

SA608302

Portrait of a Gentleman,
possibly George Peele
(c.1557-c.1596) c.1580; 16th
Century English School

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA608302

Date of manufacture: 16th Century

Dimensions

Height = 64 cm (25.2")

Width = 60 cm (23.6")

Depth = 6 cm (2.4")

Description

In this Elizabethan panel portrait, a gentleman has been depicted wearing a fashionable red slashed doublet, white ruff, and a cape. According to the inscription the sitter was aged 23 years old when the portrait was painted in 1580. The portrait may represent George Peele (c.1557-c.1596) who was one of the most prominent figures among those of Shakespeare's "predecessors" and earlier contemporaries. He is widely known as one of the earliest professional writers in English. His University friends, even after the notoriety of Christopher Marlowe, described him as the "Atlas of poetry, inferior to none, and in some respects superior to all". Peele was born in London circa 1557 to a family thought to be of Devonshire origin. His father, James Peele, was a citizen and salter of London, and for many years held the office of clerk of Christ's Hospital. George studied at Cambridge University. In 1580, the year our portrait was painted, he married his first wife, heiress Ann Cooke – in all likelihood the portrait was commissioned to mark this occasion, which would have been a common practice at the time, in celebration of an important life event. Peele was known as a "Uni...

Seller Details

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