

SA214084

SOLD....Portrait of Admiral
Richard Lestock c 1740,
attributed to John Wollaston.

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA214084

Date of manufacture: 1750

Description

Oil on canvas in a good late 18th c. giltwood frame. Lestock looks confidently out at the viewer, in the background, close to a shore fort, two ships-of-the-line engage in battle. A similar, later, image of Lestock just before his death in 1746 is in The National Maritime Museum. This is an engraving after a portrait by Wollaston. RICHARD LESTOCK 1679-1746 was an officer in the Royal Navy, eventually rising to the rank of Admiral. He fought in a number of battles, and was a controversial figure, most remembered for his part in the defeat at the Battle of Toulon, and the subsequent court-martial, at which he was acquitted. On 3 June 1746, just two days after his acquittal he was promoted Admiral of the Blue and given command of a large squadron. The original plan called for the launching of an assault on Quebec, but an attack on the French port of Lorient was decided instead. Despite planning difficulties, the force was landed and nearly succeeded in taking the city. The result was ultimately a failure and was viewed as such by a disappointed public, but Lestock appears to have acquitted himself well. After the success of the operation, he hoped to receive an appointment...

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