Frederick William (“the Great Elector”) as Scipio (c. 1660)

Abstract

Fredrick William (the “Great Elector”) commissioned numerous portraits of himself during the forty-eight years he ruled Brandenburg (r. 1640-88). The portrait below was executed roughly halfway through his reign when Frederick William’s once youthful figure had assumed the portly proportions of middle age. He appears as Scipio, the Roman general who defeated Hannibal in the Second Punic War.

Source

Source: Frederick Wilhelm as Scipio, ascribed to Albert van der Eeckhout, c. 1660.
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