

SA1216136

Late 17th-Century English School, Portrait Of Robert Bedford, Yorkshire - Antique Oil Painting

Price

GBP 2,300

| USD \$3,112 | EUR 2,691

Item Reference: SA1216136**Date of manufacture: 17th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 82 cm (32.3")

Width = 71 cm (28.0")

Depth = 5 cm (2.0")

Description

This late 17th-century English oil painting depicts Robert Bedford of Crow Nest, Dewsbury, Yorkshire, a man who appears to embody a fascinating moment in English social history - when inherited land, provincial gentility, and expanding commerce began quietly to overlap. Painted around 1695, when Bedford was likely in early middle age, the work presents him as a thoughtful, self-made provincial gentleman navigating a changing world. In this quiet portrayal, the artist has focused almost entirely upon Bedford himself, the pale intelligence of the face and the heavy dark curls of the fashionable periwig falling around his shoulders. His lace cravat, delicately rendered in soft whites and silvers, signals refinement, yet, importantly, the portrait avoids excess. One senses a man not consumed by vanity. The surviving archival records suggest a figure actively involved in estate management. By the early 18th century, Bedford was living in Leeds and described as a salter - e.g. a merchant operating within the vital commercial networks of northern England. Salt, indispensable to preservation, underpinned much of daily economic life. Our sitter, therefore, belonged to that incre...

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