

SA304138

Double portrait of Colonel and Mrs. Adams c.1720; Studio of Philip Mercier.

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA304138

Date of manufacture: 18th Century

Dimensions

Height = 114.5 cm (45.1")

Width = 131 cm (51.6")

Depth = 7 cm (2.8")

Description

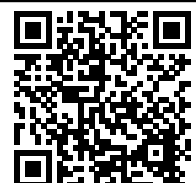
Oil on canvas in reproduction 18th c. style gilt frame. Inscribed, upper right, 'Col.n Sam & Rose Adams'. A pleasing double portrait of Colonel Samuel Adams and his wife Rose, to whom he offers his snuff box for her to take a pinch. This is most unusual in portraiture. (Snuff is a product made from ground or pulverised tobacco leaves. It originated in the Americas and was in common use in Europe by the 17th century. It was generally inhaled or "snuffed" through the nose, usually directly from the fingers. By the 18th century, snuff had become the tobacco product of choice among the upper classes, both male and female. The taking of snuff helped to distinguish the elite members of society from the common populace, which generally smoked its tobacco.) PHILIPPE MERCIER (also known as Philip Mercier; 1689 in Berlin – 18 July 1760 in London) was a French painter and etcher, who lived principally and was active in England. He was born in Berlin of French extraction, the son of a Huguenot tapestry-worker. He studied painting at the Akademie der Wissenschaften of Berlin and later under Antoine Pesne, who had arrived in Berlin in 1710. Later, he travelled in Italy and France be...

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