

SA308297

Portrait of Ann Wells, later
Duchess of Chandos c. 1711;
English School.

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA308297

Date of manufacture:

Description

Oil on canvas in good quality 18th century carved and giltwood frame. The sitter, expensively dressed and with very fine quality lace on her cap, pats her dog as it jumps up. Although the animal was probably her pet, in portraiture a dog represents fidelity and trust; also when included in a child's portrait it can signify how children, like animals, need to be trained and disciplined to become responsible adults. An old label, verso, (now lost) identified the sitter as Ann Wells (1709-1759) daughter of John and Sarah Wells of Brasted Park, Kent, baptised in 1709. This is probably the Ann Wells who married, secondly, Henry Brydges, 2nd Duke of Chandos at Mr. Keith's Chapel, Mayfair. (Image 7 shows Ann when Duchess). The Duke held the office of Member of Parliament for Hereford; he was Master of the Horse to HRH The Prince of Wales and was invested as a Knight, Order of the Bath on 12 January 1731. The Duke was also 5th Baronet Brydges, 10th Baron Chandos of Sudeley, 2nd Earl of Carnarvon, 2nd Viscount Wilton and 2nd Marquess of Carnarvon. King George II remarked "there is my Lord Carnarvon, a hot headed, passionate, half-witted coxcomb." Ann, Duchess of Chandos, die...

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