

SA21594

SOLD....Portrait of Matthew Prior c. 1700; attributed to Sir Godfrey Kneller

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA21594

Date of manufacture:

Description

Oil on canvas in fine 18th c. carved and giltwood frame. The sitter is thought to be Matthew Prior, poet and diplomat; the best known image of Prior shows slightly more aquiline features, but in the National Portrait Gallery are three images of Prior (NPG D3973, D19242 and 562) bearing a very strong facial resemblance to this sitter and wearing the same clothing. MATTHEW PRIOR (1664-1721). Prior's brilliance as a boy was noted by Lord Dorset who paid for the continuance of his education at Westminster. He took his B.A. in 1686, becoming a Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge two years later. He became famous for writing a satire on Dryden in collaboration with Charles Montagu, Earl of Halifax. After four years as Secretary to the Embassy in the Hague he was appointed one of the Gentlemen of the King's Bedchamber. The poet's knowledge of French assisted his move to Paris in attendance on the English Ambassador. Still writing highly successful poetry, on his return to England Prior became Under Secretary of State then a Commissioner of Trade. In 1701 he became M.P. for East Grinstead. After 1710 he was involved in many important negotiations with the French Court...som...

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