

SA206574

Portrait of a Nobleman 1696,
by Joseph-Guillaume du Plessis
(Flanders 1653-1715 Marseille)

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA206574

Date of manufacture:

Description

Oil on canvas in well carved and giltwood frame. Signed and dated 1696 lower left. Verso, a fragmentary handwritten label. (see Image 5). A charming small scale portrait of a French nobleman, his books prominently shown to his left; above his right hand can be seen a sphinx, a symbol of arcane wisdom and knowledge. The point is clearly that this young man is not merely a fashionably dressed aristocrat but a man of culture and learning. This type of portrait was usually on a larger scale e.g. 50 x 40 inches; the fact that this is 'in small' suggests that it was for the 'cabinet'...the intimate room for favoured possessions that was so fashionable during the Baroque period. Perhaps painted for a wife or lover? SIZE: 30 x 26.5 inches inc. frame. PROVENANCE: Collection of a Fellow of a Cambridge college.

Internal Ref: 8780

Seller Details

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