

SA1112627

Portrait of a Gentleman in
Armour, James Cecil, 4th Earl of
Salisbury; Circle of Willem
Wissing (1656-1687), Oil on
canvas painting

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA1112627

Date of manufacture: 17th Century

Dimensions

Height = 91 cm (35.8")

Width = 78 cm (30.7")

Depth = 5 cm (2.0")

Description

This impressive portrait depicts the English nobleman, politician, and peer, James Cecil, 4th Earl of Salisbury. A courtier in the service of King James II, he led a regiment in support of the king during the Glorious Revolution of 1688. Subsequently, he was incarcerated in the Tower of London for approximately twenty-two months and was ultimately charged with high treason. Although he was released in October 1690 due to a general pardon, he passed away in 1694 at the age of twenty-eight. He has been depicted wearing a highly polished glistening suit of armour, a white gross point cravat, and a full bottomed wig - these immensely expensive items were intended to underline his rank and importance in society. It is the archetypal bust-length portrait for an aristocratic male during the last quarter of the seventeenth century and first quarter of the eighteenth century. Baptised on September 25, 1666, Salisbury was the eldest of ten children born to James Cecil, the 3rd Earl of Salisbury KG, and Lady Margaret Manners, who was the daughter of John Manners, the 8th Earl of Rutland. As the firstborn son, he inherited his father's title in May 1683, becoming the 4th Earl o...

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