
An 18th century portrait miniature of Mrs Frederick De Lisle, nee Elizabeth Janvrin, painted on ivory

SOLD

REF: 5050

Height: 8 cm (3 1/4") Width: 5.5 cm (2 1/4")



Short Description

Signed on the obverse and dated 1803, wearing a white dress trimmed with gold thread, red coral bead necklace and pearl brooch in her hair

This enchanting portrait forms an important piece in the history of Jersey. Elizabeth was the grand daughter of Brelade Janvrin, a rich island ship owner and Elizabeth de Lecq. The legend goes that Elizabeth was courted by a Russian General from Belleview, who wished to marry her. One day her father arrived home unexpectedly so she had to hide the General in a cupboard. Many years later a family cousin was in the Navy, went to Riga where he met the Governor, who on hearing that he came from Jersey, asked if he knew Miss Bessie Janvrin and was she married. The officer said that she was his cousin and that she was married, the Governor replied with a sigh 'Ah so am I'.

Elizabeth married Frederick de Lisle, c. 1803 and they had 9 children and many grandchildren. He was the son of Pierre de Lisle and Mary de Jersey and was a London banker. In 1812 Elizabeth inherited the family house 'Le Coin' and it was sold by her younger son in 1885. Elizabeth is recorded in the The Gentleman's magazine as dying in 1842 aged 76.

More Information

Year	1803.
Medium	watercolour on ivory.
Signed	Signed on the obverse
Literature	Further Light on the Russians in Jersey, by Stevens, 1968 where this miniature is illustrated with her husband.
Condition	Good