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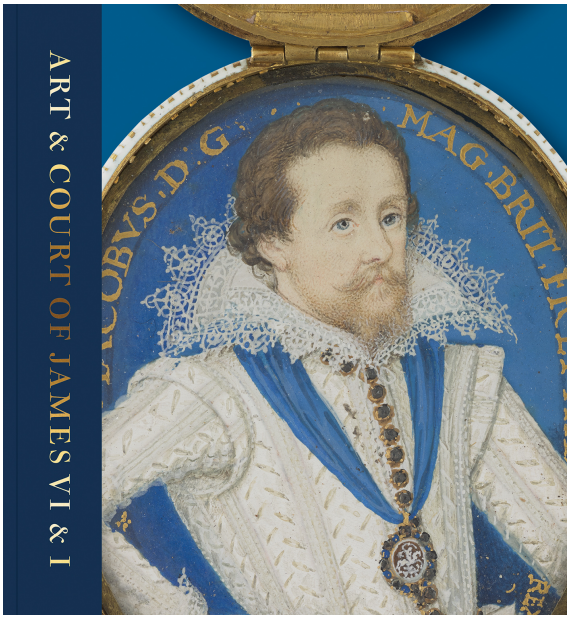


# Art & Court of James VI & I

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- Beautiful illustrations of sumptuous jewellery, artworks and clothing from James's pivotal reign
- The Union of the Crowns of Scotland and England is of particular topical interest in the current political climate
- Illustrates, through art, for the first time the sophistication and glamour of James's court
- Opens up a key chapter in British history in a brand new and revealing way
- Through new scholarship, visually illustrates some of the reasons for the reassessment of James
- Longlisted for the 2026 Berger Prize for art history

James VI & I, the only child of Mary, Queen of Scots, has often been overshadowed by the dramatic lives of his mother and son, Charles I. This book seeks to redress the balance by centering the first monarch to reign over both Scotland and England and uncovering the artistic treasures created during his extraordinary reign.

The cultural riches of James's court are showcased, revealing his diverse roles as ruler, scholar, politician, father and patron of the arts. His court's passion for jewellery and fine clothes is illustrated in the vivid portraits and miniatures by John de Critz and Nicholas Hilliard – just two of many artists and craftspeople who thrived in its artistic and intellectual climate.

Five richly illustrated chapters demonstrate James's impact on early modern Britain, while reconsidering the reputation of a king traditionally presented as preferring hunting and drinking to the duties of daily governance. Packed with exquisite art works and sumptuous objects, this book brings James's court vividly to life.

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