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Princess Helena

RCIN 421999

Enamel on copper, circular, 59 mm diameter

Signed and inscribed on the counter-enamel in black paint: *H.R.H. / Princess Helena / B. May 1846. / Painted by W. Essex Enamel / painter to Her Majesty / & H.R.H. Prince Albert / after F. Winterhalter / 1846.*

Head and shoulders, looking backwards over her left shoulder, wearing a blue dress trimmed with lace.

Nineteenth-century gilded composition Rococo-style frame.

PROVENANCE: possibly the miniature 'of Helena' by Essex purchased in 1850 according to Queen Victoria's entry in her private accounts (RA VIC/ADD1/211/71); listed in the Prince Consort's Writing Room, Buckingham Palace, in 1875 (BP 1875, p. 62) and in 1877 (BP VR 1309).

EXHIBITED: either no. 364 or no. 365 was exhibited Great Exhibition 1851, II, p. 515, no. 241/58.

After Franz Xaver Winterhalter's oil portrait of Princess Helena painted in March 1849 (O. Millar 1992, no. 887).

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Princess Helena, 1850

RCIN 421885

Enamel, circular, 40 mm diameter

Signed, dated and inscribed on the counter-enamel in black paint: *H.R.H. / The Princess Helena / B. May 25 1846. / Painted by W. Essex Enamel / painter to Her Majesty & / H.R.H. Prince Albert / after F. Winterhalter. / 1850.*

Hatfield Audience Room frame. The condition of the enamel has deteriorated in parts of the background.

PROVENANCE: possibly the miniature listed in Queen Victoria's private accounts in 1850: 'To Mr Essex for an Enamel of Helena after Winterhalter £10.0.0.' (10 guineas) (RA VIC/ADD1/211/62); later recorded in the Queen's Audience Room, Windsor Castle (Enamels 1877, II, no. 253).

EXHIBITED: see cat. no. 364.

A second version after the same source by Franz Xaver Winterhalter as cat. no. 364.

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Princess Helena

RCIN 432033

Enamel on gold, oval, 35 x 18 mm

Inscribed on the reverse in William Essex's hand: *H.R.H. / Princess Helena* [the remainder covered by an old backing card which has been stuck to the counter-enamel].

Set in a gilt-metal mount in a framed set of miniatures of the children of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert (see cat. no. 18).

PROVENANCE: first listed in Enamels, no. 128, as 'Princess Helena (After Sir W. Ross Aug' 1852) done 1852 by Essex'.

A copy after William Ross's miniature of Princess Helena painted when she was aged six in August 1852 (cat. no. 718).