

THE LIMNER COMPANY



Johann Hieronymus Reichardt

Portrait enamel of a Prelate wearing 'preaching bands' and a crimson cape over robes

Circa: 1684

1684

Enamel on metal

Oval, 30 mm (1 1/8 in) high

Signed on counterenamel "IHR" and dated 1684

In later brooch set with diamonds and rubies

This portrait enamel belongs to the oeuvre of an artist named Johann Hieronymus Reichardt. Little is known about the life and career of this enamellist. He worked in Austria and Germany towards the end of the 17th century.^[1] The present work allows us to estimate that his career spanned (at the absolute least) over a decade.

Other known works by Reichardt include an enamel of Leopold I, Holy Roman Emperor (1640-1705) and another portrait of an Austrian nobleman, both of which date to 1695. Both portraits currently reside in the Frederiksborg Castle in Copenhagen.^[2]

With the help of Dr Bodo Hofstetter, curator of the Portrait Miniatures Hall at Museum Liaunig, this rare enamel was recognised as the work of Reichardt, after a signature was revealed on the counter enamel., the intertwined initials 'IHR' and the date 1684 written beneath.

The sitter has been identified as a prelate. He wears white bands often called 'preaching bands'. While

this neckwear had largely fallen out of fashion in the secular sphere – having been replaced by cravats– they remained in use by members of the clergy.

We are grateful to Dr Bodo Hofstetter, curator of the Portrait Miniatures Hall at Museum Liaunig, Neuhaus, Carinthia, for identifying this rare artist from email correspondence.

[1] Léo R. Schidlof, *The Miniature in Europe*, vol. 2 (Graz, Austria: Akademische Druck- u. Verlagsanstalt, 1964), p. 668.

[2] Portrait enamel of Leopold I, Holy Roman Emperor (1640-1705), 1695, Frederiksborg National History Museum, Copenhagen (Inv. No. A 1484); Portrait enamel of Unknown Austrian Nobleman, 1695, Frederiksborg National History Museum, Copenhagen (Inv. No. A 1483).