

**Anthony Fogg after William Hogarth, Portrait of Earl Onslow, 1803 (?), stipple etching on paper, 439 x 367 mm (image), 546 x 405 mm (plate), 612 x 462 mm (sheet), inscribed directly below „Engraved by A Fogg Historical Engraver to his Royal Highness Prince Wm Frederick / Sir Robert Walpole / The R.t Hon.ble Arthur Onslow / Sydney Godolphin Father of the House / Sir Jos.h Jekyl / Col. Onslow / Edw.d Stables Esq.r Clerk of House of Commons / Sir James Thornhill / Mr. Aiskew Clerk Assistant H.C.“, below „To the Right Hon.ble Earl Onslow / This Plate representing the HOUSE of COMMONS in Sir Robert Walpoles Administration / Is with Permission dedicated by His Lordships most obedient humble Serv.t E. Harding / From an original Picture painted by Hogarth and Sir James Thornhill in the collection of Earl Onslow / London Published Novr 1 1803 by E. Harding No. 100 Pall Mall“, unframed. Condition: good, but with various mold stains on the front and back sides; image itself not affected by this.**

**The picture was provided – in museum quality – with a new passe-partout (80 x 65 cm) of the company HALBE. A fitting frame – in museum quality – with museum glass (anti-reflective, very high UV protection, anti-static, abrasion resistant) of the company HALBE can be provided on request.**

William Hogarth (London 1697 – 1764 London) was, alongside Thomas Gainsborough (1727–1788) and Joshua Reynolds (1723–1792), the most important English artist of the 18th century. Coming from an impoverished background, he differed from both of them in that, as a painter and graphic artist, he often held up a mirror to the customs and traditions and protagonists of his time with biting irony in his satirical picture series and as a precursor to later caricaturists.

Nevertheless, Hogarth was extremely successful as an artist, so much so that his famous series of paintings—such as the conversation pieces and *A Rake's Progress*—and individual engravings such as *Beer Street* were so widely forged or pirated during his lifetime that he felt compelled to take action against it. In 1735, he obtained the introduction of a copyright law in court, which is still associated with his name today as the *Hogarth Act*. It was not until late in his life (1757) that he was appointed court painter by King George II (1683–1760), but under his successor, George III (1738–1820), he no longer played a role at court.

Hogarth painted the portrait of Earl Onslow in 1730 together with his colleague James Thornhill (1675–1734). It is titled *Speaker Arthur Onslow calling upon Sir Robert Walpole to speak in the House of Commons*. It now belongs to the National Trust and, until a devastating fire in 2015, was housed in the library of Clandon Park mansion in Surrey, the former seat of the Onslow family. The painting was one of only a few objects that could be saved.

It shows the then Speaker of the House of Commons, Arthur Onslow (1691–1768), sitting in the architecturally elaborate Speaker's Chair, asking Britain's first Prime Minister, Sir Robert Walpole, 1st Earl of Orford (1676–1745), to address the House of Commons. Chief Secretary Edward Stables and his assistant Michael Aiskew are seated to the left of the Speaker. Seated on the front benches of the Members of Parliament, who are recognizable by their hats, are, from left to right in the background of the picture: Sidney Godolphin, 1st Earl of Godolphin (1645–1712), the Father of the House (MP for St Germain's), Colonel Richard Onslow (1654–1717), brother of the Speaker of the House of Commons (MP for Guildford), and the artist Sir James Thornhill (MP for Melcombe Regis). Other figures depicted include Sir Joseph Jekyll (1663–1738), Sir Thomas Cotton (dates unknown), and Sir William Wyndham (1688–1740).

The reproduction, which is much better known than the painting, was produced in 1803 by Anthony Fogg (fl. 1792–1806) and was reprinted several times from the original plates over the following decades. Whether and from which series the print offered here is such a later reprint can no longer be verified.