

SA167894

SOLD....Portrait of Sir Michael Earnley (Ernle) c.1640; Attributed to Adriaen Hanneman

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA167894

Date of manufacture:

Description

Oil on canvas in cassetta frame. A superb portrait of Sir Michael Earnley (Ernley, Ernle) a noted Royalist commander during the Civil War and Governor of Shrewsbury Castle. He looks out steadfastly, holding his baton of command of high rank and wears the sash of an officer. The artist subtly illuminates the face and shows a great sweep of light across the armour which flows round to highlight the hand resting on the hilt of Sir Michael's sword, thus giving it emphasis. The point is made that is not just a portrait of a gentleman painted in armour to show his wealth, as was fashionable... this is an insightful portrait of an experienced soldier used to command and warfare. SIR MICHAEL EARNLEY (ERNLY, ERNLE) 1599(?) - 1645. The senior line of the Ernle family had a seat at Whetham House, Calne, Wiltshire. A member of the Whetham line, Sir Michael Ernle, uncle to the Chancellor of the Exchequer Sir John Ernle, was a royalist commander during the English Civil War. In 1641 he held Connaught Castle for the King during a siege by Parliamentary forces. Later he captured Hawarden Castle in December 1643. His end is unclear, John Aubrey's 'Natural History of Wiltshire' has it th...

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