

SA167988

**SOLD....Portrait of a Gentleman
of the Popham family c.1700:
Attributed to Edward Byng.**

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA167988

Date of manufacture: 1700

Description

Oil on canvas in period carved and part giltwood frame. The sitter, radiating an air of well fed confidence, wears a large and very expensive wig. The expression 'bigwig' for a rich or important person comes from this fashion. LITTLECOTE HOUSE AND THE POPHAMS. The first Littlecote House in Wiltshire was built during the 13th century. A medieval mansion, it was inhabited by the de Calstone family from around 1290. When William Darrell married Elizabeth de Calstone in 1415, he inherited the house. His family went on to build the Tudor mansion in the mid-16th century. Henry VIII courted Jane Seymour at the house; her grandmother was Elizabeth Darrell. Sir John Popham bought the reversion of Littlecote, and succeeded to it in 1589; he built the present Elizabethan brick mansion, which was completed in 1592. Elizabeth I, James I, Charles II, and William of Orange stayed there, William on his march from Torbay to London in the Glorious Revolution. Popham's descendants, the Pophams and (from 1762) the Leyborne Pophams owned the house until the 1920s. The Leyborne Pophams refurbished much of the house in 1810. They retained it until 1929, when the house was purchased by Sir Ern...

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