

Lot 946 Portrait of Thomas Smyth, second Son of Sir Jarrit Smyth, married Jane Whitchurch, 1720-1800. 48 in. x 40 in. in carved and gilt frame.

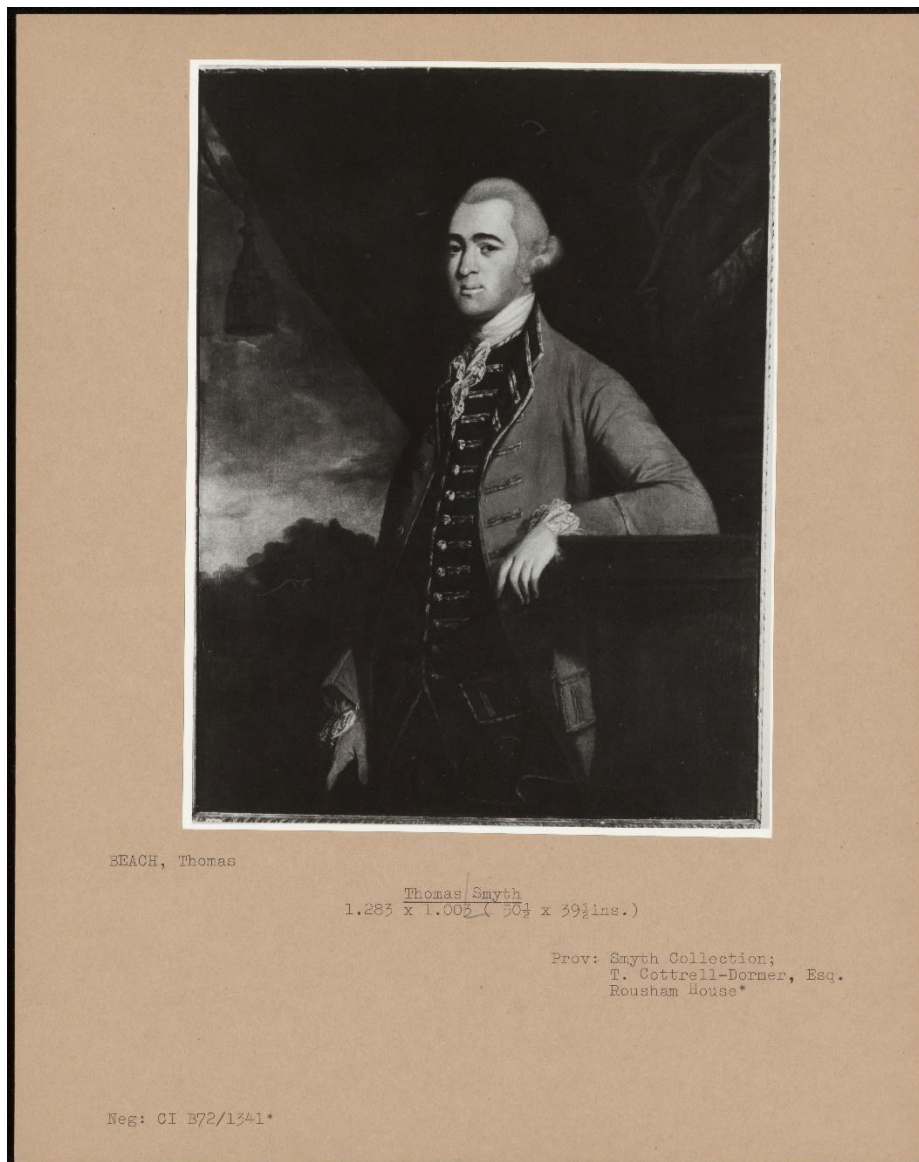


Image: courtesy of the Paul Mellon Photographic Archive. PA-F08225-0059

In the 1947 sale this portrait was bought by Tom Cottrell-Dorner and taken to Rousham House. The Paul Mellon Photographic Archive has enabled us to see a digitised image of the portrait which is in a private collection.

The portrait was lent to the Art Treasures Exhibition in Manchester in 1857. For this exhibition most of the works were borrowed from private collections, such as those held by the Smyths. Many had never been shown in public before.



Image: ©Manchester Archives

Who was Thomas Beach, the artist?

Thomas Beach (1738-1806) had been a pupil of Sir Joshua Reynolds. Beach settled in Bath and was much in demand for his portraits.

Who was Thomas Smyth and how was he connected to Ashton Court?

Thomas Smyth had been born in 1740 and was the younger son of Florence and Jarrit Smith (later Smyth). Thomas was married to Jane Whitchurch. His elder brother John Hugh was married to Elizabeth Woolnough and had inherited Ashton Court but they did not have any descendants. By the time John Hugh died in 1802 Thomas had already pre-deceased him but more importantly Thomas and Jane had descendants. Ashton Court passed to Thomas and Jane's son Hugh who died in 1824, their younger son John who died in 1849, and finally their daughter Florence Upton who died in 1853. After her death Ashton Court passed to her grandson Greville Upton.