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# THE EXECUTORS' ACCOUNT BOOK AND THE DISPERSAL OF SIR PETER LELY'S COLLECTION

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## Abstract

Sir Peter Lely, Principal Painter to Charles II, assembled one of the largest and most important collections of paintings, prints and drawings in

seventeenth-century England. At Lely's death in 1680, his executors were responsible for dispersing this collection through a number of highly organized and well-publicized sales. Their Account Book, part of which is transcribed in article, provides an invaluable source for the conduct of these sales, a record of the prices realized and the names of almost hundred buyers, many of whom were to go on to form significant collections of their own.

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