

SA1226644

Profile of Lt-Gen. Vernon of the Tower of London

Price

GBP 1,100

| USD \$1,486 | EUR 1,287

Item Reference: SA1226644

Date of manufacture: 18th Century

Dimensions

Height = 17.5 cm (6.9")

Width = 14.5 cm (5.7")

Description

This well-documented and colourful profile depicts Charles Vernon, Lieutenant of the Tower of London, a position he held for 47 years from 1763. The first known record of this silhouette places it in the collection of Francis Wellesley, a well-respected antiquarian whose collection of silhouettes ran to around 1,500 works. Many of these, including very possibly this profile, had been acquired from Montague Guest, an earlier respected silhouette enthusiast whose collection was sold 1910. Whilst in the Wellesley Collection, this profile was ascribed to the hand of Thomas Rowlandson, best known for his political caricatures. Why and when this attribution came about is unclear as there are no other known silhouettes associated with Rowlandson. It has though continued to be documented as by Rowlandson and was sold by Christie's auction house as such in 1917. At that point it was purchased by the eminent collector, Sir Henry Sutcliffe-Smith. But if not by Thomas Rowlandson, bearing in mind the credibility of those earlier collectors who believed in that attribution where- and however it originated, then by who given that it differs in style from the work of Buncombe who speci...

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