

SA1180710

Mid-17th-Century Spanish School, Portrait Of A Theologian, Antique Oil Painting

Price

GBP 3,150

| USD \$4,263 | EUR 3,686

Item Reference: SA1180710

Date of manufacture: 17th Century

Dimensions

Height = 78 cm (30.7")

Width = 69 cm (27.2")

Depth = 4 cm (1.6")

Description

This mid-17th-century Spanish oil on canvas depicts a dignified man of learning - a theologian, or perhaps a cathedral canon. Dressed in a black cassock, marked by a vertical row of red buttons or embroidery, he's evidently a cleric of senior rank. In 17th-century Spain, such red trimming was associated with the Faculty of Theology, worn by those who had attained the highest academic degree: the Doctor Theologiae. The square biretta, resting neatly upon his head, further signals his learned status, as it was worn by both university professors and cathedral dignitaries. His calling would have placed him within an elite circle of ecclesiastical scholars who shaped moral, intellectual, and doctrinal life during Spain's Golden Age. The theologian was not merely a priest but a custodian of reason, charged with defending Catholic orthodoxy. At the time, Spain's empire was wrestling with both a Protestant challenge and moral reform from within. Men of this kind advised bishops, taught in universities, and guided the conscience of the nation. They were scholars of scripture, often as fluent in Aristotle as in Augustine. Here, the painter has imbued his sitter with that distinc...

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