

SA1165558

Sir William Beechey Portrait of Godfrey Thornton.

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1165558****Date of manufacture: 18th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 76.2 cm (30.0")

Width = 63.5 cm (25.0")

Depth = 5 cm (2.0")

Description

We are proud to offer for Sale this Lost Painting by Sir William Beechey. RA (BURFORD 1753 – 1839 LONDON) Portrait of Godfrey Thornton (1737– 1805) 1797 Initialled, inscribed and dated l.r. WB pinxt/1797/ GThornton/Esq. Oil on canvas 30 x 25 inches 76.2 x 63.5 cm Provenance By descent from the sitter's wife Jane Godin Mrs Thornton later Mrs Dickens (1743 –1811); Sotheby's, London, 10th July 1991, lot 127. Sir William Beechey's portrait of Godfrey Thornton, Governor of the Bank of England and patron of the architect Sir John Soane, is known from four versions and one modern copy (see appendix). Two of these are recorded in the possession of Thornton's descendants and appear from photographs to be second versions or good studio copies. Our portrait, which belonged to Jane Godin Thornton's wife, is clearly the prime version painted from a life sitting. It is initialled and dated by Beechey and inscribed by him with the identity of the sitter. This portrait was unrecorded until it was sold by a descendant at Sotheby's in 1991. The signature and inscription were visible but obscured by surface dirt and old varnish and the sitter's name was misread as 'R Thornton'. Remarkably the...

Internal Ref: SWB0001

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