

SA585885

A wax portrait bust of James II, early 18th century, in the manner of David Le Marchand.

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA585885

Date of manufacture: 18th Century

Dimensions

Height = 35.5 cm (14.0")

Width = 32 cm (12.6")

Depth = 7 cm (2.8")

Description

Of Jacobite interest, this is a rare item, exquisitely carved, almost certainly after a portrait by Sir Godfrey Kneller. Dating from the early 18th century, the bust is now mounted within a 19th century gilt and composition glazed box frame. This is very much the sort of small item, easily concealed if necessary, that supporters of the exiled House of Stuart favoured. Perhaps it is significant that, 40 years ago, it was acquired in Scotland. It is in the style of DAVID LE MARCHAND (1674-1726) who was famed for his ivory carvings, particularly his portraits. He was a native of Dieppe, France; he was in Edinburgh in 1696, where he is documented as receiving official permission to open a shop and take on apprentices. He was in London by 1700. He is recognised as the most distinguished ivory carver to have worked in England in the early 18th century, a period when the art enjoyed a popularity unknown since the Middle Ages. Although of wax, not ivory, there is no doubting the great skill of the unknown artist who created this wonderful bust of King James; only 5 inches tall, it is a miniature masterpiece. SIZE OF FRAMED ITEM: 14 x 12.5 inches. Bust: 5 inches. PROVENANCE: W...

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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