

SA823601

Portrait of a gentleman c.1675: Attributed to John Riley.

Price

GBP 5,950

| USD \$8,052 | EUR 6,962

Item Reference: SA823601**Date of manufacture: 17th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 89 cm (35.0")

Width = 76 cm (29.9")

Depth = 4 cm (1.6")

Description

Oil on canvas in a later frame. The sitter is depicted looking directly at the viewer; he has an intelligent and strong face. This is a sensitive and insightful portrait giving a real insight into the his character. He wears a fashionable and expensive Indian silk draped over his shoulder, these were so costly that Samuel Pepys hired his when he had his portrait painted. He also wears a large and very expensive wig; the expression 'bigwig' for a rich or important person comes from this fashion. JOHN RILEY, or Ryley, (1646 – March 1691) was an English portrait painter. He painted portraits of Charles II and James II, and was Court Painter to William III and Mary II. One of his pupils was Jonathan Richardson. Riley was born in London, one of the sons of William Riley or Ryley, Lancaster Herald and Keeper of the Records in the Tower of London, who was created Norroy king-at-arms under the Commonwealth, but reverted to his herald's office at the Restoration. Riley studied painting under Isaac Fuller and Gerard Soest, and from the latter learnt a forcible, straightforward style of portraiture which rendered his portraits noteworthy. Riley did not attain much eminence until ...

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