

HILLIARD DISCOVERY: LADY ARBELLA STUART

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In the April 2024 issue of [The Burlington Magazine](#), an important miniature by Nicholas Hilliard (c.1547-1619) was published for the first time in an article by Elizabeth Goldring and Emma Rutherford, having just emerged from a private collection. The discovery and the intriguing story behind the portrait's commission, have since featured in [The Times](#) newspaper (27 May

2024), [BBC News online](#) (5 June 2024), [Not Just the Tudors podcast](#) (6 June 2024), [Country Life magazine](#) (24 July 2024), [Talking Tudors podcast](#) (25 July 2024) and [The Tudor Chest podcast](#) (26 September 2024).



The portrait adds significantly to our understanding of Hilliard's practice and patronage and constitutes the artist's only known completed cabinet miniature of a female subject. What's more, the sitter can be identified as Lady Arbella (or Arabella) Stuart (1575–1615), and the commission connected with a fascinating episode of spycraft in late Elizabethan England.

Elizabeth and Emma spent over a year researching this portrait, and it's with enormous excitement that it is finally published.