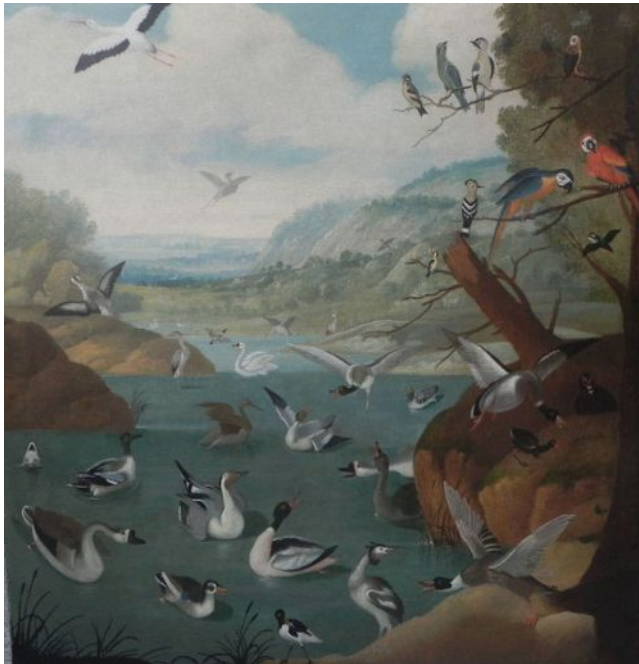


SA521025

**Carl Wilhelm de Hamilton ,
1668 - 1754
The Parliament of the Birds**

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA521025****Date of manufacture: Before 1700**

Dimensions

Height = 99 cm (39.0")

Width = 101 cm (39.8")

Depth = 2 cm (0.8")

Description

Carl Wilhelm de Hamilton , 1668 - 1754 The Parliament of the Birds oil on canvas 99.06 x 101.60 cm. (39 x 40 in.) The "Parlement of Foules" (also known as the "Parliament of Fowls", "Parlement of Briddes", "Assembly of Fowls", "Assemble of Foules", or "The Parliament of Birds") is a poem by Geoffrey Chaucer (1343?-1400) made up of approximately 700 lines. The poem is in the form of a dream vision in rhyme royal stanza and is interesting in that it is the first reference to the idea that St. Valentine's Day was a special day for lovers. The poem begins with the narrator reading Cicero's *Somnium Scipionis* in the hope of learning some "certeyn thing." When he falls asleep Scipio Africanus appears and guides him up through the celestial spheres to Venus's temple. The narrator then passes through Venus's dark temple with its friezes of doomed lovers and out into the bright sunlight where Nature is convening a parliament at which the birds all choose their mates. There three tercel eagles make their case for the hand of a formel eagle until the birds of the lower estates begin to protest and launch into a comic parliamentary debate, which Nature herself finally ends. None of...

Internal Ref: 3491

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