Oates convicted of perjury & whipped at the cart's tail.
- ¶ Parliament meets in May, is dissolved in July.
- ¶ Duke of Monmouth sets sail from Holland to invade England.
- ¶ Monmouth and a small group of supporters land at Lyme Regis.
- ¶ Both Houses of Parliament pass and James approves act of attainder of Monmouth. Monmouth proclaims himself King at Taunton.
- ¶ Battle of Sedgemoor; Monmouth defeated, captured, and beheaded.

#### Some Events in 1687

- ¶ James issues his first Declaration of Indulgence, suspending the penal laws in matters ecclesiastical.
- ¶ Rumors begin to circulate that the Queen is pregnant.

#### Some Events in 1688

- ¶ James issues his second Declaration of Indulgence. The Privy Council orders it read during services the next four Sundays.
- ¶ The Seven Bishops (except Archbishop Sancroft) present their petition to James. Black Friday: The Seven Bishops appear before the Privy Council and are committed to the Tower on a charge of seditious libel.
- ¶ Birth of Prince of Wales (known to history as the Old Pretender).
- $\P$  The Seven Bishops released on bail. They are tried and acquitted.
- ¶ A letter from 7 important leaders invites William to England.

#### 1688 Events cont.

- ¶ William embarks, with approval of the States of Holland. James issues a proclamation announcing that a Dutch invasion is imminent and cancelling the planned meeting of Parliament in November.
- ¶ James holds meeting of Privy Council to receive testimony and depositions proving that the Prince of Wales was his son by Queen Mary of Modena.
- $\P$  William arrives. "Men of quality" begin to align themselves with him. The first of the provincial risings occurs, in Cheshire.
- $\P$  James leaves London for Salisbury.
- $\P$  Various defections to William -- including that of Princess Anne.

# Some Events in 1688 (cont.)

- ¶ James proclaims a Parliament will meet in January.
- $\P$  Queen Mary of Modena flees to France, taking the Prince of Wales.
- ¶ The next day, James flees London; a group of Lords Spiritual and Temporal (S&T) meets in London and resolves to apply to William.
- $\P$  James is seized by fishermen near Sheerness, on the Isle of Sheppey. A few days later, James returns to London.
- ¶ Exactly one week after his abortive flight from London, James leaves London under guard; later in the day William enters London.

## Some Events in 1689

- The Lords S&T and Commons request William to take over the administration of the government and to summon a convention.
- ¶ A Commons resolution: James has abdicated; the throne is vacant. ¶ Lords S & T resolve that William and Mary be made King and Queen.
- ¶ The Convention approves the Declaration of Rights of 1689.
- ¶ William and Mary are proclaimed King William III and Queen Mary II after accepting the Declaration of Rights.
- William approves the Parliament Act, 1689, transforming the Convention into the Convention Parliament.
- ¶ William approves the Toleration Act.
- ¶ John Locke's Two Treatises on Government is licensed to be printed.
- ¶ William approves the English Bill of Rights of 1689.