

Information cards about the publication and reactions to *Eikon Basilike* and the struggle for a political settlement after the death of Charles I

A: William Denton (who had been Charles' doctor) reported that the Council of State had tried to prevent copies of the book from being printed:

'The King's book has been much suppressed, the first printer and impression plundered and the presses broken'.

B: When the Council broke up the presses that were used to print the first version, the bookseller, William Royston just got another press, outside the city boundaries, to print it. Two thousand copies were quickly distributed within a few days of the King's execution – and two more reprints followed.

C: By the middle of March 1649, three new editions of book (in a smaller size than the original version) had been printed on the private press of William Dugard, headmaster of the Merchant Taylor's School in London.

D: William Dugard (who printed 3 editions of the book) was arrested and questioned by the Committee for Scandalous Pamphlets. Immediately after he was released he printed another edition.

E: A miniature version of *Eikon Basilike* was published in the second half of 1649. This made the book very easy to carry around and created a kind of personal relationship between the reader and the book.

F: A miniature version of *Eikon Basilike* was published later in 1649. This made the book very easy to carry around and created a kind of personal relationship between the reader and the book.

G: A total of 35 English editions of *Eikon Basilike* were published in 1649.

H: Foreign language versions of *Eikon Basilike* were printed in 1649 in Cork, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Paris, Rouen and Copenhagen. More foreign language versions were published throughout the 1650s.

I: On 20 September 1649 Parliament passed a law give them more control over printing: an 'Act Against Unlicensed and Scandalous Books and Pamphlets for Better Regulating of Printing'. It included powers to seize control of unlicensed letter presses (used to print text) and rolling presses (used to print pictures).

J: Historians have found seven slightly different versions of William Marshall's picture from *Eikon Basilike* (the frontispiece). This suggests that the copper plate used to print it had been worn down by repeated use, and had to be re-engraved at least six times. Other engravers also copied Marshall's image in slightly different versions.

K: John Milton wrote a response to *Eikon Basilike* that was endorsed by the government and published in October 1649. It was called *Eikonoklastes* or 'Image Breaker' and justified the trial and killing of the King by presenting him as a traitor. He argued that the frontispiece of *Eikon Basilike* turned the 'image-doting rabble' into a 'civil kind of idolatry' (a false worship.)

M: John Milton's counter-attack, called *Eikonoklastes* or 'Image Breaker', was published in several editions during the 1650s, but nothing like as many as *Eikon Basilike*.

O: In August 1651 Charles Stuart (the son of Charles I) invaded England with a force of about 13,000 Scottish Royalists. They got little support from the English. At Worcester they faced 28,000 men of the New Model Army, coordinated by Cromwell. The Royalists were defeated, losing 3000 men. (Only 200 members of the New Model Army were killed.) Charles Stuart ran away, to exile in France.

Q: In 1653 Cromwell was made Lord Protector. When he was very frustrated with Parliament, he ruled without it altogether (1655-6), with military commanders (the Major-Generals) in charge instead. In 1657 Cromwell was asked to become King, but he refused.

S: When Oliver Cromwell died in September 1658, his son Richard Cromwell was made Lord Protector. Richard did not seem very keen on the job. He was accepted by the MPs, but could not sort out the long-running struggle for power between Parliament and the Army. When the Army Council dissolved Parliament, Richard resigned, in May 1659. Although the Army did call back the Parliament they quickly quarrelled again!

L: A pamphlet was published in 1650 called '*The Frontispiece of the King's Book Opened*' by a man called William Somner. It gives a long explanation of the image – in a poem and praises it highly. Somners points out that while the book is not officially allowed to be printed, it has been permitted by God, so it can't be stopped:
*'By Heav'n tis Licenc'd and may not go down,
Though as a Book it want's men's Imprimatur'.*

N: Excerpts from *Eikon Basilike* were copied down by hand. William Marshall's frontispiece was also copied in paintings and in embroideries.

P: After the king's execution, it was very difficult to find a system of government to satisfy everyone who had defeated the king. Several different Parliaments were called over the next ten years, but they were all sent away (dissolved) again because of arguments about religious and political reform. The parliaments also quarrelled with the Army.

R: It was quite easy to buy printed images of Charles I as King, even in the mid-1650s when Cromwell had become Lord Protector. The London print-seller, Peter Stent, advertised portraits of King Charles alongside his stock of images of Cromwell and Fairfax.

T: In May 1659 England seemed to be in chaos. Rebellions broke out. General Monck (who had been a Royalist who had later supported Cromwell against the Irish and the Scots) marched south, using his troops to keep the peace. He allowed all the MPs who had opposed the trial of the King (in 1649) back into Parliament. They made arrangements for new elections and on 1 May 1660 the new parliament officially invited Charles Stuart (Charles I's son) to return to England as king.