SELLING ANTIQUES REF NO

SA1085454

Rare Anti-Etruscan Style Silhouette by Charles Rosenberg

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA1085454

Date of manufacture: 18th Century

Dimensions

Height = 5 cm (2.0")

Width = 4 cm (1.6")

Description

Painted on slightly convex glass in the ‘anti-Etruscan’ style of black against a brilliant red background, this rare and striking profile shows a Georgian gentleman in a bound pigtail wig wearing a coat with over-sized buttons, a frilled chemise and stock. Dating to around 1792, the silhouette is in excellent original condition and resides in a handsome slim-line gold frame with a watch top hanger. The frame is ever so slightly dinged on the reverse side. It was a rival silhouette artist Jacob Spornberg who invented an Etruscan-style of profile. Reminiscent of the red-figure Etruscan pottery invented at Athens about 530 BC, an outline of the sitter was initially drawn in thin black paint against a black ground before the whole was coated in vermilion enamel. It was this striking effect that Rosenberg sought to emulate though he reversed the colours and dubbed it ‘anti-Etruscan’. It would appear though that these silhouettes were not popular as very few examples of them are recorded. Born in Vienna, Charles Rosenberg (1745-1844) is thought to have come to England in 1761 as a fourteen-year-old page to Princess Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz when she arrived to marry K...

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