

Artists Images and the Self-descriptions of Elisabeth Charlotte, Duchess of Orleans (1652-1722), the Second Madame: Representations of a Royal Princess in the Time of Louis XIV and the Regency

William Brooks

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Elisabeth Charlotte, Duchess of Orleans, (1652-1722), the Palatine princess who became the second wife of Monsieur and the mother of the Regent, is well known for the thousands of letters she wrote about her life at the court of Louis XIV and during the Regency, many of which have been anthologized. She is further defined for many by Rigaud's sumptuous court portrait of her in old age. Many other portraits of her were made by both painters and engravers, and in the course of her letters she penned many self-descriptions and wrote about some of the paintings and engravings. This is the first comprehensive study of her physical image and her self-image, using all available evidence, both visual and verbal.



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