
William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland 'The Butcher' KG
(1721 - 1767) English School, circa 1740

£2,500

REF: 5288

Height: 7.5 cm (2 1/1")



Short Description

Standing half length holding a baton in state dress
painted in enamel on copper, set in a chased gilt-metal foliate frame

William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland was the third and favourite son of King George II. He followed a short spell in the navy with a career in the military, serving at the Battle of Dettingen in 1743 where he was wounded below the knee, an injury from which he never recovered. He commanded the army which pursued Prince Charles Edward Stewart during the 1745 Rising and defeated the Jacobite army at the Battle of Culloden 1746. As a result of his ruthless treatment of the rebels he earned the nickname the 'Butcher' but he remained Captain-General of the Army until 1757, presiding over a number of important military reforms. His disgrace followed the making an unwise truce with the French in Germany.

Out of jealousy - Horace Walpole had said of Cumberland in 1745: "the soldiers adore him, and with reason; he has a lion"s courage, vast vigilance and activity, and, I am told, great military genius" (Letters ii 4)

More Information

Year	Circa 1740
Medium	Enamel on copper
Condition	not opened