

KLAAS MULLER

D U T C H S C H O O L , L A T E 1 7 T H

Portrait of an East-European Nobleman (probably Peter the Great of Russia)

The man, wearing a blue shirt and a red mantle with a fur trim and -had is looking the spectator phlegmatic straight in the eyes.

There has been some discussion about the portrayed person. Traditionally, the sitter was considered to be Tsar Peter the Great of Russia. In our view, this is certainly probable (and we are not alone in this): the man appears to be in his forties and if we look at the rare portraits and the somewhat less rare engravings of the tsar from when he was around 30 years old, he is indeed somewhat more aged and puffier, but the similarities are striking.

Tsar Peter (1672-1725) traveled to Europe at least twice (Germany Holland, England, France but also Antwerp): in 1697 and in 1716-17. He was especially interested in shipbuilding and the operation of military equipment but he also had himself portrayed several times (or instance by Carel De Moor).

Oil on canvas, 71,5 x 62cm

