

**Lot 935. Portrait of Anne Pym who married Sir John Smyth, Bart., 1733. 48in. x 38 in. in black frame.**



Image: K1709©Bristol Culture, photography Public Catalogue Foundation / Dan Brown

This portrait was one of those purchased by Bristol Museums at the 1947 sale for £9.

Western Daily Press of 11<sup>th</sup> June 1947 reported:

**'Bristol Art Gallery purchases**

*At a cost of £37 the Bristol Art Gallery have acquired four of the Smyth family portraits. High bidding at yesterday's sale at Ashton Court, above the limits laid down, prevented a larger number being bought, a course which may have been desirable in view of the possibility in the future of the estate being taken over by the City Corporation. The four portraits are of Sir John Smyth, Bart, and his wife, Anne Pym, whose portrait is dated 1733; Sir John Smyth who married Elizabeth Astry, 1659-1726; and John, the first Lord Poulett, father of Dame Florence Smyth, 1649.'*

The portrait of Ann Pym is a pendant (i.e. one of 2 pictures designed to be hung together as a pair) to the portrait of Sir John Smyth, 3rd Baronet, her husband, which is also owned by Bristol Museum and Art Gallery and purchased in the 1947 sale.

This portrait is part of the City of Bristol Collection and is currently (2022) in Store.

At the time of Hector Paterson's photographic images of the interior of Ashton Court in the late 1920s it was hung in the Great Hall where it can be seen above and to the right of the fireplace.



Image: Mb6062©Bristol Culture

**Who was Ann Pym and how was she connected to Ashton Court?**

Ann Pym was the wife of Sir John Smyth (1699–1741), 3rd Baronet. She was born in Oxfordshire and married John Smyth on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November 1728 at St. Benet's, Paul's Wharf, City of London. Ann died young in 1733 and little else is known about her. She was a 'commoner' so possibly brought no fortune to the house. There were no children of this marriage and after John's death Ashton Court passed to John's sister Florence and to her descendants.