THE LIMNER COMPANY

After CHRISTIAN FRIEDRICH ZINCKE (1683 - 1767)

Portrait enamel of a Gentleman in blue coat with white jabot

Enamel on copper

Oval, 41 mm (1 $^{5}/_{8}$ in) high

Signed and dated 'CF Zincke fecit/1716' on counter-enamel

Gilt-metal frame with glazed reverse

This enamel portrait has divided specialists as it has appeared at auction over the years – the convincing signature on the counter-enamel appearing to signify a genuine work by the master. However, the modelling of the face and drapery fall short of Zincke's usual quality – signifying that this is by a member of his workshop (the existence of which has never been proved, but given his prolific output must have existed) or a later copy.

As an enamel of some age and quality, it is unclear why a later enameller (if indeed this enamel is later) would wish to copy an earlier work of Zincke's. The sitter has not been identified, although 1716 was the beginning of Zincke's long standing and fruitful connection with Robert Harley, 1st Earl of Oxford and his family. A possible explanation would be that this is a secondary version for a family member after an original by Zincke.

Exhibitions

D. Fosket, *Collecting Miniatures*, Woodbridge, 1979, illustrated p. 137, colour pl. 10B.

D. Foskett, *Miniatures: Dictionary and Guide*, Woodbridge, 1987, illustrated p. 137, colour pl. 10B.

Also reportedly in E. E. Simmons, 'Deutsche Einflüsse in der englischen Porträtminiaturmalerei des 18. Jahrhunderts', *Weltkunst*, 22, 15 November 1978, illustrated p. 2686.

Literature:

E. E. Simmons, 'Deutsche Einflüsse in der englischen Porträtminiaturmalerei des 18. Jahrhunderts', Weltkunst, 22, 15 November 1978, illustrated p. 2686.

D. Fosket, Collecting Miniatures, Woodbridge, 1979, illustrated p. 137, colour pl. 10B.

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