

SA308227

**Portrait of a French Nobleman
c.1700; Studio or Circle of
Hyacinthe Rigaud.**

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA308227

Date of manufacture: 1700

Description

Oil on canvas in early 19th c. giltwood frame. The aristocratic sitter holds a typical Baroque swagger pose, his right hand on a pile of books of which one is 'Regie de 1700' (Government of 1700). HYACINTHE RIGAUD, (1659 - 1743), was one of the most important portrait painters during the reign of King Louis XIV. His instinct for impressive poses and grand presentations precisely suited the tastes of the royal personages, ambassadors, clerics, courtiers, and financiers who sat for him. He and his friendly rival Nicolas de Largillière were their era's leading portraitists, but Rigaud painted aristocrats while Largillière concentrated on the wealthy bourgeoisie. Their differing approaches reflect their clients' status. Rigaud's sitters are shown in elegant stances of natural superiority; they are members of society whose costumes and gestures describe their function within the state. He combined Anthony van Dyck's prototypes and opulent style with Philippe de Champaigne's stiff, linear formality. In his unofficial portraits, however, Rigaud's interest in realism and character displays the influence of Rembrandt van Rijn. Since Rigaud's paintings captured very exact likeness...

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