

SA470449

Portrait of Mr. Dennis c.1695,
by Sir Godfrey Kneller.

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA470449

Date of manufacture: 17th Century

Dimensions

Height = 94 cm (37.0")

Width = 81 cm (31.9")

Depth = 6 cm (2.4")

Description

Oil on canvas in a fine period carved and giltwood frame. A remarkably insightful portrait in which a real sense of the character of the sitter is shown; not a mere fashionable cypher..."A Whig in a Wig"..this is a real person. Verso; an old handwritten label "Mr. Dennis who married a Daughter of Sir John Houblon". John Houblon was born in 1632 to a strictly Protestant family, and raised into the family business of merchant shipping. Samuel Pepys made frequent references to the Houblon family, most notably when they bailed him out of imprisonment in the Tower of London. John later married Marie, the daughter of a Flemish refugee and acquired the lease on a house in Threadneedle Street in 1671. As a prominent merchant, he became renowned in London for his fair business dealings and generous public spirit, and his standing in the community grew, resulting in a knighthood in 1689. Sir John then became Lord Mayor of London in 1695 and was a Lord Commissioner of the Admiralty between 1693 and 1699. When the Bill for the foundation of a national Bank was approved in Parliament, Sir John was instrumental in both financial investment and creating the managing structure, takin...

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