42.1156

JOHN SMART (British, 1741–1811)

Portrait of Lieutenant General Daniel Burr

1799

Watercolor on ivory; oval, 8.8 x 7.2 cm (3½ x 2⅞ in.)

Signature: signed lower right: JS / 1799

Setting: gold frame; the verso contains gilt initials *DB* and an intricate pattern of braided hair; engraved on back: Lieut. General Daniel Burr, Died 19th Feb.y 1828. ae.t 78. / Smart, Artist

The Edward B. Greene Collection, 1942.1156

Provenance

Before 1930
Benjamin Nathan (London).

1930
Leo Schidlof (1886–1966, Paris).

1930
Purchased by Edward B. Greene (1878–1957, Cleveland) from Leo Schidlof for $800; gift to the Cleveland Museum of Art, 1942.

1942
The Cleveland Museum of Art.

Exhibitions

1799
Royal Academy of Art, London, no. 784.

1965–66
William Rockhill Nelson Gallery of Art, Kansas City, *John Smart—Miniaturist 1741/42–1811,* December 9–January 2, no. 34 (not repr.).

Bibliography

Chong, Alan, ed. *European and American Painting in The Cleveland Museum of Art,* p. 305. Cleveland: Cleveland Museum of Art, 1993.

Milliken, William M., and Harry B. Wehle. *Portrait Miniatures: The Edward B. Greene Collection,* pp. 30–31, no. 37, pl. IX. Cleveland: Cleveland Museum of Art, 1951.

DANIEL BURR (1750–1828) is depicted here as colonel of the 10th Madras Native Infantry.[1] He joined the East India Company in 1767 as a cadet, became an ensign in 1768, a colonel in 1797, and achieved the rank of major general in 1805. The work is signed and dated "JS / 1799," indicating that John Smart painted Burr while the officer was back in England on furlough between 30 July 1798 and 2 April 1799. Diarist Joseph Farington noted in 1798 that Smart was charging 25 guineas for his portrait miniatures and making from £500 to £600 a year.[2] By comparison, George Engleheart (1752–1829) during this period was charging 12 to 15 guineas for his portrait miniatures, and even in the 1780s, Richard Cosway (1742–1821) was known to charge between 20 and 30 guineas.[3]

1 Daniel Burr, *Memoir of the Life of Lieut. Gen. Daniel Burr* (London: W. Bulmer and W. Nichol, 1821).
2 Farington reported in his diary entry for 28 July 1798 that this information was communicated to him by William Daniell, a mutual friend and British artist who worked extensively in India. Joseph Farington, *The Diary of Joseph Farington,* eds. Kenneth Garlick and Angus MacIntyre, vol. 3, Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1978), p. 1040.
3 George Charles Williamson, *George Engleheart, 1750–1829, Miniature Painter to George III* (London: G. Bell & Sons, 1902), p. 39. Julie Aronson and Marjorie Wieseman, *Perfect Likeness: European and American Portrait Miniatures from the Cincinnati Art Museum* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2006), p. 23.

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This work was exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1799 (no. 784) as "Portrait of Colonel Burr." It was formerly in the collection of Benjamin Nathan, a wealthy London goldsmith and diamond dealer whose heirs did not wish to retain the miniature and sold it upon his death.[4] Here, Daniel Burr has a ruddy complexion, gray hair, and brown eyes. He wears a red military coat, with dull orange velvet facings, over a jabot with a high white collar and frills. On his left shoulder is a white, fringed epaulet with two gold stars. The background is mottled gray. The miniature is housed in a gold frame with a gold monogram DB and an arrangement of dark brown hair in a medallion on the back. At slightly over 3 inches, this miniature is larger than was customary for Smart during his time in India; it was obviously painted later, when Smart and the officer had returned to England. Smart also painted the miniature portrait of Burr's first wife, Lucy (née Parry).[5]

A second portrait of Burr was executed by Smart in 1803 (fig. 1) and sold at Christie's, London, in 2009.[6] This version is signed with initials and dated: "JS / 1803." Burr's hair is worn *à l'antique*, and his uniform includes a gold epaulet with two star rank-badges and the Honourable East India Company's coat of arms. Burr occupied the rank of colonel in both the 1799 and 1803 portraits, but the uniform differs in the latter because in 1801 the facings of the 10th Madras Native Infantry uniform were altered to red and rank-badges were added to the now gold epaulets.[7] Curiously, Burr appears younger in the 1803 portrait than in the 1799 version, in which his crow's feet and sagging jowls are more pronounced. The 1803 portrait of Burr was exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1811 (no. 637), the year Smart died. A sketch after Smart of Burr was executed by R. Greaves,[8] and a three-quarter length portrait by Sir Martin Archer Shee was exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1825 (no. 146).[9] CORY KORKOW

Figure 1. *Portrait of Lieutenant General Daniel Burr (1749–1828), when Colonel of the 10th Madras Native Infantry,* 1803. John Smart. Watercolor on ivory; h. 8.6 cm (3⅜ in.). From *Centuries of Style: Silver, European Ceramics, Portrait Miniatures and Gold Boxes* (London: Christie's, 2 June 2009), lot 263.

4 According to a letter from Leo Schidlof dated 3 December 1929, as documented in the CMA curatorial file.
5 *Centuries of Style: Silver, European Ceramics, Portrait Miniatures and Gold Boxes* (London: Christie's, 2 June 2009), lot 268.
6 Ibid., lot 263.
7 Ibid., notes for lot 263.
8 Ibid.

9 Algernon Graves, *The Royal Academy of Arts. A Complete Dictionary of Contributors and their work from its foundation in 1769 to 1904*, vol. 7 (London: Henry Graves and Co., 1906), p. 100.