

Lot 1031 Portrait of Jane Tewther, married Matthew Smyth, with Coat of Arms in corner. 36 in. x 34 in. (on panel). In black and gilt frame.



Image: scanned copy from Ashton Court by Anton Bantock. ©unknown

Anton Bantock included this image of the portrait of Jane Tewther in his book Ashton Court in the Images of England series.

Without any more details it has not been possible to establish if this is lot 1031 or the current whereabouts of the portrait.

In 1935 Esme insured a portrait of Jane Tewther for £75.

In one of his other books Anton reported that the portrait was sold by Roger Warner, an antiques dealer, who photographed it before selling it. Roger Warner purchased other items in the 1947 sale so there is no reason to doubt that this portrait was also one of his purchases.

Who was Jane Tewther?

Jane Tewther was the daughter of Thomas Tewther of Ludlow. When she married Matthew Smyth she brought a fortune to Ashton Court and was connected by birth to the Tudor and Spanish courts.

When Matthew's elder brother, Hugh, died in 1580 she and Matthew moved to Ashton Court. Matthew, who had become a highly respected lawyer, died 3 years later in 1583.

Matthew and Jane added to the work already started by Matthew's father, John Smyth, who had added the west facing gables and the porch. Jane stayed on at Ashton Court after Matthew's death until her own death 11 years later.

We are told she ran the Estate with energy and efficiency including the purchase of land to the south including three quarters of the estate of Ashton Phillips, now Lower Court Farm.