

SA17129

SOLD....Portrait of a Young Lady (Hon Catherine Alington ?) with a Parrot c.1695; Circle of Kneller

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA17129

Date of manufacture:

Description

Oil on canvas in a carved and giltwood frame. A pleasing three-quarter length portrait of a fashionable young lady with a parrot on her hand. At this period a parrot, a rare and colourful bird from distant lands, symbolised the exotic and the expensive. There may also be a reference to the source of the family's wealth; from these distant lands came slaves, sugar, rum and mahogany...often creating vast fortunes; many fine mansions in great estates were built on these trades. Inscribed on one of the stretchers, in an old script, is the name 'Alington', suggesting that the sitter is a member of the ancient family of Alington of Horseheath, Cambs and Wymondeley, Herts. (The forebear of this family having been the Under Marshal to William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings in 1066). If this so, the most likely candidate is the Hon. Catherine Alington, daughter of William, 3rd Baron Alington of Killard, 1st Lord Alington of Wymondeley and Lady Diana Russell, daughter of the 1st Duke of Bedford. Born in 1677, Catherine married, in 1694, Sir Nathaniel Napier 3rd Baronet of More Crichel. Their daughter Diana eventually became sole heiress of the Alingtons and Napiers and w...

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