

SA756930

**George Villiers, 4th Viscount
Grandison c.1675, by Sir Peter
Lely.**

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA756930

Date of manufacture: 17th Century

Dimensions

Height = 94 cm (37.0")

Width = 81.3 cm (32.0")

Depth = 5 cm (2.0")

Description

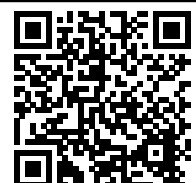
For years both the sitter and the artist of this superb portrait were unknown. Diligent research by the art historian Simon van Oostende revealed that the sitter is George Villiers, 4th Viscount Grandison and that the painting is an autograph work by King Charles II's court portrait-painter Sir Peter Lely – subsequently confirmed by the Lely experts Diana Dethloff and Catharine MacLeod. Most probably upon the sitter's request, Lely modelled Lord Grandison's portrait directly on the one he painted of King Charles II in circa 1675: shown half-length, turned a quarter to the left, wearing a polished breastplate over a gold-embroidered doublet with a lace cravat and heavily curled black full-bottomed wig. This portrait of Charles II proved enormously popular and many versions of it, as well as mezzotint reproductions by Edward Luttrell and Abraham Blooteling. The prime, autograph version of this portrait is in the collection of the Duke of Grafton at Euston Hall (the first Duke was a natural son of Charles II and his mistress Barbara Villiers). A good version hangs in the National Portrait Gallery, coming from the collection of the Earls of Chesterfield. Lord Grandison's por...

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