

SA1205025

Early 17th-Century French School, Portrait Of The Humanist Denis Godefroy - Antique Oil Painting

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1205025****Date of manufacture: 17th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 74 cm (29.1")

Width = 61 cm (24.0")

Depth = 4 cm (1.6")

Description

This meditative early 17th-century oil painting depicts the French jurist and humanist Denis Godefroy (1549-1622), known in Latin as Dionysius Gothofredus, one of Europe's most respected scholars. The sitter's features closely echo the well-known engraved portrait of Godefroy, and are rendered with austere precision. In early 17th-century France, portraits such as this were acts of reverence. To own the image of a great jurist, theologian, or philosopher was to honour the power of the mind - to declare that wisdom, not lineage, defined nobility. Painted interpretations of engraved portraits of scholars circulated through libraries, academies, and the studies of learned souls. The stillness, the darkness, the simplicity of line: all serve to sanctify thought itself. Godefroy's reputation crossed borders. His editions of the *Corpus Juris Civilis* and *Codex Theodosianus* shaped legal understanding throughout Europe, and his likeness became a symbol of humanist authority. It is therefore highly plausible that this portrait, though discovered in Florence, originated in France or Geneva. It was conceivably painted by a follower of François Quesnel (1543-1619) or within a relate...

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