

SA424447

Portrait of a Nobleman c.1700;
Spanish School.

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA424447

Date of manufacture: 1700

Dimensions

Height = 126 cm (49.6")

Width = 107 cm (42.1")

Depth = 5 cm (2.0")

Description

Oil on canvas in a part gilt and ebonised frame. The sitter, his identity as yet unknown, wears on his chest the swordlike cross of the Order of Santiago and wears the red sash of a knight of that order; he holds the baton of a Captain-General. (The sword shaped cross represents the chivalrous character of the apostle St. James and his martyr ways, since he was decapitated with a sword. It can also symbolise taking the sword in the name of Christ.) In the background is a stormy sea and a sailing vessel. His left hand rests on an elaborately shaped shield which bears the image of a charger. The Order of Santiago (Galician: Orde de Santiago, Spanish: Orden de Santiago), also known as "The Order of St. James of the Sword," was founded in the 12th century, and owes its name to the national patron of Galicia and Spain, Santiago (St. James the Greater). Its initial objective was to protect the pilgrim of St. James' Way and to defend Christendom. After the death of the Grand Master Alfonso de Cárdenas in 1493, the Catholic Monarchs incorporated the Order into the Spanish Crown and the pope Adrian VI forever united the office of Grand Master of Santiago to the crown in 1523. ...

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