



Passion for Fashion (103)

Mon, 20th Nov 2017 GMT/BST

Lot 101

Estimate: £40000 - £60000 + Fees

A rare crimson velvet jerkin, circa 1610-25, short-waisted with slight graduation to front, the shoulder wings and hem with tabbed edges adorned with wine silk and gold thread plaited braid, the graduated stand collar interlined with heavy buckram, the main jerkin interlined with natural un-bleached linen, curved back seams and two lines of braid to the back, silver-gilt wrapped acorn shaped buttons, the hem tabs and collar lined in crimson silk, chest 102cm, 42in; together with purpose-made mount (2)

An additional 5% VAT is payable on the hammer price, this can be refunded if proof of export outside the EU is provided within 6 months of the sale date.

Provenance: The Helen Larson Private Collection

Published: The Journal of the Costume Society, no 5, 1971, 'A Study of Three Jerkins' by Janet Arnold - the renowned scholar of early dress.

Few specimens of late 16th or early 17th century costume survive. The jerkin as a garment was worn to protect the rich doublet worn below, and to provide extra warmth or protection. Utilitarian or military examples were made in leather - but this example in the finest Italian velvet must have belonged to a man of great wealth and importance. The shortness of the waist and slightly curved silhouette served to emphasise the well-rounded belly of its owner - a desirable fashionable attribute in the early 17th century.

Records suggest that the piece was acquired by Helen Larson from a dealer in Connecticut in 1968 but no earlier provenance has been found.