

SA856471

Early 19thc miniature portrait of a naval officer c1805

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA856471****Date of manufacture: 1800**

Dimensions

Height = 7 cm (2.8")

Width = 6 cm (2.4")

Depth = 4 cm (1.6")

Description

An early 19thc miniature portrait of a naval officer c1805. Painted in watercolour on card and unsigned. This miniature portrait is framed in a good quality brass frame, with an inner raised frame holding the glass front, and a twisted rope brass surround. The frame has a solid easel back. It is also embellished with a brass miniature anchor soldered to the frame. A mark on the left of the frame suggests another fixture, now lost. The naval officer is young, and wears his navy coat unbuttoned. He holds a baton or similar object, suggesting he may have been a navigator. He has reddish hair and an even penetrating gaze. The twisted rope and anchor, and officer's dress suggest a connection with the Battle of Trafalgar. I have researched the English officers of that battle - most of their known portraits are of later life. The nearest likeness from the portraits available, I consider, is to Thomas Masterman Hardy, flag captain on HMS Victory, under Lord Nelson's command. Further research would be needed to ascertain the identity of the sitter. However, the miniature is painted with exquisite detail in every part - hair, eyes, hands, uniform, folds of the waistcoat...

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