

SA507953

Portrait of Charlotte Stanley,
Countess of Derby, 17th
Century; Follower of Anton
(Anthony) Van Dyck
(1599-1641)

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA507953

Date of manufacture: 17th Century

Dimensions

Height = 91 cm (35.8")

Width = 78 cm (30.7")

Depth = 6 cm (2.4")

Description

This portrait depicts the courageous Charlotte Stanley (born de La Trémouille), the Countess of Derby (1599–1664) who was a legendary figure during the English Civil War. Her father was Claude de la Trémouille, Duke of Thouars (France) and her grandfather was William I, Prince of Orange. Her mother came to England in 1625 as part of the Royal household of Queen Henrietta Maria, Charles I's queen. During this visit she arranged a marriage between Charlotte and James Stanley, 7th Earl of Derby. The marriage took place in 1626 and for 16 years she lived quietly with her husband at Knowsley or Lathom House giving birth to nine children. Her husband fought during the civil war and was eventually captured in 1651 and beheaded. When Lathom House was the last remaining Royalist stronghold in Lancashire, the Countess who was in charge of its defense, she gallantly held out without surrender famously declaring that she and her children would perish in the flames rather than yield. Eventually she moved to Knowsley, where she died. For some historians, the fall of the famous royalist house marked an important event for the Parliamentary cause and an order was issued by the Hous...

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