

SA121843

SOLD....Portrait of Sir William Eliot c. 1680; Circle of Kneller

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA121843

Date of manufacture: Before 1700

Description

Oil on canvas in good quality carved and giltwood period frame. The sitter, Sir William Eliot of Busbridge near Godalming, (1623-1697), looks proudly and directly at the viewer. Painted, most likely, on the occasion of his second marriage on February 2nd 1680, Sir William wears his own hair rather than the fashionable periwig. His cravat is worn 'a la Steinkirk'. The column in the background is not just an item of decoration, it symbolises Sir William being the pillar of the House of Eliot. His first wife was Elizabeth Scott, and on her death he married Margaret Murray in 1680 at the age of 57. The union resulted in five children of whom Sir Gilbert Eliot (1680-1764) became the 3rd baronet. A later Latin inscription on the base of the column tells the reader that Sir William confidentially awaits Christ's glorious Second Coming and that he died on the First Sunday in Advent in 1697 at the age of 74. This inscription had earlier been painted higher up the column, but in a change of mind it was painted over; it can still be faintly seen. SIR GODFREY KNELLER (1646-1723) was the most distinguished painter of baroque portraits in England. Born in Lubeck, he trained with Bol ...

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