

SA367405

**Portrait of an Officer c.1710;
Attributed to Sir Godfrey
Kneller.**

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA367405

Date of manufacture: 1700

Dimensions

Height = 147.5 cm (58.1")

Width = 122 cm (48.0")

Depth = 7 cm (2.8")

Description

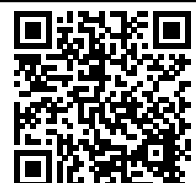
Oil on canvas in the original high quality carved and giltwood frame. A fine portrait of a military officer, almost certainly by Kneller. There is considerable quality here as can be seen, in the face, the hands (often problematic to many artists) and in the totally believable way the officer's clothing is painted. Although this portrait has descended through one family for at least 160 years the identity of the sitter had been lost. In fact it had come to be believed that the sitter had been an officer in the Peninsular war of 1818-1814 and had served under Wellington! The clothes, the wig...in fact the whole portrait...clearly show a date 100 years earlier than that. Unknown the sitter may be (although the family say his surname was Witherden) but this is an excellent portrait of the early 18th century. It is a fine example of the Augustan style portrait for which Kneller is now best remembered. It dates from his later middle period (c.1710), when he produced his most distinguished paintings including the celebrated Kit-Kat series. SIR GODFREY KNELLER (1646-1723) studied under Ferdinand Bol, and perhaps Rembrandt himself in the 1660s. He was in Rome and Venice between...

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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