University of Leicester

Reluctant Regicides? The Trial of Charles I Revisited

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Depiction of the trial from John Nalson, *Record of the Trial of Charles I* (1688)

JOHN BRADSHAW President of the pret.d H. Court of Justice.

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The death warrant of Charles I, 29 January 1649.
Parliamentary Archives HL/PO/JO/10/297A

< Thomas, Lord Grey of Groby (1622-1657) , the only English peer to sign the king's death warrant

Colonel Thomas Wayte, sheriff of Rutland later, one of several regicides who later claimed he was coerced into signing the king's death warrant >

Engraving after John Weesop, with corner insets Fairfax and Cromwell sharing responsibility for the king's martyrdom: British Library, 669, f.12[87]

Fairfax was wrongfully depicted as the king's headsman in several paintings and prints. Yet the 19th-century depiction of him by A.H. Payne in the National Portrait Gallery (left) communicates something closer to reality his political position during the trial.

‘The Devil Cromwell and the Fool Fairfax’, a silver medal struck in the Netherlands in 1650

British Museum, 1879,1107.1

Playing cards entitled *The Knavery of the Rump*, published during the Exclusion Crisis in 1680 to remind people of the dangers of rebellion.

The two to the left associate the regicide firmly with Cromwell.

A popular broadsheet of 1660 details the fate of several of the regicides, alongside a poignant reminder of the royal martyrdom.

British Library, Thomason, 669, f. 26[31].

Cavalry cornet of Major William Rainborow, July 1649

Dr Williams's Library, Book of Cornets, Modern MS, Folio 7