

SA1186079

Early 17th-Century Dutch School Oil Painting, Portrait Of A Gentleman In A Ruff

Price

GBP 4,250

| USD \$5,740 | EUR 4,971

Item Reference: SA1186079

Date of manufacture: 17th Century

Dimensions

Height = 79 cm (31.1")

Width = 62 cm (24.4")

Depth = 4 cm (1.6")

Description

This splendid early 17th-century Dutch School portrait depicts a stout gentleman wearing a tall starched ruff and a sober black doublet. It originated in the Low Countries before entering the collections of prominent Swiss patrician families, including the Houses of May and Effinger. Carrying decades of duty, laughter, and merriment, his appearance suggests a life well lived - both socially and domestically. His eyes suggest a certain warmth, as though he has lived long enough to understand both responsibility and humour. One senses a man shaped by civic life - guild meetings, careful negotiations, the everyday rhythms of camaraderie. Perhaps the occasional tavern or two. Works of this kind often crossed borders, and one imagines a son returning from studies at Leiden with a likeness that affirmed his accomplishments; a diplomatic exchange; or a marriage dowry. Whatever the route, this gentleman found his way into the noble households of Aargau: first the May family at Schloss Rued, then Schloss Wildenstein, and later Schloss Wildegg, seat of the Effinger dynasty. At least three castles before arriving here. For a Dutch burgher to hang in such surroundings suggests that...

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