



Portrait of Walter Raleigh

HOUBRAKEN, Jacobus.
Sr. Walter Raleigh

London, J & P Knapton, 1739. Copper engraving. 370 x 230 mm

£190

Famous engraving of Sir Walter Raleigh (1554-1618), a poet, writer, explorer, soldier, sailor, courtier and favourite of the Queen, Raleigh was a true "Renaissance Man". Much of his literary work is lost, but about thirty short poems and various prose works survive, including History of the World. Jacobus Houbraken was a Dutch engraver, who was born in Dordrecht. He learned the art of engraving from his father, Arnold Houbraken (1660-1719), and devoted himself almost entirely to portraiture. His work became famous through his collaboration with the historian Thomas Birch and artist George Vertue, on the project entitled, Heads of Illustrious Persons of Great Britain, published in parts in London from 1743 to 1752, and from which this portrait comes from.

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