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A Gentleman, set in locket with heart shaped clasp

SOLD

REF: 4689

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## Short Description

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The miniature is set into a gold locket with heart shaped clasp on the reverse - showing the real purpose of this portrait, ' a token of affection.'

Crosse was, like one of his sisters, completely deaf and never able to speak.

Crosse fell in love with his cousin, Sarah Cobley, but she was already engaged to Benjamin Haydon - and it appears that he was deeply affected by his disappointment, leaving Crosse heartbroken. He is said to have felt the pain of this unrequited love for the rest of his life, and never married. Crosse lived and worked in Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, London from 1760. His brother kept house and acted as liaison between Crosse and his clients. Crosse retired to Wells in the late 1790s, and lived with Miss Cobley's brother. Crosse met Sarah Cobley again in 1807, when she decided to visit her brother after she learned she was suffering from a fatal illness. She arrived unexpectedly, and her brother was not able to get Crosse out of the house beforehand. On seeing Sarah after so many years, Crosse rushed up to her and embraced her with strong emotion. She died the next day. Crosse died in May 1810, at his old family home in Knowle.

Crosse's miniatures often seem to be dominated by a shade of greenish-blue, maybe influenced by the early work of Joshua Reynolds, as is apparent in this portrait.

## More Information

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Year	Circa 1770
Literature	<p>The Comerford Collection: Portrait Miniatures, (Dublin, privately published, 2009) pp 10, 48 (#198).</p> <p>(1) J.D. Oswald (2012). 'Richard Crosse'. official website of Henrietta Street. Retrieved 2014-04-18.</p>
Exhibition	Comerford Collection at the Irish Architectural Archives in Dublin, in 2009