

SA290752

Portrait, traditionally identified as Admiral Robert Blake c.1650: Circle of Robert Walker.

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA290752

Date of manufacture: Before 1700

Description

Oil on canvas in 18th century gilt frame. Originally an oval, this portrait has been mounted onto a rectangular canvas, possibly in the 18th century as that is the date of the frame. The inscriptions dates from the same period. Roughly translated the Latin inscriptions mean "Died in 1657, in his 59th year" and "Blake the victor of the seas. First Cromwellian admiral of the ocean." ROBERT BLAKE (1598-1657) was one of the most important military commanders of the Commonwealth of England and one of the most famous English admirals of the 17th century, whose successes have "never been excelled, not even by Nelson" according to one biographer. Blake is recognised as the chief founder of England's naval supremacy, a dominance subsequently inherited by the British Royal Navy into the early 20th century. Despite this, due to deliberate attempts to expunge the Parliamentarians from history following the Restoration, Blake's achievements tend not to receive the full recognition that they deserve. In a letter written on 17 April 1797, to Admiral Sir John Jervis, Admiral Lord Nelson wrote "I do not reckon myself equal to Blake". He ranked Robert Blake as one of the greatest Naval Ge...

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Seller Details

Roy Precious - Antiques & Fine Art

Wiltshire United Kingdom



Tel: 01249 815048 or 07710 222273

International Tel: +44 1249 815048 or +44 7710 222273