JOHN BENNETT fine paintings

Wentworth Castle Estate, Barnsley, South Yorkshire

THOMAS BARDWELL

Sold



REF: 374855

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Description

London, England

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THOMAS BARDWELLEnglish School 1704-1767Wentworth Castle Estate, Barnsley, South Yorkshire Oil on canvas101.6 x 147.4 cms40 x 58 inchesOverall framed size 119.4 x 164.5 cms 47 x 643/4 inches Another version of this painting is in the collection of the Cannon Hall Museum, Barnsley and is dated to c.1751-2 Thomas Bardwell was an artist and writer who painted diverse subject matter including horses, country estate views, conversation pieces and portraits as well as undertaking decorative work in house interiors. However, it is probably for portraiture that he is most recognised today because this represented the majority of his work.He was born in 1704, probably in Worlingworth, Suffolk and was the son of John Bardwell, a local farmer, and although Thomas was self-taught, he began his career painting decorative panels for a business which he had begun in 1728. This venture proved to be very successful necessitating the need for assistants so he took on apprentices. However in 1732 he decided to concentrate on portrait painting and handed the business over to his brother Robert.The earliest dated paintings are from 1736, one of which probably portrays the Brewster Family of Beccles from Suffolk in a domestic interior and is now in the collection of the Museum of the Home in Hackney. He established himself as a prominent East Anglian portraitist but it is possible that he also garnered some commissions in London as in 1740 he depicted John Campbell, 2nd Duke of Argyll and Duke of Greenwich – now in the National Portrait Gallery - and he also portrayed David Garrick as Richard III, a work which is now in the collection of the Russell-Cotes Museum and Art Gallery.In 1746 he painted William Crowe who became the newly-elected Mayor of Norwich in the following year. In achieving this he supplanted John Theodore Heins who had undertaken all civic portraiture up until then and Bardwell painted different Mayors of that city a further eight times up until 1765. His portraits are in all sizes and formats – bust, half-length and full-length - and stylistically he can be compared to Thomas Hudson (1701-1779) and in composition the influence of van Dyck can be discerned as also can be noticed in the treatment of the costume of the sitters. Other influential portrait commissions included: Thomas Fermor, 1st Earl of Pomfret and Henrietta Louisa, Countess of Pomfret; The Broke and Bowes Families in an interior; and the splendid portrayal of William Henry de Zylesstein, 4th Earl of Rochfors who stands in a landscape before his dappled grey horse which is held by a groom with a view to his house in the distance. It measures 161 x 212 cms and hangs now in Brodrick Castle. In 1748 he painted an allegory piece Joshua Ward receiving money from Britannia and bestowing it as charity on the needy. Ward was a London doctor and when completed, the painting hung in the Ward family house in Whitehall. It is now in the collection of the Royal College of Surgeons.At the same time as Bardwell was augmenting his reputation as a portraitist, he was also venturing in to recording country houses for their ...

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