

SA1137421

Portrait of Sir Henry Wotton in a Black Doublet & White Ruff c.1610-20; Circle of Cornelius Johnson (1593-1661), Oil on canvas painting

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA1137421

Date of manufacture: 17th Century

Dimensions

Height = 95 cm (37.4")

Width = 82 cm (32.3")

Depth = 10 cm (3.9")

Description

A feature of this exquisitely rendered oil on panel portrait is its remarkable 17th century carved auricular Sunderland frame – a splendid, and rare, work of art in itself. The subject is the poet and ambassador, and contemporary of Shakespeare, Sir Henry Wotton, who was the most widely cultivated Englishman of his time during what is known as the great age of Elizabethan literature, from the defeat of the Armada to (almost) the outbreak of the Civil Wars. A ripe classical scholar, an elegant Latinist, trained in Greek, he was an admirable linguist in modern languages as well. He was the friend of most of the learned men of that epoch, both at home and on the Continent; the first English collector of Italian pictures, he brought from Italy, the refined taste in art and architecture, the varied culture of antiquity and the Renaissance. Famous in his own day as a 'wit and fine gentleman', he deserves to be remembered as a noble example of the 'Italianate' Englishmen - one who, with all his foreign culture, never lost the sincerity and old-fashioned piety of a 'plain Kentish man'. Born on 30 March 1568, at Boughton or Bocton Hall, in Kent to Thomas Wotton (1489-1551) a...

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