

SA42596

SOLD...Portrait of Thomas Cookson c.1735, by Jonathan Richardson

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA42596

Date of manufacture:

Description

Oil on canvas in 18th c. giltwood frame. The sitter was a member of the Cookson family of Cumberland and Yorkshire; he died in 1773. Thomas's father William (died 1743) was a wealthy merchant and pewterer in Penrith. He married Susannah Idle in 1701. The Cooksons also owned ironworks and collieries. Thomas's uncle was the Reverend Joseph Cookson, Vicar of Leeds. The poet William Wordsworth's mother was a Cookson. This portrait, with seven others of the Cooksons hung in Keith Hall, Aberdeenshire, home of the Earls of Kintore. It can only be presumed that there was some marital connection between the families, as why else would a powerful aristocratic Scottish family dating back to the 12th century have eight portraits of an English mercantile middle-class family hanging in their ancestral home? The sitter, Thomas Cookson, expensively bewigged and wearing the fashionable silk wrap of a gentleman at leisure, looks rather inquiringly at the viewer. He seems at ease, and his build and ruddy complexion indicate a man who enjoyed good living. The face is beautifully painted and a strong sense of the character of the sitter is present; absolutely typical of Richardson's mature ...

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