

SA176535

Portrait of the Hon. William Feilding c.1705; by Michael Dahl.

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA176535

Date of manufacture:

Description

Oil on canvas in fine carved and giltwood period frame. FEILDING, Hon. William (1669-1723), of Ashted, Surrey and Duke Street, Westminster. Born 1669, 2nd son of William Feilding, 3rd Earl of Denbigh. Educated Eton c.1680-6; Queen's, Oxford 1686. Feilding, who in 1704 had bought an office with a salary of £500 p.a., made a highly advantageous marriage the following year to a wealthy widow, Lady Diana, daughter of Francis Newport, 1st Earl of Bradford, with a parliamentary seat at her disposal. She had title during her lifetime to the estates of her first husband (with no surviving children to complicate matters) and thereby enjoyed the nomination of one Member at Castle Rising. Feilding obtained the seat in 1705 when a family friend chose to sit elsewhere. It was gossiped before the wedding that 'this old lady, for she is near fifty if not quite, is fallen in love with this young Feilding, and says she only begs he will be civil to her; she fears he cannot love her, though she does him so much'. Although himself the younger brother of a Tory peer, Feilding was now connected with various Court Whigs among his wife's kinsmen and her first husband's friends. He also cam...

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