Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Thomas Halliday Portrait Plaque of Arthur Wellesley, Marquess Wellington and Duke of Ciudad Rodrigo, 1812

£420

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REF: 7298

Height: 7 cm (2.8")

Width: 5 cm (2")

Framed Height: 12 cm (4.7")

Framed Width: 10 cm (3.9")

Description

A rare and important commemorative portrait plaque of Arthur Wellesley, later the 1st Duke of Wellington, by the accomplished British medallist Thomas Halliday, dated 1812. Presented in an elegant ebony frame, the plaque celebrates Wellesley at the height of his Peninsular War campaigns, when his military leadership had made him one of Britain's most admired public figures.

The profile portrait depicts Wellington in the formal, authoritative manner associated with early 19th-century commemorative medallic art. Its inscription records his contemporary titles, including Field Marshal, Marquess Wellington, and *El Duque de Ciudad Rodrigo*-the Spanish dukedom awarded to him in 1812 in recognition of his victories over Napoleon's forces. The plaque therefore captures a particularly significant moment in his career, before his elevation to a British dukedom in 1814 and long before his defining victory at Waterloo in 1815.

Thomas Halliday was one of the leading British medallists of the period, admired for his finely modelled portraiture and ability to convey both likeness and character within the compact scale of a medal or plaque. Here, the strong profile, military dress, and carefully composed lettering produce an object of considerable historical presence.

The dark ebony frame offers a handsome contrast to the portrait plaque and lends the piece the appearance of a private commemorative or presentation object. Together, plaque and frame make a compelling survival from the period of Wellington's greatest early military achievements.

An exceptional object for collectors of British political and military portraiture, Napoleonic and Peninsular War memorabilia, medallic art, or early 19th-century decorative objects. It offers a direct connection to one of Britain's most celebrated commanders and to the European campaign that established his international reputation.

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