

Portrait of Sir John Smyth 4th Bt. (1776-1849) by Rolinda Sharples.



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This tiny portrait (9.5 x 7.6 cm) was sold to Bristol Museums and Galleries in 1931.

Was it a portrait that Esme sold? Is it the “*earlier miniature*” mentioned with lot 960?

Rolinda Sharples recorded in her diary in 1829:

“In the latter end of the summer I went to Ashton Court to paint a sketch of Sir John Smith’s [sic] carriage, and 4 horses. Sir John was very polite. When the sketch was completed, Sir John ... much pleased with it & a copy was requested which I executed, and from a sketch I had made of Sir John 2 miniature copies on ivory for his sisters ... I have commenced another copy large as life, Sir John to sit for the finishing to be hung amongst other family portraits ...”

The ‘large as life’ portrait has been identified as Lot 960 “*Portrait of Sir John Smyth, fourth Baronet of the second creation, died unmarried, 1776-1849. 29 in. x 24 in. (copied from earlier miniature)*”

This portrait is also in the Bristol Museums, Galleries and Archives collection.