

SA753082

Portrait of Betty Fitzwarren; Studio of Sir Peter Lely.

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA753082****Date of manufacture: 17th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 95 cm (37.4")

Width = 81 cm (31.9")

Depth = 5.5 cm (2.2")

Description

Oil on canvas in a fine 18th century carved and giltwood frame. Image 3 shows the portrait in 1937 when the distinguished dealers Spink thought it of such quality they used it on their advertisement. Interestingly they did not name the sitter and they gave Sir Peter Lely as the artist. I am reluctant to challenge a Spink attribution, but I believe 'Studio of Lely' is more realistic. (Our thanks to the art dealer and historian Peter Harrison of Harrison Fine Art who spotted this ad in the Witt Archive.) The attractive young sitter has long been known as Betty Fitzwarren; there is a strong possibility that she was born Lady Elizabeth Bourchier in 1622, died 22 Sept 1670, eldest daughter of 4th Earl of Bath, of Tawstock, Devon. She married (8 July, 1641), as his third wife, Basil Feilding, 2nd Earl of Denbigh, of Newnham Paddox, Warwickshire. As her husband attempted to navigate the treacherous waters of Civil War and Restoration, she wrote him numerous letters which survive (some transcribed in the book "Royalist Father & Roundhead Son", the full text of which can be found on the internet), and include passionate postscripts such as "a hundred thousand thousand kisses I ...

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