

SA1210774

Portrait of an Elizabethan Gentleman in Doublet with Gold Trim c.1595; Manner of Hieronimo Custodis (died c.1593), Oil on copper painting

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA1210774

Date of manufacture: 16th Century

Dimensions

Height = 36 cm (14.2")

Width = 32 cm (12.6")

Depth = 3 cm (1.2")

Description

This exquisite oil on copper portrait, painted around 430 years ago, is a splendid survival from the Elizabethan era - the golden age in England's history, when Queen Elizabeth I was on the throne. It is a time that is sandwiched between two golden ages of English renaissance culture, the reigns of Henry VIII and Charles I. This period produced a style of painting quite unlike that anywhere else in Europe and one that deserves serious assessment. Just a couple of years after our portrait was painted, English painting developed on another course, driven mainly by the artists Marcus Gheeraerts the Younger and Isaac Oliver; they depicted a new mood that was pervading Elizabethan and Jacobean society, which was that of romantic melancholy. Elizabethan painting came to an end when Henry, Prince of Wales, sought a complete change of style of his father's court. The portrait depicts a gentleman wearing fashionable clothing for the period - a black doublet, intricately detailed with gold thread, and a white ruff and lace cuffs edged in lace. He holds gloves in his left hand and a felt conical capotain hat (which was worn indoor as well and outdoor) in his right hand. The c...

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