

# The Frick Collection: Detail Report

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## Portrait of a Man in Pilgrim's Costume

Rosalba Carriera (Italian, 1673–1757)

**Date** ca. 1730

**Medium** Pastel on paper, laid down on canvas

**Dimensions** 23 1/4 × 18 15/16 in. (59.1 × 48.1 cm)

**Credit Line** Gift of Alexis Gregory, 2020

**Accession Number** 2020.3.01

Not On View

**Commentary** The black cape the sitter wears and the baton he holds are typical attributes of a pilgrim. It is not known who the sitter is, but these attributes could be a reference to his surname—Pellegrini (Italian), Pilgrim (English), Pèlerin (French), Pilger (German). It is more likely, however, that these elements, together with the sitter's casually placed tricorn hat, represent a costume for the Venetian Carnival. In 1720–21, Rosalba traveled to Paris, where she became acquainted with Antoine Watteau (1684–1721). In a number of paintings, Watteau depicts aristocrats in pilgrim attire journeying to the mythological island of love. It is possible that this portrait was commissioned by a nobleman familiar with Watteau's art and desirous of an allusion to it.

**Collection History** European private collection; Bob Haboltd collection; acquired by Sotheby's, 1998; purchased by Alexis Gregory, 1998; Gift to The Frick Collection, 2020