

SA1230647

G F Zink Miniature Portrait of King Edward's Mistress

Price

Reserved**Item Reference: SA1230647****Date of manufacture: Edwardian**

Description

This unique and finely painted portrait of Alice Keppel was inspired by a society portrait taken by the English-American photographer Ernest Walter Histed in 1901 now in the safe keeping of Polesden Lacey House. Painted on ivory, the portrait is signed and dated 1903 both on the obverse in monogram and in full on the backing card. Alice Keppel, a woman of beauty, charm and ambition, was a British socialite who famously became mistress to King Edward VII. Born in 1868, her childhood home was historic Duntreath Castle near Glasgow. In June 1891, aged 23, she married George Keppel of the 2nd Gordon Highlanders at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, her six bridesmaids decked out in Gainsborough hats. The Keppels were a well-connected family though by no means wealthy and, although Alice and George were happy together, they both indulged in frequent affairs. Drawn to powerful men, Alice was a popular society hostess. Upon first meeting her around 1898, Edward, Prince of Wales was instantly attracted to her. The couple's affair was to last twelve years with Alice accompanying him on regular trips to Biarritz and attending his Coronation. Always discreet and tolerated by Queen A...

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