Lot 1044 Portrait of Thomas Smyth, Esq., as a child, son of Sir Hugh Smyth, Kt., died 1642. 43 in. x 34 in. In black and gilt frame.

Thomas Smyth 1609-1642

Image: ©Leeds Castle Foundation image scanned from the publication: Ashton Court by Anton Bantock.

The text at the top of the portrait reads:

> "Thomas Smyth Esq., son of Sir Hugh Smyth (Knight), married Florence, eldest daughter of John Lord Poulet H.L.V.A. elected to Parliament for the county of Somerset the 30th March 1640 and died October 1642."

The painting is from the English School and was painted on a panel c1600.

In 1935 Esme insured the portrait for £50.

The Western Daily Press of 11th of June 1947 reported that the portrait was sold for £70 in the sale.

It was then reported to be displayed at the Ninth Antique Dealers' Fair and Exhibition 1949, held at Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London W1 and was hung for a time at the Leger Galleries of Old Bond Street, London. At the time of that report its current location was unknown.

Anton Bantock reported however that it was at Leeds Castle in Kent and the illustration in his book attributes Leeds Castle.

It can clearly be seen in the 1929 Hector Paterson images of Ashton Court where it hangs in the Great Hall. It is hung high up close to the ceiling above the portrait of his mother and to the left of the portrait of his father.

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Who was Thomas Smyth?

Thomas (1609-1642) was the son of Sir Hugh Smyth and his wife the former Elizabeth Gorges. In 1627 he married Florence Poulet. Florence was the daughter of John, 1st Lord Poulet, and his wife Elizabeth Kenn. Florence was just 16 and it is thought that the marriage took place hastily because Thomas's father, Hugh, was ill and dying. Thomas took part in the English Civil War but died shortly after of small pox. After his death Florence remarried, her 2nd husband was Thomas Pigott. Thomas bought nearby Brockley Court so that Florence could stay close to her son, Hugh, who had inherited Ashton Court after his father's death