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Missing polymath

I am trying to discover the whereabouts of a full-length portrait of the Croatian polymath Roger Joseph Boscovich, S.J. painted in London in 1760 by Robert Edge Pine.

Father Boscovich (1711-87) was well known throughout Europe as the author of *Theory of Natural Philosophy*, 1758, and also as an outstanding proponent of Newtonian physics. He had worked with James "Athenian" Stuart in Rome in 1750 (on the Campus Martius obelisk), and in 1760 he was made a Fellow of the Royal Society, proposed by Lord Macclesfield and several others. He was lionised by the learned and fashionable alike.

Shown above is a copy, also by Pine, of the

upper part of the original. The original portrait was commissioned by the London surgeon William Bromfield, a member of the Royal Society, and may have been in his possession and passed to his married sister, Hannah Ferrers, and her descendants, some of whom bore the name Bromfield Ferrers. The Royal Society, the Society of Jesus, the main London art institutions and various relevant bodies in Croatia have no information about this work since about 1760.

The Royal Society may hold an exhibition in November to honour the 300th anniversary of Boscovich's birth. It would be a magnificent addition to this show if the portrait of this eminent Croatian could be found and displayed. Any information about it will be gratefully received.

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