

SA504206

Portrait of a Gentleman,
traditionally called Sir William
Temple, c.1705; Circle of Sir
Godfrey Kneller.

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA504206

Date of manufacture: 18th Century

Dimensions

Height = 82 cm (32.3")

Width = 79 cm (31.1")

Depth = 6 cm (2.4")

Description

Oil on canvas in a fine carved and giltwood period frame. The handsome young sitter wears an expensive and fashionable wig as he looks out at the viewer; equally expensive and fashionable is the Indian silk tea gown he is wearing. This was the last word in informal clothing, and so costly that Samuel Pepys had to hire one for his portrait... buying one was beyond his means. The sitter has been known as Sir William Temple for at least 110 years, but it is clearly not the famous personage; equally good looking but no moustache and painted after that Sir William's death. Of course, the sitter may also have been called Sir William Temple, but so far research has not been productive. SIR GODFREY KNELLER (1646-1723) studied under Ferdinand Bol, and perhaps Rembrandt himself in the 1660s. He was in Rome and Venice between 1672 and 1675, settling in England in 1676 for life. He was soon employed at Court and became the most successful portraitist of the generation following Lely. He enjoyed the office of Principal Painter, at first jointly with John Riley (d.1691), from shortly after the accession of William and Mary in 1688 until his death. He was knighted in 1692 and became ...

Internal Ref: 9045

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