JOHN BENNETT fine paintings

In Full Cry

CHARLES LORAINE SMITH

Sold

London, England

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REF: 311108

Description

CHARLES LORAINE SMITH English School1751-1835 In Full Cry Oil on canvas 64.5 x 84.5 cms253/8 x 33 1/4 inchesOverall framed size 80.7 x 100.3 cms 303/4 x 391/2 ins
The renowned "Squire of Enderby" of Leicestershire was probably best known as a celebrated horseman and the Deputy Master of the Quorn under Hugo Meynell and his many runs and daring riding exploits garnered admiration beyond his home county.

Charles Lorraine Smith could trace his lineage back to the Norman Conquest and his middle name, eponymous with the area from which his ancestors originated before embarking with William, Duke of Normandy in 1066, remained with the family from the time that his forbear was made Governor of Northumberland after the Conquest.

He was born 1st April 1851, the second son of Sir Charles Loraine who was the 3rd Baronet of Kirk Harle in Nortumberland. He was schooled at Eton from 1762 before going up to Christ's College Cambridge from 1767 to 1772. In 1762 his great uncle Richard Smith Esq bequeathed him the manor of Enderby together with other estates and through an act of Parliament shortly after, Charles Loraine assumed the name Smith enabling him to stand as an MP.

He married Elizabeth Anne Shaw of Britwell House, Bucks, on 1st May 1781and their first child, Charles Crayle, was born in 1782 but lived only until the age of six. A further son, Loraine Smith, was born in 1784 and in later life he became a famous sporting parson. However, prior to his marriage to Elizabeth, Smith had become involved in a relationship with Frances Manners, the Countess of Tyrconnel, and they eloped together and this was cited by the wronged Earl in his divorce from his estranged wife in 1777. However the Countess seems to have had further ambitions as she then ran off with Philip Anstruther, the second son of Lord Newark and they married on 27th October 1777.

Smith had visited Florence, possibly with the Countess, and was included in Johann Zoffany's painting "Tribuna of the Uffizi" which was a painting commissioned by Queen Charlotte to show her what the gallery looked like. Numerous artworks, officials, diplomats, Grand Tour aristocrats, connoisseurs and collectors are portrayed. Smith is seated on a chair among a group looking at Raphael's Niccolini-Cowper Madonna and behind him stands Richard Edgcumbe, later the 2nd Earl of Mount Edgcumbe. It took the artist from 1772 to late 1779 to complete the painting which is now in the Royal Collection. It combined the English conversation piece with the 17th century Dutch gallery wunderkammer paintings and was much admired although Horace Walpole said of it: "…a flock of travelling boys, and one does not know nor care whom."

In1783 Smith served as the High Sheriff of Leicestershire and in 1784 was returned to Parliament as the MP for the Borough of Leicester in the general election but served only one term, retiring at the time of its dissolution in 1790. During this term, he made a number of speeches on subjects including Canada, India and support for the repeal of th...

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