

SA617936

**Portrait of Mrs. Grenaway
1730, by John Theodore Heins.**

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA617936

Date of manufacture: 18th Century

Dimensions

Height = 87.5 cm (34.4")

Width = 75 cm (29.5")

Depth = 3 cm (1.2")

Description

Oil on canvas in a frame made by the famous Norwich carvers, gilders, looking glass manufacturers, and framemakers W. Boswell and Son. (Trade label verso). Signed and dated 1730, lower left, partially obscured by the later inscription 'Mr. Grenaway'. This is a particularly fine, sensitive and insightful portrait and ranks among Heins very best work. The sitter has long been thought to be the wife of William Grenaway, attorney in Norwich; but we feel it is more likely to be his mother. William's portrait, also on this website, is the same size and framed to match, but this lady looks considerably older than him, she wears widow's weeds [1], and is depicted looking in the same direction as him. When hanging together, one of these portraits would have its back to the other. As a general rule, husband and wife portraits depict them inclining towards each other, not away. [1]The "weeds" in the term comes from the Old English waed, which means "garment." Widow's weeds have several defining characteristics, including dark or muted colours and simple designs. The wearing of widow's weeds would have instantly distinguished a widow from those around her, making her state very ob...

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