

SA196812

SOLD....Portrait of Roger Simpkinson c.1760, by Sir George Chalmers.

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA196812

Date of manufacture: 1750

Description

Oil on canvas in fine carved and giltwood frame. ROGER SIMPKINSON, born 1732. This may be the Roger Simpkinson who was a successful silversmith who lived in Fleet street, London; he was a member of the local Freemason's Lodge. Simpkinson married Elizabeth King and in 1766 they had a son, James. Intriguingly, the sitter holds a cameo ring; at this time a typical Grand Tour ring such as this marked the wearer as a man of culture and discernment. Below his hand part of a musical score is seen, resting on an expensive and fashionable marble topped stand or table. The words 'Honor and Arm.....Such a Foe' are visible; this is part of Handel's lyric sung by the giant Harapha in the the oratorio 'Samson' based on Milton's work 'Samson Agonistes' of 1671. Handel's oratorio was premiered at Covent Garden in 1743. "Honor and Arms scorn such a foe" says the giant as he refuses to fight the blinded Samson. Clearly there is a message here, but what it said and to whom and for what purpose is not known. SIR GEORGE CHALMERS, (c 1720-1791) was born in Edinburgh. His grandfather, Charles Chalmers, was killed at the battle of Sherriffmuir in 1715, fighting on the side of the Pretender,...

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