

Lot 950 Portrait of Elizabeth Howell, married Sir Hugh Smyth, 28 in, x 24 in.



The current whereabouts of this portrait is unknown.

No price was entered against it in the annotated sale catalogue so it is possible that it was not sold.

Esme Smyth insured this portrait with the Royal Insurance Company in Bristol in June 1935 for £20.

In Anton Bantock's book 'Images of England' Ashton Court, there is a picture of a portrait of Elizabeth Howell. It is not clear if this is the same portrait in lot 950.

Who was Elizabeth Howell?

Elizabeth Howell was the daughter of the harbour master at Loughor and a companion to the mother of Hugh Smyth (b.1771).

Hugh had a relationship with Elizabeth and their son John Hugh was born in 1792. Hugh went on to marry Margaret Wilson but had no more children.

After Margaret died in 1819 Hugh eventually married Elizabeth but failed to legitimise their son. As a result when Hugh died in 1824 his brother John inherited Ashton Court.

However, all was not lost for John Hugh. He married the heiress Ann Piggott and gained a large estate in Weston super Mare and Brockley.