Finch & Co

A REMARKABLE AND INTERESTING COLLECTION OF 45 ORIGINAL WATERCOLOUR DRAWINGS

A REMARKABLE AND INTERESTING COLLECTION OF 45 ORIGINAL WATERCOLOUR DRAWINGS OF THE UNIFORMS OF THE MANY DIVERSE REGIMENTS WHICH SERVED IN THE 'FIRST COALITION' DURING THE FRENCH REVOLUTIONARY WARS

SIGNED 'PINXIT. C J SMITH'

WATERCOLOUR, INK AND PENCIL ON PAPER

LATE 18TH CENTURY, VARIOUSLY DATED 1793 – 1796

SIZE: 21.5CM HIGH, 18CM WIDE – 8½ INS HIGH, 7 INS WIDE (EACH APPROX.)

LITERATURE

DEPICTED IN THESE 45 WATERCOLOURS ARE SOME OF THE UNIFORMS WORN BY THE MANY DIVERSE REGIMENTS SERVING IN THE NETHERLANDS EXPEDITION OF 1793 – 1796 WHO COMPRISED THE 'FIRST COALITION'. THIS 'FIRST COALITION' IN FLANDERS WAS MADE UP OF ENGLISH, DUTCH AUSTRIAN AND PRUSSIAN TROOPS TOGETHER WITH LOYAL FRENCH ÉMIGRÉS IN THE SERVICE OF THE BRITISH. THE ENGLISH CONTINGENT WAS UNDER THE COMMAND OF FREDERICK AUGUSTUS, DUKE OF YORK.

THE FRENCH REVOLUTIONARY WARS CONSISTED OF A SERIES OF CAMPAIGNS BETWEEN FRANCE AND ITS NEIGHBOURING EUROPEAN STATES HOSTILE TO THE REVOLUTION AND TO FRENCH HEGEMONY. FRANCE BEGAN BY DECLARING WAR ON EMPORER FRANCIS II OF PRUSSIA AND SARDINIA, WHICH PRECIPITATED THE WAR OF THE 'FIRST COALITION' (1792 – 1797). FRENCH FORCES ATTACKED THE RHINE, THE NETHERLANDS AND SAVOY AFTER CHECKING AN INITIAL AUSTRO-PRUSSIAN ADVANCE AT VALMY IN 1792. FRANCE THEN LATER EXTENDED HOSTILITIES TO BRITAIN, HOLLAND AND SPAIN IN 1793. AFTER SUCCESSFULLY INVADING THE NETHERLANDS IN 1794 THE FRENCH BROKE THE COALITION OF 1798, ISOLATING BRITAIN. A SECOND COALITION EXPELLED THE FRENCH FORCES FROM ITALY AND THE RHINE LANDS BEFORE SUFFERING DEFEAT BY NAPOLEON I.

THE UNIFORMS REPRESENTED INCLUDE THOSE OF THE DUTCH TIMMERMAN HUSSARS, HANOVERIAN HORSE GUARDS,

AUSTRIAN BARCO HUSSARS, SAX COBOURG DRAGOONS, ESTERHAZE HUSSARS, ROYAL HORSE GUARDS OR OXFORD BLUES, HESSE DARMSTADT LIGHT INFANTRY, HESSE CASSEL LIGHT DRAGOONS, AUSTRIAN HUNGARIAN GRENADIERS, AUSTRIAN MICHALOWITZ BOSNIAN FREE CORPS, AUSTRIAN O'DONNEL FREE CORPS AND THE PRUSSIAN CHEVAUX LEGERS, AND MANY OTHERS.