

SA875248

Rare 17th century painting on
gilded leather.

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA875248

Date of manufacture: 17th Century

Dimensions

Height = 63.5 cm (25.0")

Width = 73.5 cm (28.9")

Depth = 5 cm (2.0")

Description

Dating from c.1660, this is a most unusual item; it is painted on gilded leather in the manner of the fashionable embroidery of the period. It is housed in a 17th century carved and giltwood frame and is in wonderful original condition. We are not sure whether there is a specific subject. It is certainly very similar to both stumpwork pictures and bed valances of the period where fruits, flowers, animals and insects, snakes etc all feature in random arrangements. There is often a grand building in the background with roofs that at first glance look oriental but are actually Elizabethan (see for example Tixall Gatehouse). The central figures are usually identified as portraits of Charles II and his Queen, but there is no evidence of that here. Perhaps just a chivalrous gesture of a gentleman offering to put his sword at his lady's service? Courtly love does appear in needle-works of this period. Most curious is the mysterious figure in the foreground, fashionably dressed, hatted and bearded, he seems to be carrying a receptacle of some type .. a bucket? This is truly a thought provoking item .. enigmatic, rare, naively beautiful and thoroughly redolent of its period. W...

Internal Ref: 9258

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