

The Frick Collection: Detail Report



General John Burgoyne

Joshua Reynolds (British, 1723-1792)

Date ca. 1766

Medium Oil on canvas

Dimensions 50 × 39 7/8 in. (127 × 101.3 cm)

Credit Line Purchased by The Frick Collection, 1943

Accession Number 1943.1.149

Currently On View

First Floor, Room 16, East Gallery

Commentary Best remembered as the British commander who in 1777 surrendered to American forces at Saratoga, John Burgoyne (1722-92) was also known in his day as a dandy, gambler, actor, amateur playwright, and Member of Parliament. This portrait may have been commissioned by his senior officer, Count La Lippe, as a memento of their Portuguese campaign of 1762. It is presumably the portrait that resulted from a sitting by General Burgoyne noted in Reynolds' ledger for May of 1766; Burgoyne's uniform is that of the Sixteenth Light Dragoons as it was worn until that month. The composition, with the dashing figure silhouetted before a low horizon and cloudy sky, was to become a classic type in Romantic portraiture. Source: *Art in The Frick Collection: Paintings, Sculpture, Decorative Arts*, New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1996.

Collection History Count La Lippe, London, acquired in 1767 (?). Princes of Schaumburg-Lippe, Schloss Bückeburg, Germany. P. Rusch, Dresden. J. Pierpont Morgan. Knoedler. Frick, 1945. Source: *Paintings in The Frick Collection: American, British, Dutch, Flemish and German. Volume I*. New York: The Frick Collection, 1968.