THE LIMNER COMPANY

JOHN BARRY (fl. 1784-1827)

Portrait miniature of a Field Officer wearing the undress uniform of a Royal regiment

Circa: circa 1796-1815

circa 1796-1815

Watercolour on ivory (licence JY7KKBEG)

Oval, 63 mm (2 ½ in) high

Reverse glazed to reveal oval blue glass plaque with seed pearl border with a monogram of seed pearls 'MCE' on plaited hair

We are grateful to Stephen Wood for his expertise identifying the military uniform.

There is scant biographical information known about John Barry beyond the dates that he exhibited at the Royal Academy, 1784-1827. His immaculately finished style was highly esteemed by the miniatures scholar Daphne Foskett and his work can be found in the Victoria and Albert Museum.

The sitter can be identified as a field officer, that is to say he was of the rank of major, lieutenant-colonel or colonel. He wears the undress uniform of a Royal regiment, which is signified by the fact that his coatee has dark blue facings - possibly velvet - together with gilt buttons. The coatee is of the period circa 1796-1815.