Oil painting - Man in a Red Hat Smoking a Pipe

Object: Oil painting

Place of origin: England (probably, painted)

Date: ca. 1800-ca. 1830 (painted)

Artist/Maker: Unknown

Materials and Techniques: Oil on board

Credit Line: Given by Miss Georges Patry

Museum number: W.49.2-1925

Gallery location: In Storage

Public access description
This oil painting on board was made for the interior of a dolls' house known as the May Foster House from the Museum of Childhood's collection. It shows a man in peasant's clothing sitting at a table with his elbows leaning on a round table facing the right. He is smoking a pipe and has a jug by his side. He is probably at a public house. His clothes are simple, a white shirt with reddish trousers and hat and a waistcoat. The execution of the painting is skillful with tiny brushstrokes and suggests it was undertaken by a professional artist, although we do not know who this was as the painting is not signed. This painting is very similar in style and content to another one from the same dolls' house.

Descriptive line
man leaning on a table smoking a pipe, red hat, facing right; oil on board, unframed. Foster Dolls' House, probably English, 1800-30

Physical description
This small painting made for a dolls' house interior is of a man in peasant's dress. He is facing to the right with both elbows leaning on a small round table. He is smoking a pipe and has a jug next to him on the table. The painting is of a dark palate and the setting could be the interior of a public house. The painting is skillfully executed and was probably done by a professional artist rather than an amateur, but would not have been completed as a part of the dolls' house as a whole.

Dimensions
Height: 5.8 cm board, Width: 5 cm board

Museum number
W.49.2-1925

Object history note
This painting is a part of a dolls' house known as May Foster's House made in England in about 1800. The exact origin of the painting is not clear as it probably was not produced specifically for the house. The house was produced between 1800-1830.

URL
http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O135483/man-in-a-red-hat-oil-painting-unknown/