

SA1202263

Henry Bone ARA - Enamel Miniature of Sir John Deas Thomson

Price

GBP 2,200

| USD \$2,971 | EUR 2,576

Item Reference: SA1202263

Date of manufacture: 19th Century

Dimensions

Height = 8.4 cm (3.3")

Width = 7 cm (2.8")

Description

Resplendent in his naval uniform and decorated with two epaulettes, this enamel portrait by Henry Bone depicts Naval Commissioner Sir John Deas Thomson. Born in Edinburgh in 1763, Thomson had a successful career in naval administration as had his father before him but, as a young man, he first travelled to Charleston, South Carolina where his mother had family. There he managed his uncle's plantation before ambition led him to strike out on his own as a merchant. He married Rebecca Freer, the daughter of an influential planter, became a US citizen and planned to settle permanently in South Carolina. His parents, however, were not supportive of this and so persuaded him to return with his wife to Edinburgh. There he continued to work as a merchant before being appointed to his father's old post as Navy Commissioner. In 1805 Sir Charles Middleton, a relative of Thomson's mother, was appointed First Lord of the Admiralty. He in turn appointed Thomson as his Private Secretary prompting a move to London. Thomson was innovative and had strong administrative skills; his legacy was to doggedly convince the Navy to adopt double-entry book-keeping. Thomson's later career saw hi...

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