

SA189618

**Portrait of Thomas Vavasour
c.1585; Attributed to
Hieronymus Custodis.**

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA189618

Date of manufacture:

Description

Oil on oak panel in carved and parcel gilt frame. An excellent portrait of the Elizabethan period painted on a single piece of oak. The sitter is probably Sir Thomas Vavasour; the coat of arms is certainly that of the Vavasour family of Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. THOMAS VAVASOUR (1560–1620) came from a family long established in Yorkshire. His grandfather was William Vavasour and his father was Henry Vavasour of Copmanthorpe, Yorkshire. His mother, Margaret, was the daughter of Sir Henry Knyvet of Charlton, Wiltshire. Thomas was educated at Eton and Caius College, Cambridge. In 1576 he married Mary, daughter and heiress of John Dodge of Suffolk, widow of Peter Houghton, alderman of London. They had 4 sons and 2 daughters. His sister Anne had become a Gentlewoman of the Bedchamber about 1580; but Anne Vavasour's dissolute career was to impinge considerably on her brother's. She began as she was to end as the mistress of Sir Henry Lee, the Queen's champion and jouter-in-chief, and it is as a jouter against Sir Henry at the tilt of 6 December 1584 that Thomas is first mentioned. By then, however, he was doubtless already involved in the feud between Thomas Knyvett and...

Internal Ref: 8890

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