

SA1157945

Mid-18th-Century French School, Portrait Of The English Naturalist Henry Baker FRS, Antique Oil Painting

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1157945****Date of manufacture: 18th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 48 cm (18.9")

Width = 39 cm (15.4")

Depth = 3 cm (1.2")

Description

This mid-18th-century French oil painting depicts a middle-aged gentleman standing in a room alongside a Baker Mounted Lens Microscope. It's probably the renowned English naturalist, Henry Baker FRS (1698-1774). Dressed in a long, red, collarless coat, lace-trimmed shirt and waistcoat, he conveys wisdom, grace and financial security. The fashion aligns with the mid to late 1740s, when Baker was at the height of his notoriety. Born in London, Henry Baker achieved international acclaim as a natural historian, but also as a polymath more broadly. His influence on the emerging and ever-curious scientific world was considerable, particularly regarding the evolution of microscopy. He authored three books, the first of which, *The Microscope Made Easy*, was an 18th-century bestseller. In 1741, in recognition of his achievements, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society and took an active role in its various activities for 30 years. Upon election, his citation read: "A Gentleman well versed in mathematics and natural knowledge, particularly eminent for his great skill and happy success in teaching persons born deaf and consequently dumb to speak (having improved upon tha...

Seller Details

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