

THE LIMNER COMPANY



John Plott (1722 - 1803)

Portrait enamel of Charles I (1600-1649), King of England, Scotland and Ireland (1625-1649), wearing breast plate and studded pauldrons, gold collar with badge of the Order of the Garter, white chemise with van Dyke collar, his loosely curling hair falling to his shoulders

Enamel on copper

Gold mount

Oval, 65mm (2.5ins) high

The present enamel portrait is based upon Van Dyck's full-scale oil portraits of the king (c.1638) that reside in the Hermitage, St. Petersburg and at Althorp (Catalogue of the Pictures at Althorp House in the County of Northampton, p.27, no.340).

Other versions of this portrait of the King reside in various noble houses, including an original of 1635–1636 at Arundel Castle in the collection of the Dukes of Norfolk.

Given the location of the original portrait by Van Dyck and the dates of John Plott's career, this enamel was likely commissioned by George John Spencer, 2nd Earl Spencer (likely during the final quarter of the eighteenth century).

The 2nd Earl Spencer appears to have held special regard for the paintings of Anthony van Dyck, dressing in typical 'van-dyckian' dress for his 1774-76 portrait by Sir Joshua Reynolds.

Exhibitions

South Kensington Museum, 1865, no.943 (loaned by by John Poyntz, 5th Earl Spencer)

Literature:

D. Foskett, Miniatures Dictionary and Guide, London, 1987, p.620.