



Michael Collins

Date

c.1935

Primary Maker

Sir John Lavery

Medium

Oil on canvas

Dimensions

65 × 45 cm

Description

Michael Collins is best known for running a highly effective spy network during the War of Independence. The portrait Lavery painted of Collins during the Treaty negotiations, with the telltale moustache he wore at the time as a disguise, was given by the artist to Collin's fiancée Kitty Kiernan (painting untraced). This portrait now in the Hugh Lane was most probably painted posthumously and given

to the Gallery to complete the collection of portraits of the Irish delegates. Lavery also sold facsimiles of the sketches for the Griffith and Collins portraits, signed by both the artist and the sitter. (Catalogue Entry [32]: Hazel, Lady Lavery Society and Politics, Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery of Modern Art, 18 September - 3 November 1996, pp. 225-226)