

SA1183827

John Miers, Miniature Silhouette Portrait Brooch

Price

GBP 340

| USD \$460 | EUR 398

Item Reference: SA1183827

Date of manufacture: Georgian

Dimensions

Height = 3.2 cm (1.3")

Width = 2 cm (0.8")

Description

This delicately painted portrait shows a matronly lady wearing a soft dormeuse cap with ribbons and her nape and a generous crown to accommodate her tall hair-do. She also has a buffon fill-in to her dress with a ruff collar. Although unsigned, the piece is undoubtedly by the master silhouettist John Miers. It is set in a gold octagonal slide frame intended to be strung with pearls or attached to a plaited hair band and worn, possibly by her daughter, as a bracelet. It has since been adapted to wear as a brooch. John Miers advertised his ability to reduce profiles to a small size 'for Rings, Breast Pins, Bracelets &c., also for Watch Papers ... the likeness perfectly preserved'. His skill at capturing costume details without the use of gold highlights lent itself to these small profile pieces often commissioned as mourning jewels. This silhouette jewel was purchased by Mrs Christie in July 1948 for £12 10s from W. J. (Polly) Perkins. (Item 10 showing on the original receipt – receipt not included with the sale.) Perkins had been a money lender in the City. He lived in a tiny house near Old Street Station and travelled all over England to attend auction sales in the hope o...

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