

SA1232523

Portrait of a Gentleman with
Periwig and Blue Cloak
c.1695-1710; Attributed to
Thomas Murray (1663–1734),
Oil on canvas painting

Price

GBP 6,650

| USD \$9,067 | EUR 7,760

Item Reference: SA1232523

Date of manufacture: 17th Century

Dimensions

Height = 93 cm (36.6")

Width = 80 cm (31.5")

Depth = 6 cm (2.4")

Description

This accomplished oil-on-canvas portrait was almost certainly commissioned to project social identity, respectability, and continuity. Such images were typically hung in the principal rooms of country houses or town residences as statements of lineage and status. The sitter appears to belong to the professional or landed gentry rather than the court or high aristocracy—plausibly a lawyer, landowner, administrator, or merchant-gentleman whose position depended on education, property, and reputation. Around 1700 his world was shaped by major change: the Glorious Revolution (1688) strengthened Parliament and redefined loyalty; England's engagement in European conflict culminated in the War of the Spanish Succession (1701–1714); commerce expanded, London grew, and “polite” culture—clubs, coffeehouses, and networks—helped form elite male identity. A man of this class likely balanced estate or professional duties with local governance and occasional participation in London life. The portrait is attributed to Thomas Murray (1663–1734), trained under John Riley and known for collaborative studio practice in which the master painted the head while assistants completed wigs, drap...

Seller Details

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