

The maker's mark of Thomas Price on British presentation swords

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Between 1810 and 1816, a series of fine presentation swords was manufactured, each of which was struck on its gold or silver-gilt hilt and scabbard mounts with the mark, 'T·P' in a rectangle, for the registered London gold 'smallworker' and sword-cutler, Thomas Price (figure 1). All but one of the swords recorded were commissioned by, and are signed, Rundell, Bridge & Rundell, the internationally renowned royal suppliers of presentation plate and military tokens, who were appointed Goldsmiths and Jewellers in Ordinary to George III on 15 March 1797 and who were the most prominent suppliers to the British royal family until 1843, when the firm went out of business.¹ Clearly, Price was one of Rundell's specialist outworkers for swords of honour (almost certainly their main manufacturer for this type of work between 1810 and 1816), and the royal retailing firm subcontracted a number of significant orders out to him to be made and delivered.

The swords in question are not elaborate gold or enamelled dress small-swords of the type predominantly made by James Morisset and later by his successors, John Ray and James Montague, between 1780 and 1816. The swords that bear Price's mark are various designs of ornate military or robe sword, such as Mameluke-hilted sabres, Infantry Officer's spadrons, boat-shell pattern swords, and stirrup-hilted weapons.²

To date, Price's mark has not been recorded on any sword before 1810. This suggests that, as his mark is found predominantly on elaborate military patterns of sword, he may have first been subcontracted by Rundell's to manufacture the presentation tokens which began to be awarded to those British officers involved in the land campaigns against Napoleon's armies on the Continent. For example, Price's mark is struck on several historic swords which were presented to those officers who had distinguished themselves in the battles of the Peninsular War (1808–14), such as the gifts awarded most notably by the Corporation of the City of London in 1811 to the Commander-in-Chief of the British and Allied Portuguese Armies, the then General Viscount Wellington, and to Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Graham of Balgowan (see below, also figures 7, 10–11).

Thomas Price was almost certainly born in 1763, but, at present, nothing is known about his early life and training. He is first recorded at his address of 13

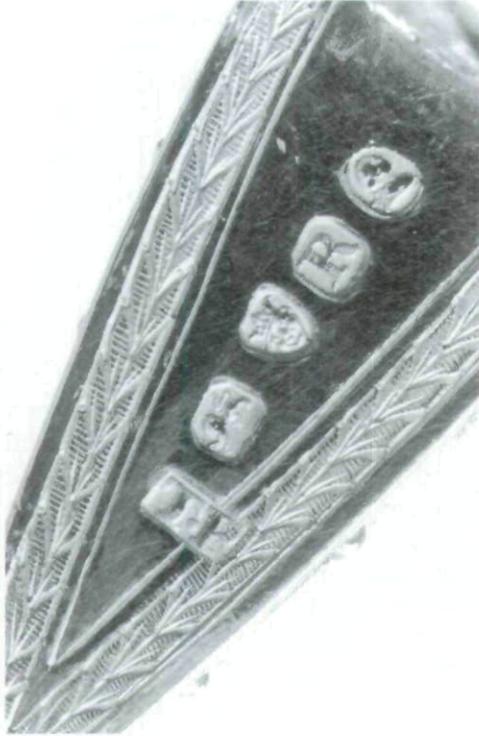


Figure 1 London hallmarks with date-letter 'R' for 1812-13 and maker's mark of Thomas Price struck on the quillon of the presentation sword of Lieutenant-General Thomas Graham, awarded 1811. National War Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh (1967-59H).

Weston Street, south off Pentonville Road, Parish of St James, Clerkenwell, in the Parish Poor Rate Book dated 9 August 1800, and he remained there until his death twenty years later (figure 2). He entered his one and only mark, 'T·P' in a rectangle, in the Smallworkers' Book at Goldsmiths' Hall on 6 August 1802 (Grimwade No. 2879) (figure 3) giving the above address and, three years later, *Holden's Directory for 1805* lists him as a 'Sword Cutler of 13 Weston Street'. Price died aged '57 years' in December 1820, and was buried at the Church of St James, Clerkenwell, on 21 December 1820 (figure 4). The rate books confirm that he was succeeded at Weston Street by 'Jane Price' (almost certainly his widow), who is listed as residing at that address until 1823.

The trading activities of retailers and manufacturers are not always easy to determine, especially when examining the work of a man like Thomas Price, who appears to have left nothing in the way of information relating to his life and activities. For example, Price left no will, which prevents us from knowing anything about his family life or his business, or in what way his work for the leading goldsmiths of the day may have benefited him, or the various share and property holdings he may have held, or some of the luxuries of life he may have enjoyed and left to others, such as those mentioned, for example, in the wills of his contemporaries, James Morisset, John Northam and Richard Johnston.³

Price is described as a 'sword-cutler' in *Holden's Directory of 1805*, yet no sword of note has apparently come to light with his name and address engraved on the top-locket of a scabbard. If this had been the case, it would suggest that

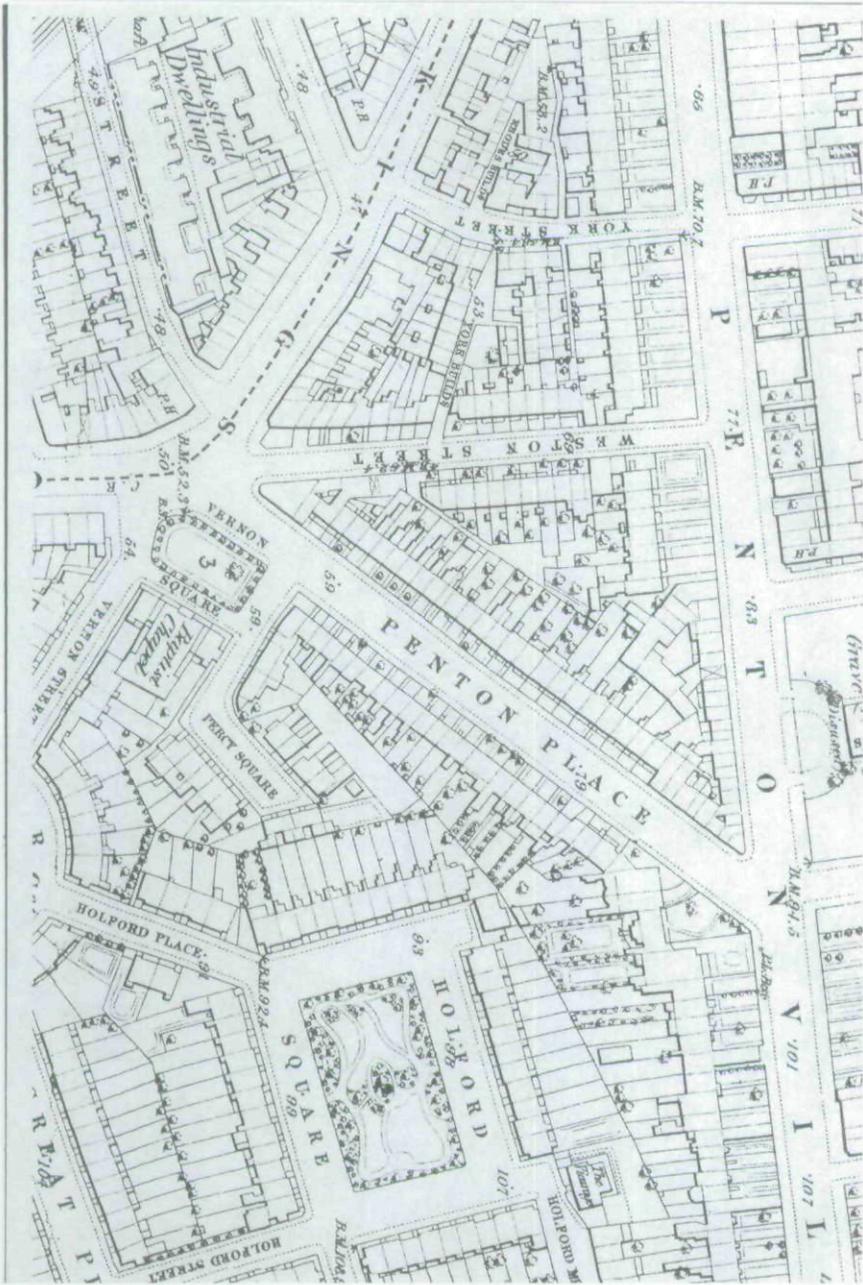


Figure 2 Detail of the parish of St James, Clerkenwell, showing Weston Street, south off Pentonville Road, where Thomas Price lived from 1800 until his death in 1820 (Weston Street is now Weston Rise, a short thoroughfare on the same site. To the north-west, off the map, lies King's Cross). The Godfrey Edition, Ordnance Survey Map, 1871.

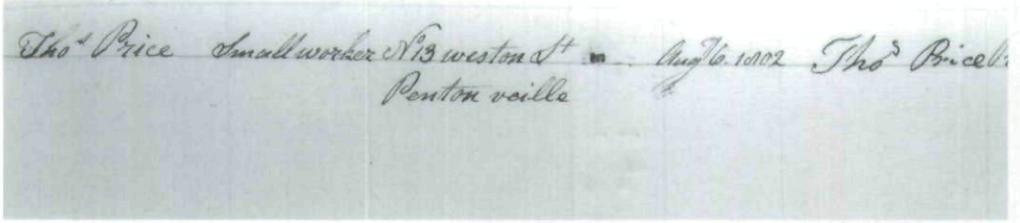


Figure 3 The maker's mark of Thomas Price registered in the Smallworkers' Book at Goldsmiths' Hall on 6 August 1802. By courtesy of the Goldsmiths' Company of London.



Figure 4 Parish Church and graveyard of St James, Clerkenwell, where Thomas Price was buried on 21 December 1820. Aquatint by William Fellows, about 1820. Guildhall Library, City of London (8453).

he might have been a retailing tradesman of swords and accoutrements, like the royal cutlers James Cullum or John Prosser of Charing Cross. If such a sword existed, with both Price's mark and signature, this again would suggest that Price may have been a 'sponsoring' retailer, like the sword-cutlers, John Beckett and Richard Johnston of St James's Street, John Prosser of Charing Cross, Joshua Johnston of Newcastle Street, or John Salter in the Strand, whose names and maker's mark are very occasionally found on swords of quality (the maker's marks on these particular tradesmen's swords do not imply that the men had actually

made the swords they retailed, merely that they were the commissioning agent or 'sponsor' of the product, who stamped their 'sponsor's mark' and signature on goods that they had ordered to be made by outworkers and then sold under their own name).⁴ Moreover, although Price's mark has not been found on a sword datable before 1810, he had registered his maker's 'touch' eight years before at Goldsmiths' Hall (see figure 3), which suggests that he was almost certainly an active goldsmith in the early years of the century, a 'small-worker' specialising in the manufacture of fine weapons and military accoutrements.

From evidence known about the activities of several other well known 'small-workers to the trade' (and indeed specialist outworkers for Rundell, Bridge & Rundell) whose marks alone appear on fine swords or on other tokens, such as those of James Morisset, Ray & Montague, Alexander James Strachan, and John Northam, it can be suggested that Price almost certainly ran a small manufacturing workshop of skilled craftsmen, men who were able to turn their hand to making or repairing not only fine swords, but also a range of small-ware for the luxury toy trade.

Although Price manufactured swords of considerable quality and of historic importance, his known output is small. To date, his mark has been found on only fifteen important swords (several of which are distinctly similar to each other showing that the various hilt and scabbard elements had been cast from the same moulds [cf. sword nos 3 and 4, 8 and 14 below]. There are two further examples, which were almost certainly made by him (see sword no. 11). The repetitive use of similar design features and ornamental elements (notably on the Mameluke swords that Price manufactured) points both to cost-saving devices and also, perhaps, to the need for a speedy response to the demand for such presentation tokens at the time when Britain and her allies were gaining the initiative over Napoleon's forces on land (both in central Europe and in the Peninsula), achievements which were often notably marked by the giving of a fine sword.

The known presentation swords bearing the mark of Thomas Price are recorded below, accompanied by brief details both of the recipients and the reasons for the award. It should be noted that several swords were awarded and made some time before they were officially presented. The tokens were manufactured soon after they had been awarded but, as many officers served abroad for several years (on campaigns on land or at sea), they were held in a place of safety and presented to the recipient after that officer had returned to England. Wellington, for example, served continuously in the Peninsula from 1809 until 1814, and was not presented with his sword and other rewards until 9 July 1814, after he had returned to London following the end of the Peninsular Campaign and his attendance as Britain's representative at the Congress of Paris (see sword no. 3)

Recorded swords of Thomas Price

1. 1810-11

SWORD with silver-gilt hilt modelled on the Infantry Officer pattern 1796 with straight frost-etched spadron blade inscribed 'PRESENTED TO LIEUT.

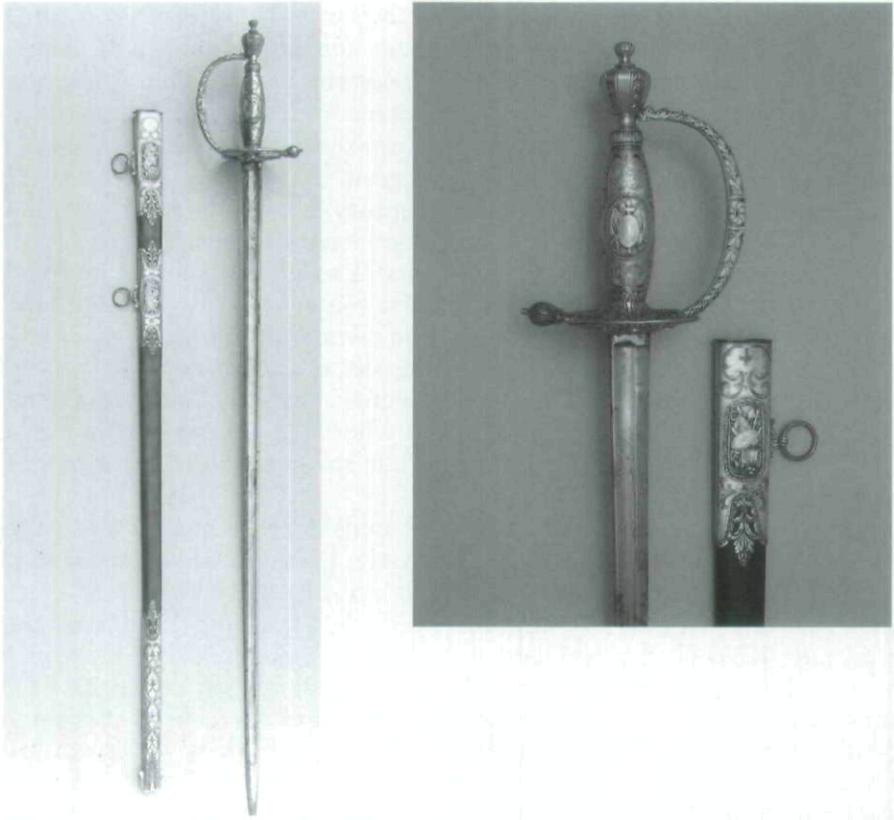


Figure 5 Silver-gilt mounted military-hilted presentation sword of Lieut.-Colonel Richard Lloyd, struck with London hallmarks, the maker's mark of Thomas Price, and signed Rundell, Bridge & Rundell, London. 1810-11. National Army Museum, London (acc. no. 6010-16).

COLONEL RICHD. LLOYD BY THE OFFICERS OF THE GARRISON OF GOREE, AS A MARK OF THEIR RESPECT & ESTEEM'. Wooden scabbard covered with black fish-skin and fitted with silver-gilt mounts boldly cast, chased, engraved and pierced with acanthus and medallions enclosing trophies. Signed on the inside of the top-locket 'RUNDELL BRIDGE & RUNDELL, LONDON' (figure 5).

Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Lloyd (figure 6) served as an officer of a special defence force on the Island of Goree, off Senegal, from 1801 to 1808. This unit was formed originally as 'Fraser's Infantry' or 'Fraser's Corps of Infantry' [named after its Colonel Commandant Lieut.-Col John Fraser], but, in 1804, was renamed 'The Royal African Corps' and, in 1807, changed again to 'The Royal York Rangers', with Lloyd as its Lieutenant-Colonel. Lloyd left the Rangers and the Island of Goree on 5 September 1808 in order to serve in the Peninsula, and this sword is a token to mark that occasion, although it was not made or presented until some time later. On 22 December 1808, Lloyd was appointed



Figure 6 Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Lloyd, 84th Regiment of Foot. Mezzotint by W. Say, about 1815. National Army Museum, London (acc. no. 6010-16-2).

Lieutenant-Colonel in the Second Battalion 84th (York and Lancaster) Regiment of Foot and served with distinction in the Peninsular Campaign. He was killed at the battle of the Nive on 10 December 1813, aged 37.

National Army Museum, London (Acc. no. 6010-16)

2. 1811-12

SWORD with silver-gilt hilt of Infantry Officer pattern 1796 (similar to no. 1) with straight spadron blade etched with an inscription of presentation: 'A LASTING MEMORIAL OF ESTEEM & CONFIDENCE / PRESENTED TO MAJOR TUCKER XXIXTH REGIMENT / COMMANDANT OF THE ARMY DEPOT IN PORTUGAL / BY ALL OFFICERS COMMANDING DETACHMENTS / OF ALL REGIMENTS IN THE ARMY OF LORD / VISCOUNT WELLINGTON'. Silver-gilt mounted wooden scabbard covered in black fish-skin, engraved on the inside of the top-locket: 'RUNDELL BRIDGE & RUNDELL, LONDON.

Major John Tucker, later Lieutenant-Colonel, of the 29th (or Worcestershire) Regiment of Foot was placed in command of the Army Depot at Belem, Portugal, on 25 September 1810. Following Albuhera and his promotion to Major (4 July 1811), he was ordered to rejoin his regiment and leave Belem, on which occasion the representatives of the detachments of the regiments at the depot arranged to present him with this sword.

Collection of David McAlpine

3. 1811-12

SABRE with gold Mameluke-hilt and gold-mounted scabbard of 200-guinea value awarded with the Freedom of the City by the Corporation of London to Lieutenant-General Lord Viscount Wellington on 9 May 1811, for successfully commanding the Allied British and Portuguese Armies in the Peninsula (figure 7). The inscription of presentation reads: 'SMITH MAYOR. AT A COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL HOLDEN AT GUILDHALL LONDON THE IX DAY OF MAY MDCCCXI. / RESOLVED THAT THE FREEDOM OF THIS CITY WITH A GOLD SWORD BE PRESENTED TO THE RIGHT HONBLL. LORD VISCOUNT / WELLINGTON IN TESTIMONY OF THE HIGH SENSE THIS COURT ENTERTAINS OF THE CONSUMMATE ABILITY, FORTITUDE / AND PERSEVERENCE DISPLAYED BY HIM IN COMMAND OF THE ALLIED ARMIES IN PORTUGAL'. The wooden scabbard is covered with black fish-skin and fitted with pierced gold mounts and signed on the inside of the top-locket 'RUNDELL BRIDGE & RUNDELL LONDON' (see figure 8).

Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington's career is well known and it was the most distinguished and successful by a British soldier in modern times (figure 9). This sword, although awarded and made in 1811 to mark the end of the Portuguese phase of the Peninsular Campaign (1808-1814), was not presented to Wellington until he had returned to England in 1814, following the signing of the Peace Treaty of Paris (30 May 1814). At a special banquet held in his honour at the Guildhall in the City six weeks later on 9 July 1814, Wellington (now Field Marshal and the Duke of Wellington) was presented with all the honours granted him by the City of London for his services over a six-year period, including the Honorary Freedom and sword above, a Freedom box (for his victory at Salamanca 1812), and a special portrait bust (for his success at Vittoria 1813), tokens given by the City in recognition of his achievements as Commander-in-Chief of British and Allied troops during an outstanding campaign (see Southwick 1996).

Wellington Museum, Apsley House, London (WM. 1229-1942)

4. 1812-13

SABRE with gold-mounted Mameluke-hilt and scabbard of 200-guinea value presented with the Freedom of the City by the Corporation of London to Lieutenant-General Thomas Graham in honour of his victory over a French Army on the Heights of Barrosa, Spain, 5 March 1811 (figures 10-11). The inscription of presentation on the blued and gilt blade reads: 'SMITH MAYOR.

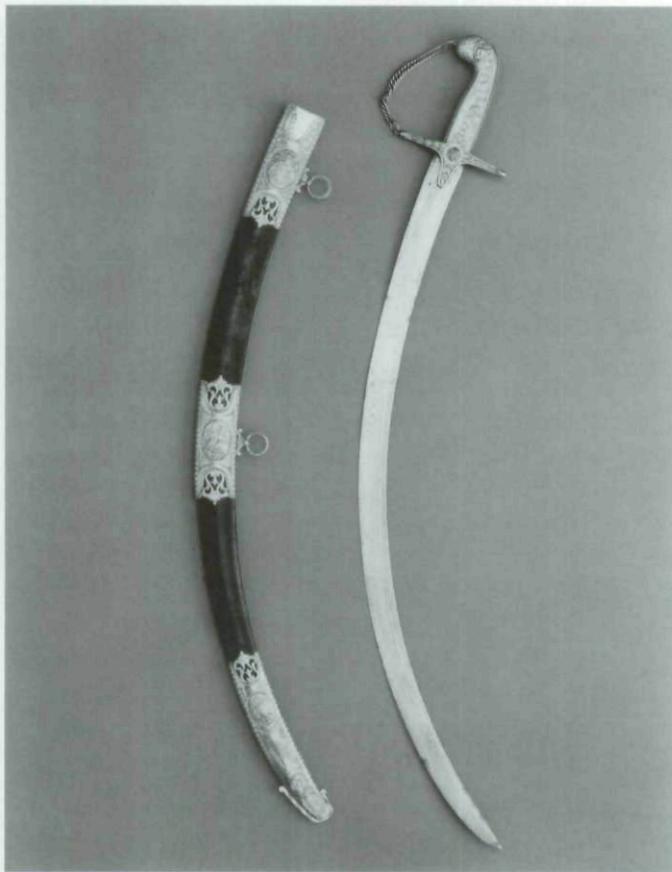


Figure 7 Gold-mounted Mameluke-hilted dress sabre presented by the Corporation of the City of London to the then Lieutenant-General Viscount Wellington for the eviction of the French out of Portugal, 1811. London hallmarks and maker's mark of Thomas Price, signed and ordered from Rundell, Bridge & Rundell, London. The Wellington Museum, Apsley House, London (WM. 1229-1942).

A COMMON COUNCIL HOLDEN IN THE CHAMBER OF THE GUILDHALL OF THE CITY OF LONDON, ON THURSDAY THE FOURTH DAY OF APRIL MDCCCXI. / RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY THAT THE THANKS OF THIS COURT, TOGETHER WITH A GOLD HILTED SWORD, BE PRESENTED TO LIEUTENANT / GENERAL THOMAS GRAHAM, FOR THE GREAT SKILL AND VALOUR DISPLAYED BY HIM, ON THE FIFTH DAY OF MARCH LAST, IN THE BRILLIANT ACTION / UPON THE HEIGHTS OF BARROSA, WHICH TERMINATED IN THE COMPLETE OVERTHROW AND DEFEAT OF THE SUPERIOR FORCES OF THE ENEMY. WOODTHORPE'. The gift is unsigned but the Journal of the General Purposes Committee of the Corporation of London states

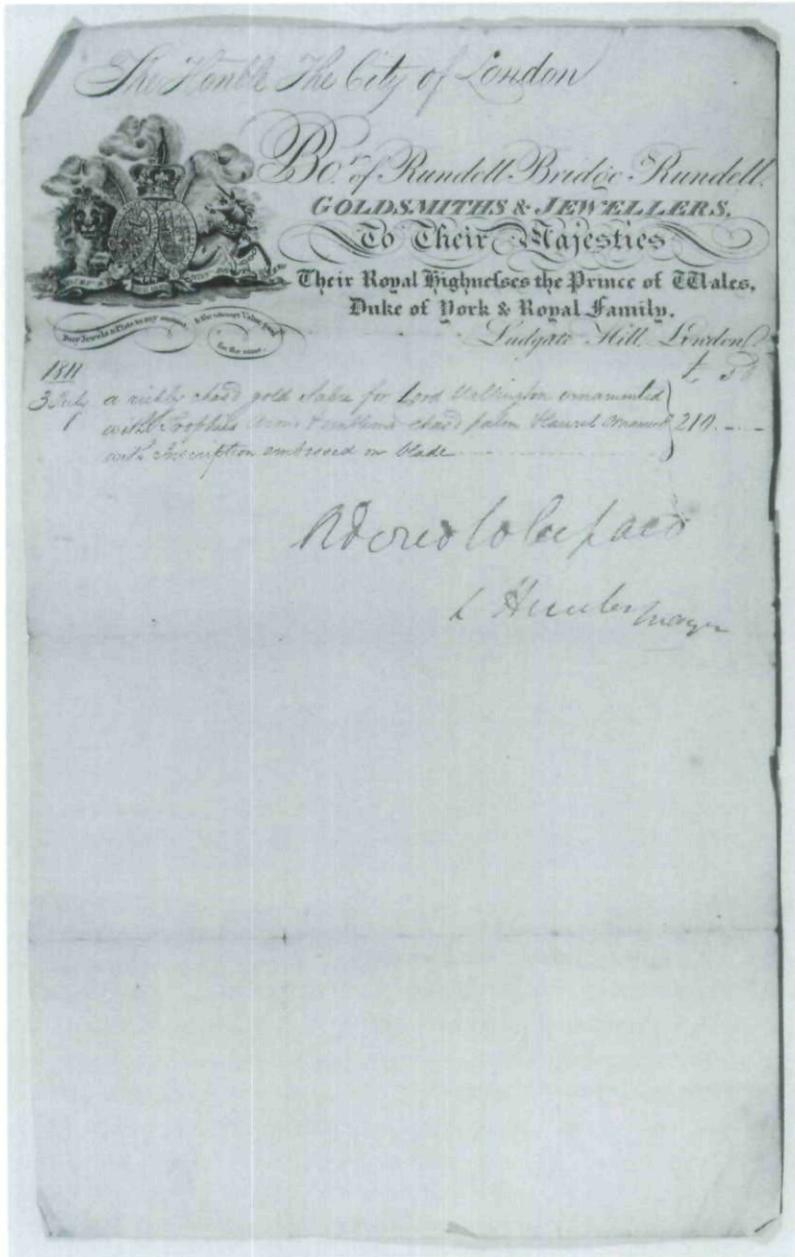


Figure 8 Invoice of Rundell, Bridge & Rundell, dated 3 July 1811, for 'a richly chas'd gold Sabre for Lord Wellington ornamented with Trophies, Arms & emblems chas'd palm & laurel ornament with Inscription embossed on blade.....£210 - -'. Corporation of London Records Office, Guildhall, City of London (Interestingly this sword was awarded on 9 May 1811 and delivered five weeks later on 3 July 1811, but not presented until 1814).



Figure 9 Sir Arthur Wellesley, later Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington (1769–1852), portrayed *in situ* in the Peninsula by Thomas Heaphy, watercolour, c. 1813–14. National Portrait Gallery, London (Reg. No. 1914 (18)).

that the sword was ordered from 'Messrs Clarke & Sons' (i.e. Richard Clarke & Sons of Cheapside).⁵

General Sir Thomas Graham, 1st Baron Lynedoch of Balgowan, Perthshire, GCB, GCMG (1748–1843) was a landowner, parliamentarian, sportsman and one of Wellington's most gifted and trusted lieutenants in the Peninsula (figure 12). In 1810, with the rank of Lieutenant-General, he was sent to south-west Spain to defend Cadiz from French blockade. The next year, he embarked for the Isla de Leon to attack the rear of the blockading French army and scored a resounding success on the Heights of Barrosa on 5 March 1811, for which this sword and the Freedom of the City of London were awarded. Afterwards, he moved north and joined Wellington, distinguishing himself at Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajoz, Vittoria, San Sebastian, and the crossing of the Bidassoa. Later, he was appointed Officer Commanding the Forces of Holland and Adjacent Countries and took part in operations in northern Europe, until the end of hostilities with



Figure 10 Gold-mounted Mameluke-hilted presentation dress sabre awarded by the Corporation of the City of London to Lieutenant-General Thomas Graham for his defeat of a French army on the Heights of Barrosa, Spain, 1811. London hallmarks and maker's mark of Thomas Price (the chain knuckle-guard missing). National War Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh (1967-59H).



Figure 11 The hilt of Thomas Graham's gold-mounted Mameluke-hilted dress sabre, 1811. National War Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh (1967-59H).

France on 23 April 1814. For his services, he was raised to the peerage on 3 May 1814, and, on his return to England, was presented with his sword and Freedom in a gold box (a token given for his part at Vittoria 1813) at the Guildhall in the City of London on 27 March 1815.

The National War Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh (1967-59H)

5. 1812-13

SABRE with silver-gilt stirrup-hilt and with silver-gilt mounted fish-skin covered wooden scabbard, etched with an inscription of presentation on the curved blade: 'FROM THE BRITISH INSURANCE COMPANY AT MALTA, TO CAPT FAIRFAX MORESBY OF H.M.S. WIZARD / THIS SWORD IS PRESENTED, IN GRATEFUL SENSE OF THE PROTECTION AFFORDED BY HIM, TO THE TRADE / OF THAT ISLAND, DURING THE PERIOD OF HIS STATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA. MDCCCXII'. Beneath the throat of the silver-gilt top-mount is engraved 'RUNDELL BRIDGE & RUNDELL, LONDON'.

Captain Fairfax Moresby, later Admiral of the Fleet Sir Fairfax Moresby, GCB (1786-1877), enjoyed a long and distinguished career, serving around the world, but primarily in the Mediterranean. On 18 April 1811, he was advanced to Commander and appointed to the brig-sloop Wizard (16-guns). His major task was to protect trade in the Greek archipelago and to repress piracy. During his operations, several privateers were captured and he was presented with this sword by the British Insurance Company of Malta for his services. Shortly afterwards, he conveyed important despatches from Constantinople to England and returned to Malta on convoy with a valuable cargo. (His date of promotion to Captain is given as 7 June 1814). This sword is similar to those awarded to Commander John Bull and to Admiral Sir Philip Durham (cf. figures 16 and 26).

National Maritime Museum, Greenwich (WPN 1255)

6. 1813-14

SABRE with silver Mameluke-hilt and scabbard 'PRESENTED BY THE OFFICERS OF THE VTH DRAGOON GUARDS TO THEIR / LATE COMMANDING OFFICER, MAJOR GENERAL THE HONBLE. WM. PONSONBY/ AS A MEMENTO OF THEIR ESTEEM AND REGARD, A.D. MDCCCXIII' (figures 13-14).

Major-General Sir William Ponsonby (1772-1815) was appointed a Major in the 5th Dragoon Guards (later Princess Charlotte of Wales's) regiment on 1 March 1798 and served with distinction with the unit for fifteen years. He went out to the Peninsula in command of the regiment on 12 August 1811, but, following the death of General Le Marchant at Salamanca (22 July 1812), was appointed to the command of the Heavy Brigade, which he led until the end of the war in 1814. He was promoted to Major-General on 4 June 1813 and, in the same year, was presented with this sword by the officers of the regiment with whom he had served for so long. Two years later, Ponsonby was given command of the Union Brigade at Waterloo and was killed at the head of his brigade in the famous charge (18 June 1815).

Private Collection



Figure 12 Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Graham, later Lord Lynedoch, wearing his Army Gold Medal for Barrosa, about 1811. Mezzotint by H. Meyer after Sir Thomas Lawrence. National Army Museum, London (acc. no. 7906-106).

7. 1814-15

SWORD. Gold cross-hilt of elaborate 'Robe' form of 200-guinea value with flat circular pommel cap surmounted by the British Lion cast in the round; straight tapered blade of watered pattern etched with an inscription of presentation: 'TO HIS EXCELLENCY MAJOR GENERAL [ROBERT] AINSLIE, GOVERNOR OF DOMINICA / &c &c &c. THIS SWORD IS PRESENTED BY THE TWO BRANCHES OF THE / LEGISLATURE IN TESTIMONY OF HIS MERITORIOUS CONDUCT IN THE / REDUCTION OF THE MAROONS IN THE YEAR MDCCCXIV.' The gold-mounted crimson velvet covered wooden scabbard signed on the inside of the top-locket: 'RUNDELL BRIDGE & / RUNDELL, LONDON' (figure 15).

Lieutenant-General Robert Ainslie (1776-1839) was promoted Major-General on 4 June 1813 and appointed to the Governorship of the Island of Dominica,



Figure 13 Silver-mounted Mameluke-hilted dress sabre presented to Major-General the Honble William Ponsonby. London 1813–14, maker's mark of Thomas Price. Private Collection.

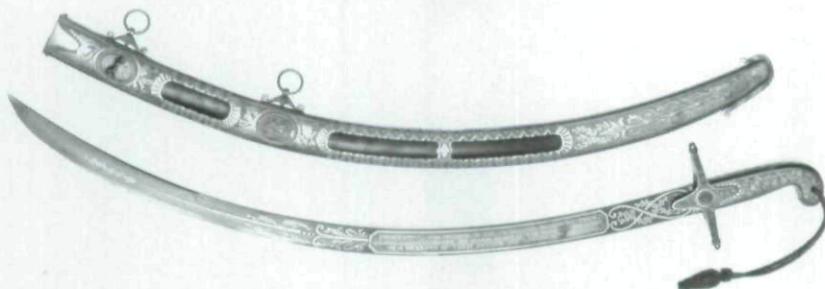


Figure 14 Full-length view of Major-General Ponsonby's presentation sabre and scabbard (see figure 13).

where he remained until November 1814, when he returned to England. Ainslie's major service to the island was subduing the Maroons, a ferocious and numerous body of runaway slaves, who had, for over fifty years, defied authority and lived by banditry. Nine days after leaving the island, the House of Assembly and Council of Dominica requested Ainslie to 'accept the Sum of Two Hundred Guineas for the purpose of purchasing a sword as a Mark of their Approbation of his Conduct in the Maroon War... 15 November 1814'.

Peter Finer

8. 1814

SABRE with silver-gilt stirrup-hilt with lion's head pommel, the grip cast on the outside with Neptune riding in his shell chariot and on the inside with trophies of arms; the curved knuckle-guard and rear quillon cast with oak leaves and acorns

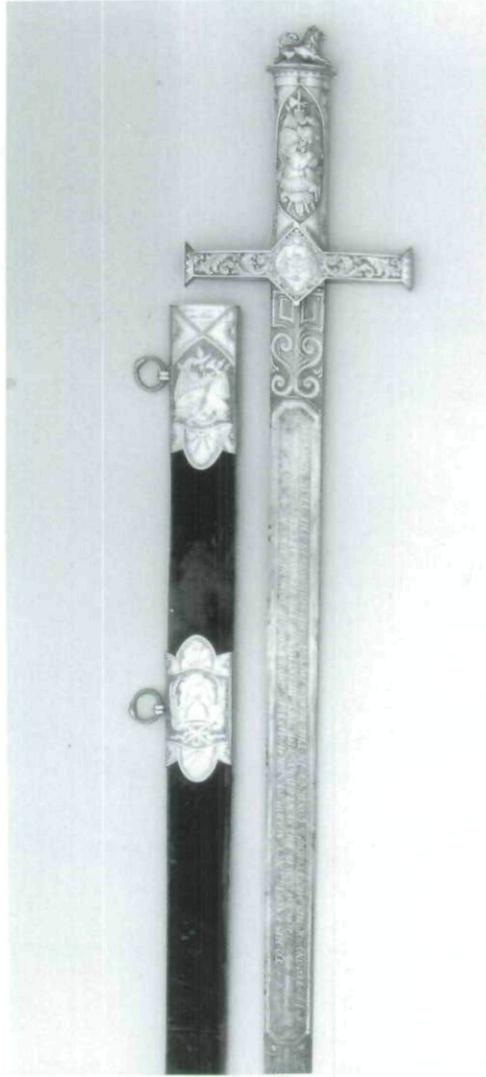


Figure 15 Gold cross-hilted presentation sword of 'Robe' form of Major-General Robert Ainslie. London 1814–15, maker's mark of Thomas Price, signed and retailed by Rundell, Bridge & Rundell, London. Peter Finer.

and with fouled anchors on the langets (figure 16). Blued and gilt curved blade with, on the inside, an etched inscription of presentation: 'PRESENTED TO JOHN BULL, ESQR COMMANDER OF / H.M.PACKET MARLBOROUGH BY THE PASSENGERS ON BOARD / AS A TOKEN OF HIS GALLANT CONDUCT IN SUCCESSFULLY / DEFENDING HIS VESSEL AGAINST A SHIP OF MUCH / SUPERIOR FORCE, XIITH MARCH, MDCCCXIV, IN A VOYAGE / FROM FALMOUTH TO LISBON'. Silver-gilt mounted black



Figure 16 Silver-gilt mounted stirrup-hilted dress sabre presented to Commander John Bull, HM Packet Marlborough. London 1814, maker's mark of Thomas Price, signed and retailed by Rundell, Bridge & Rundell, London. Exhibited National Maritime Museum, Falmouth, Cornwall, Loan 2. 153. National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, WPN 1056

leather scabbard fitted with lockets and chape ornamented with the labours of Hercules, set against naval and images of the sea, and signed Rundell, Bridge & Rundell, London. The whole contained in a velvet and silk-lined red leather presentation case.⁶

Little is known about John Bull, the commander of HM Brig-Packet Marlborough. The sword was awarded by the passengers on board his ship on

a voyage from Falmouth to Lisbon in recognition of his skill and courage in preventing the vessel being captured on the 12 March 1814, following a serious attack from the superior British 18-gun brig-sloop *Primrose*, which the Marlborough took for an American privateer. This strange and unfortunate event is reported in the *Naval Chronicle for 1814* (Vol. XXXI) and James's *Naval History* (1902 edition) VI: 142–44.

National Maritime Museum Falmouth, Cornwall, Loan 2.153 (NMM. Greenwich WPN1056)

9. 1814

SWORD with silver-gilt mounted Mameluke-hilt and silver-mounted scabbard inscribed on the curved blade 'FROM THE BRITISH OFFICERS OF THE LIGHT DIVISION TO MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES BARON ALTEN MDCCCXIV [and on the inside face] MAJOR GENERAL VANDELEUR AND KEMPT LT. COLONEL ROSS S TROUP OF ROYAL HORSE ARTILLERIE XLII AND XCV THE REGIMENTS'. Signed 'Rundell Bridge & Rundell, London'.⁷

General Charles von Alten (1764–1840) was a distinguished officer who served with British forces in the Low Countries in the 1790s and later with the King's German Legion in the Peninsular Campaign. In the last year of the campaign, he commanded the Light Division of the British army (composed of the 43rd, 52nd and 95th rifles, with some Portuguese troops, light cavalry and 'S' Troop Royal Horse Artillery) at Vittoria, Nivelle, Nive, Orthez and Toulouse. When the Peninsular army was broken up in 1814 and many regiments sent to North America, Alten was presented with this sword by the British officers who had served under him. A year later, between 15 and 18 June 1815, Alten commanded the 3rd British Division at Quatre Bras and at Waterloo and was severely wounded in the latter action.

Historisches Museum am Hohen Ufer, Hannover (Inv. no. VM 1626)

10. 1814–15

SABRE with silver-gilt Mameluke-hilt and scabbard 'PRESENTED BY THE OFFICERS OF THE XVIIIITH HUSSARS TO MAJOR-GENERAL RICHARD HUSSEY VIVIAN, WHO WAS WOUNDED AT THE HEAD OF THE REGIMENT IN THE ADVANCE TO TOULOUSE, CROIX D'ORADE, 8 APRIL 1814'. Signed Rundell, Bridge & Rundell (figures 17–18).

Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Hussey Vivian, 1st Baron Vivian (1775–1842) (figure 19), a distinguished cavalry officer, was transferred to the command of the cavalry brigade of General von Alten's division (consisting of the 18th Light Dragoons [Hussars] and German Hussars) in the last phase of the Peninsular War. Following the capture of Bordeaux, he joined Wellington in his advance on Toulouse. On 8 April 1814, he attacked a superior force of cavalry at Croix d'Orade, took many prisoners, and gained possession of an important bridge over the River Ers. However, during the action, Vivian was wounded while leading the regiment and afterwards took no further part in the Peninsular Campaign. For his services, this sword was presented to their commander by the officers of XVIIIth



Figure 17 Silver-gilt mounted Mameluke-hilted dress sabre presented to Major-General Richard Hussey Vivian. London 1814–15, maker's mark of Thomas Price, signed and retailed by Rundell, Bridge & Rundell, London. Collection of David McAlpine.

Figure 18 Full-length view of Major-General Richard Hussey Vivian's presentation dress sabre in scabbard, London 1814–15, maker's mark of Thomas Price. Collection of David McAlpine.



Hussars. A year later, Vivian served with distinction at Waterloo and, before his death, was appointed to several posts, including Major-General of Ordnance and the colonelcy of a number of regiments.

Collection of David McAlpine



Figure 19 Lieut.-General Richard Hussey Vivian, 1st Baron Vivian, by William Salter, painted 1837–40. National Portrait Gallery, London (3764).

11. 1814–15

SABRE awarded on 8 June 1814 by the Corporation of the City of London to Field Marshal Prince Schwarzenberg, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Armies in the War against Napoleon.⁸ The silver-gilt Mameluke-hilt of fine form mounted with an eagle-headed pommel and eagle-tipped finials to the cross; the grip chased with palm and laurel and set with oval enamelled cartouches with (on the outside) the arms of the City of London, and (on the inside) with the intertwined monogram of the recipient beneath a royal crown; chain knuckle-guard; the curved blade etched with a gilt inscription of presentation against a blued ground: 'DOMVILLE MAYOR. A COMMON COUNCIL HOLDEN IN THE CHAMBER OF THE GUILDHALL OF THE CITY OF LONDON, ON WEDNESDAY THE VIITH DAY OF JUNE MDCCCXIV / RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY THAT A SWORD OF THE VALUE OF TWO HUNDRED GUINEAS, BE PRESENTED BY THE COURT TO FIELD MARSHAL PRINCE SCHWARTZENBERG [sic] COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE

ALLIED ALLIES [sic] IN TESTIMONY OF THE HIGH SENSE THIS COURT ENTERTAINS, OF THE CONSUMMATE SKILL, BRILLIANT TALENTS AND UNDAUNTED BRAVERY DISPLAYED BY HIM / DURING THE PROTRACTED CONFLICTS IN WHICH HE HAS BEEN ENGAGED, FOR SECURING THE LIBERTIES, THE REPOSE AND THE HAPPINESS OF EUROPE. WOODTHORPE'. Silver-gilt mounted red-leather scabbard ornamented with cartouches enclosing a charge of cavalry, trophies of arms, putti, and a captive against a stand of flags, signed 'RUNDELL / BRIDGE & / RUNDELL / LONDON' (colour plate 1 and figures 20–21).

Field Marshal Prince Charles Philip Schwarzenberg (1771–1820) was a member of one of Austria's oldest aristocratic families. He joined his country's army in 1787, served against the Turks in 1788–89 and as a cavalry officer in the War of the First Coalition against Revolutionary France (1792–97). He covered the Austrian withdrawal after the defeat of Hohenlinden (1800) and saved his troops after the Battle of Ulm (1805). He was appointed Vice-President of the Austrian Supreme War Council, initiated army reforms, created a national militia to defend Austria's domains, and distinguished himself as a field commander at the Battle of Wagram (1809). As ambassador to France, he negotiated the marriage between the Emperor Napoleon I and Princess Marie-Louise of Austria and also arranged his country's agreement to ally with France in the war of 1812 against Russia. Commanding the Austrian contingent of Napoleon's army, he held his forces back and retreated into Austrian territory during the winter of 1812–13. Later, he advocated war against Napoleon and in August 1813, when his policy prevailed, he was promoted to Field Marshal and appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces in Central Europe. With the convergence of the combined armies near Leipzig, he dealt Napoleon a decisive defeat in the largest battle of the entire Napoleonic war at Leipzig — the 'Battle of the Nations' (16–19 October 1813). The allies then pushed the French westward across the Rhine and Schwarzenberg directed operations in France, moves which led to the collapse of the emperor's forces and Napoleon's abdication in 1814. Following the signing of the Treaty of Paris (30 May 1814), he and the other allied commanders (Barclay de Tolly, Otto von Blücher, and Hetman Count Platov) visited London, where, on 8 June 1814, he was awarded this sword of honour (see also sword no. 12). The following year, he represented Austria at the Congress of Vienna (1815). He suffered a stroke in 1817 and died three years later.

Possession of the recipient's descendants

Schwarzenberg's 200-guinea sword was one of four awarded by the Corporation of London to the commanders of the allied armies which had, with Britain, forced Napoleon to abdicate in 1814, namely, Prince Schwarzenberg of Austria, Count Barclay de Tolly of Russia (sword no. 12), Prince Otto von Blücher of Prussia, and Hetman Count Platov of the Don Cossacks. The awards were nominated on 8 June 1814, at the time when the foreign sovereigns and their commanders were in London following the successful conclusion of the Congress of Paris.



Colour plate 1 Sabre awarded on 8 June 1814 by the Corporation of the City of London to Field Marshal Prince Schwarzenberg, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Armies in the War against Napoleon. Maker's mark of Thomas Price, signed and retailed by Rundell, Bridge & Rundell, London. Private Collection.

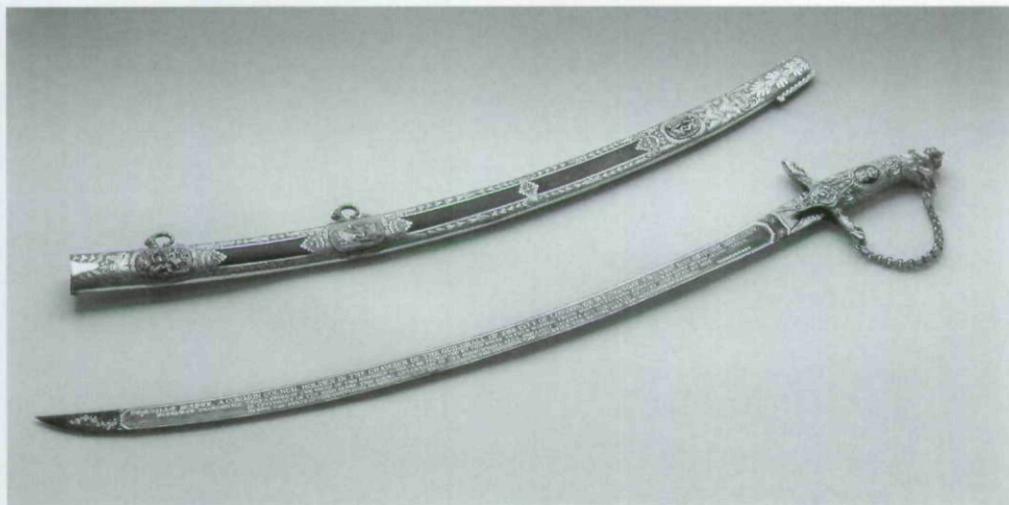


Figure 20 Silver-gilt mounted Mameluke-hilted dress sabre awarded by the Corporation of the City of London to Field Marshal Prince Schwarzenberg, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Armies in the war against Napoleon on 8 June 1814. London, maker's mark of Thomas Price, signed by Rundell, Bridge & Rundell, London (see also colour plate 1 and figure 21). Private collection



Figure 21 Detail of the inside of the scabbard of Prince Schwarzenberg's dress sabre signed 'RUNDELL, BRIDGE & RUNDELL, LONDON' (see also colour plate 1)

The royal goldsmiths, Rundell, Bridge, & Rundell, were commissioned to supply all four swords. The extant retailer's invoice, dated 12 May 1815, describes the tokens (of the now completed order) as 'A very elegant silver gilt sabre, the gripe mounted with eagles head, enameld medallions with Arms of the City &c. richly encircled with palm & laurels, the scabbard ornamented with military medallions, a charge of Cavalry &c, with Trophies, the blade finely damascened with inscription and ornaments, A belt for do. of red morocco with

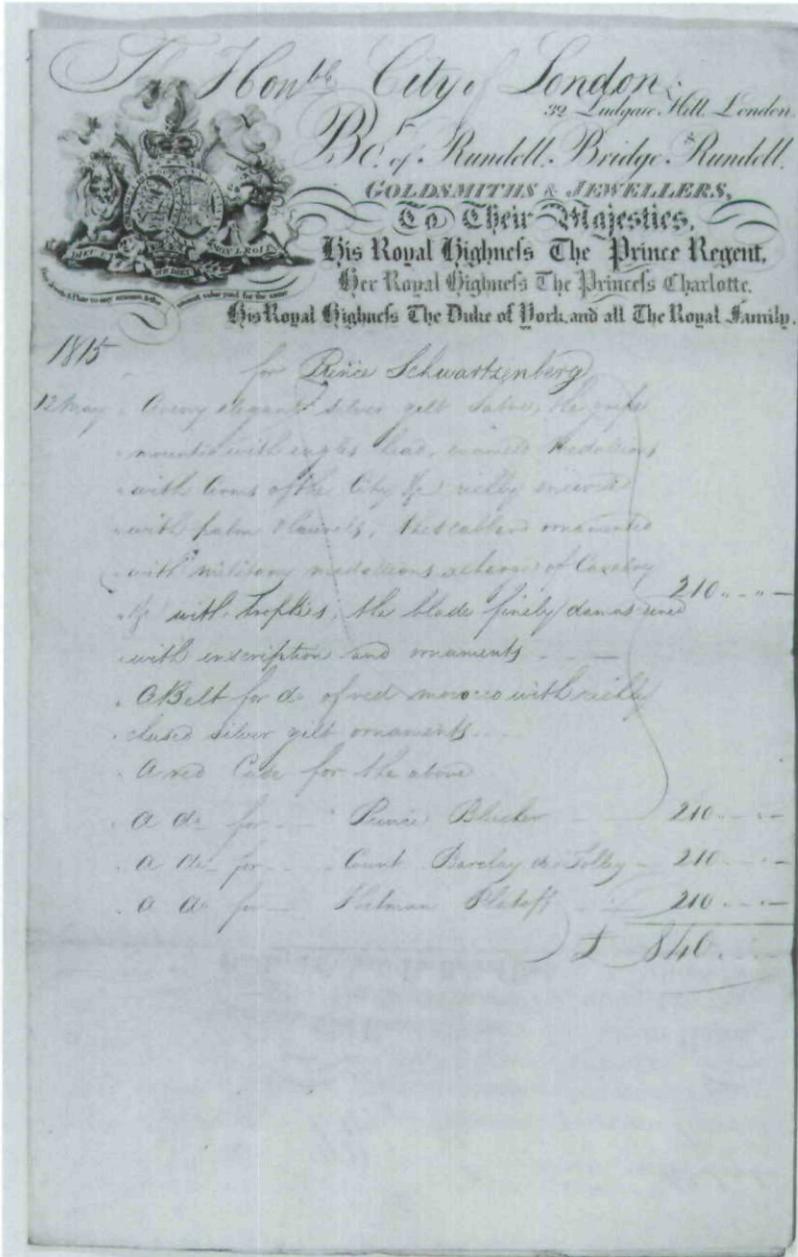


Figure 22 Invoice of Rundell, Bridge & Rundell, dated 12 May 1815, for the delivery of the four swords awarded by the Corporation of the City of London to the allied commanders in the war against Napoleon on 8 June 1814. The first sword to 'Prince Schwartzenberg' is described in detail and the other three are listed as being 'ditto' – of the same design and price. Corporation of London Record Office, Guildhall, City of London.

richly chased silver gilt ornaments, A red Case for the above..[£] 210 - - [The cost in total for all four swords amounting to £840]' (figure 22).

The date on the retailer's invoice shows that all four swords were delivered to the Offices of the Corporation at the Guildhall eleven months after the foreign generals had attended the festivities in London and only a month before the battle of Waterloo (at a time when the recipients were no longer in England). In October 1815 (following the victory of 18 June), the swords were delivered to the Duke of Wellington (then in command of the Army of Occupation in Paris), who agreed to forward the gifts to the recipients via the various allied legations then in France. On 8 November 1815, Wellington wrote to the Lord Mayor: 'I sent that [the sword] for Prince Schwartzenberg [sic], together with your Lordship's letter, by General Langenau, of the Austrian Staff, who was proceeding from hence to Vienna, and the Prince will undoubtedly make his acknowledgements direct to your Lordship' (Only Blücher's Prussian army had been able to reform and support Wellington in the Waterloo Campaign. De Tolly's forces arrived at the French border, but were unable to reach Waterloo in time for the action).

Rundell's invoice above (figure 22) describes all four swords in this group as being of the same design and that they were, no doubt, all struck with the goldsmith's mark of Thomas Price and signed by the retailer (as Schwarzenberg's and de Tolly's are). The location of Hetman Count Platov's sword is not known and the whereabouts of the gift presented to Prince Blücher are uncertain.⁹

12. 1814-15

SABRE with silver-gilt Mameluke-hilt and silver-mounted scabbard presented by the Corporation of the City of London to Field Marshal Count Barclay de Tolly, for commanding the Russian Army in the war against Napoleon, following the signing of the Peace Treaty of Paris (30 May 1814) (figure 23). The inscription of presentation on the curved blade reads: 'DOMVILLE MAYOR. A COMMON COUNCIL HOLDEN IN THE CHAMBER OF THE / GUILDHALL OF THE CITY OF LONDON ON WEDNESDAY THE VIIIITH DAY OF / JUNE MDCCCXIV, RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY, THAT A SWORD OF THE VALUE OF TWO HUNDRED GUINEAS, BE PRESENTED BY THIS COURT TO FIELD / MARSHAL COUNT BARCLAY DE TOLLY, COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE / RUSSIAN ARMY IN TESTIMONY OF THE HIGH SENSE THIS COURT / ENTER-TAINS OF THE CONSUMMATE SKILL, BRILLIANT TALENTS, / AND UNDAUNTED BRAVERY DISPLAYED BY HIM, DURING THE PROTRACTED / CONFLICTS IN WHICH HE HAS BEEN ENGAGED FOR SECURING THE / LIBERTIES, THE REPOSE, AND THE HAPPINESS OF EUROPE'. Ordered from and signed on the inside of the top-locket, 'RUNDELL BRIDGE & RUNDELL, LONDON'.

Field Marshal Prince Mikhail Barclay de Tolly (1761-1818) (figure 24) joined the Russian army in 1776 as an ordinary soldier and later rose to the highest rank. He served against the Swedes and the Poles and later against the French. He fought in the Winter Campaign (1812) and accompanied Tsar Alexander I on the campaigns of 1813-14 and was present at the Battle of Leipzig (16-19 October

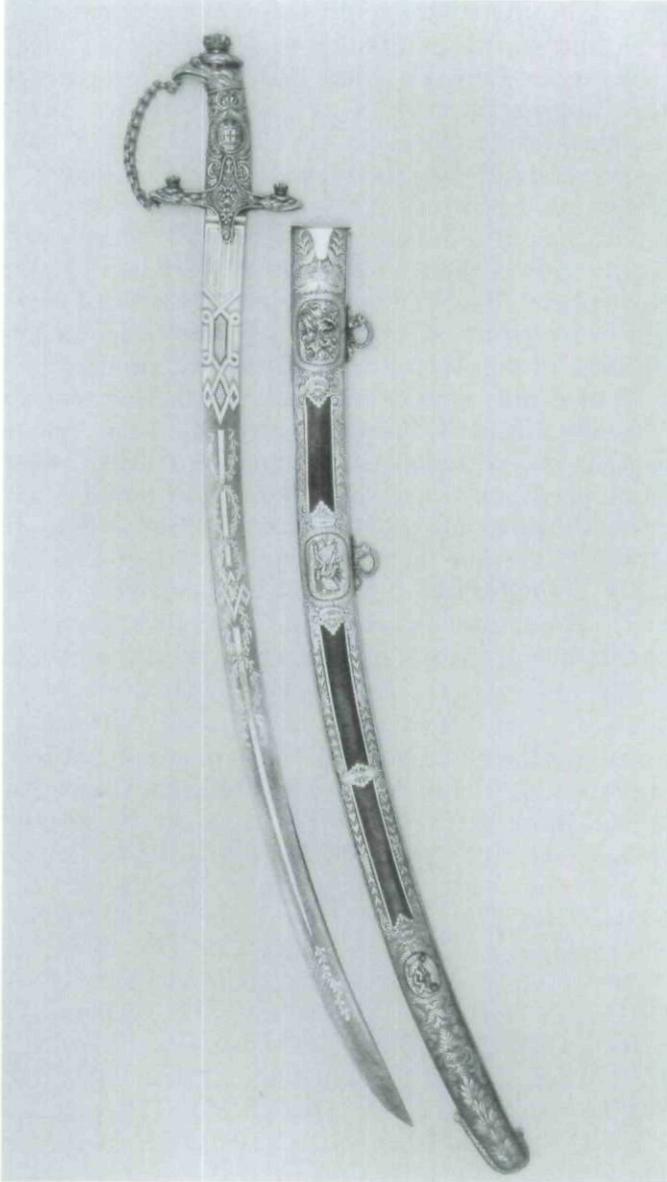


Figure 23 Silver-gilt mounted Mameluke-hilted dress sabre presented by the Corporation of the City of London to Field Marshal Count Barclay de Tolly (1761–1818), Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Armies against Napoleon. London 1814–15, maker's mark of Thomas Price, signed and retailed by Rundell, Bridge & Rundell, London. Private Collection.

1813). After the Peace of 1814, he was appointed Commander-in-Chief Russian Forces. Following Napoleon's escape from Elba, de Tolly was given command of the Russian army, but, although his forces arrived at the French border, they were unable to reach the field of Waterloo in time to take part in the Emperor's



Figure 24 Field Marshal Prince Barclay de Tolly by George Dawe. Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg.

final defeat. Following the victory, the Lord Mayor of London sent de Tolly's sword to Wellington, who gave it to 'one of the Gentlemen of the Russian Legation, which is still in Paris', a man who then forwarded it to the recipient. The City archives record that de Tolly (then in Russia) sent a letter of thanks to the Lord Mayor in February 1816.

Private Collection, England

13. 1815

SABRE with silver-gilt Mameluke-hilt, silver-gilt mounted scabbard and belt, of Sir Henry Sheehy Keating (figure 25). The inscription of presentation on the

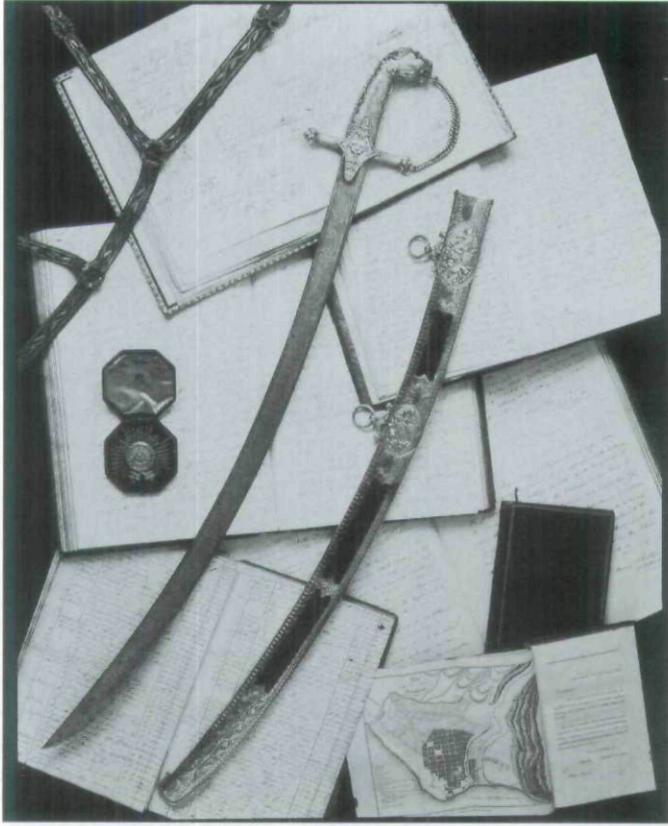


Figure 25 Silver-gilt mounted Mameluke-hilted presentation dress sabre of Colonel Henry Keating, 1815. London hallmarks but no apparent date-letter, maker's mark of Thomas Price, signed and retailed by Rundell, Bridge & Rundell, London. Collection of David McAlpine.

curved blade reads 'PRESENTED BY THE MERCHANTILE COMMUNITY OF CALCUTTA TO COLONEL HENRY KEATING IN TESTIMONY OF THEIR HIGH SENSE OF HIS SERVICE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THOSE OF COMMODORE SIR JOSIAH ROWLEY IN THE MEMORABLE ENTERPRISE AGAINST ST PAULS AND IN THE CONQUEST OF BOURBON WHEREBY THE DOMINION OF THE SURROUNDING SEAS WAS ASSERTED AT A CRITICAL PERIOD AND A MOST IMPORTANT SECURITY CONFIRMED TO BRITISH COMMERCE EASTWARD OF THE CAPE'.

Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Keating, KCB (c. 1777–1847) was appointed to command land forces in the joint expedition to capture the Island of Rodrigues, Mauritius, in 1809. The expedition began in March of that year and the town and harbour of St Paul's surrendered on 23 September 1809. The whole island was captured ten months later on 8 July 1810. However, the gift was not awarded until 16 September 1815, when Keating was about to leave the island. He remained in command of the Islands of Rodrigues and of Bourbon until 1816, when the colonies were returned to Louis XVIII of France, following the defeat of Napoleon. The gift is struck with London duty and sterling standard marks,

but no apparent date-letter, probably 1815–16. Signed and retailed by Rundell, Bridge & Rundell, London.

Collection of David McAlpine

14. 1816–17

SABRE with silver-gilt mounted stirrup-hilt and scabbard 'PRESENTED BY THE ILLUSTRIOUS BOARD OF CABILDO OF THE TOWN OF / PORT OF SPAIN TO HIS EXCELLENCY REAR ADMIRAL SIR / PHILIP CHARLES DURHAM IN TESTIMONY OF THEIR HIGH / SENSE OF HIS SERVICES AND OF THE EFFECTUAL PROTECTION / AFFORDED BY HIM TO THE MARITIME INTEREST OF THE COLONY OF TRINIDAD'; signed on the inside of the top-locket 'RUNDELL BRIDGE & RUNDELL. LONDON' (figure 26).

Admiral Sir Philip Charles Calderwood Henderson Durham, GCB (1765–1845) (figure 27), commander of HMS *Defiance* at Trafalgar, was appointed Commander-in-Chief Ships and Vessels on the Leeward Islands Station in December 1813 and served there until the spring of 1816. On 5 January 1816, the sum of one hundred guineas was resolved and appropriated by the above authority for the purchase of this sword of honour in recognition of Durham's services in protecting the seas around Trinidad.

The National War Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh (M. 1992–55)

15. 1816

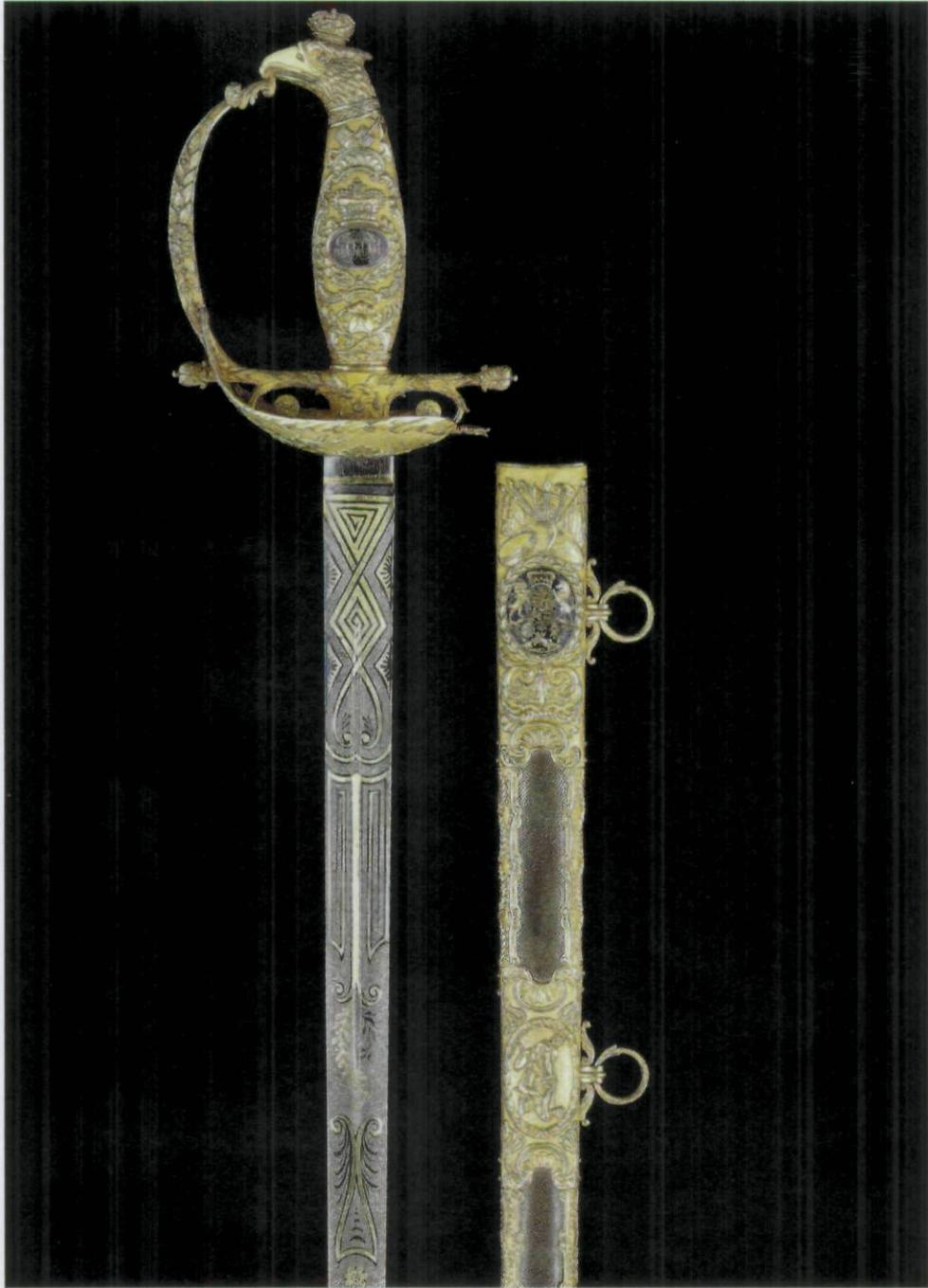
SWORD modelled on a variant and ornate 'Boatshell Field Marshal's sword',¹⁰ with finely chased gold hilt, straight blued and frost-etched two-edged spadron blade and gold-mounted scabbard, presented by the Prince Regent to his brother, Field Marshal Prince Adolphus, Duke of Cambridge, on the day their sister, Princess Mary married her cousin, William Frederick, Duke of Gloucester, in the Grand Saloon of the Queen's Palace [now Buckingham Palace], on the evening of Monday 22 July 1816, an occasion in which the Duke took an notable part (see below). The hilt comprises a pommel in the form of an eagle's head with the button formed as a ducal coronet, a swelling grip inset with enamel plaques bearing the intertwined initials of the Prince of Wales and his crest with three feathers within a garter, boat-shell guard before the hand, knuckle-guard, double quillons, and arms of the hilt curved below the quillons and resting inside the base of the shell.

Both the hilt and gold-mounted scabbard are finely chased and inset with painted enamel plaques, consisting of royal coats of arms and, on the top-locket, a blued enamelled oval with an inscription of presentation in gold capital letters, which reads: 'HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS GEORGE AUGUSTUS FREDERICK, REGENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND, TO HIS AFFECTIONATE BROTHER, THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, 22 JULY 1816'. London hallmarks and maker's mark, but no apparent date-letter (almost certainly assayed in 1816–17). Signed around the throat of the scabbard '*Rundell, Bridge & Rundell, London*' (colour plate 2 and figures 28a, b and c).



Figure 26 Silver-gilt mounted stirrup-hilted presentation dress sabre of Rear-Admiral Sir Philip Charles Durham. London 1816–17, maker's mark of Thomas Price, signed and retailed by Rundell, Bridge & Rundell, London. The National War Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh (M.1992–55).

Prince Adolphus Frederick, Duke of Cambridge (1774–1850) (figure 29), tenth child and seventh son of George III and Queen Charlotte, a career soldier, was promoted to Field Marshal on 26 November 1813 and, in the same year, appointed Governor General in Hanover on the recovery of its independence. Three years later, in November 1816, he was made Viceroy when the State of Hanover was elevated to the Kingdom of Hanover, following the arrangements



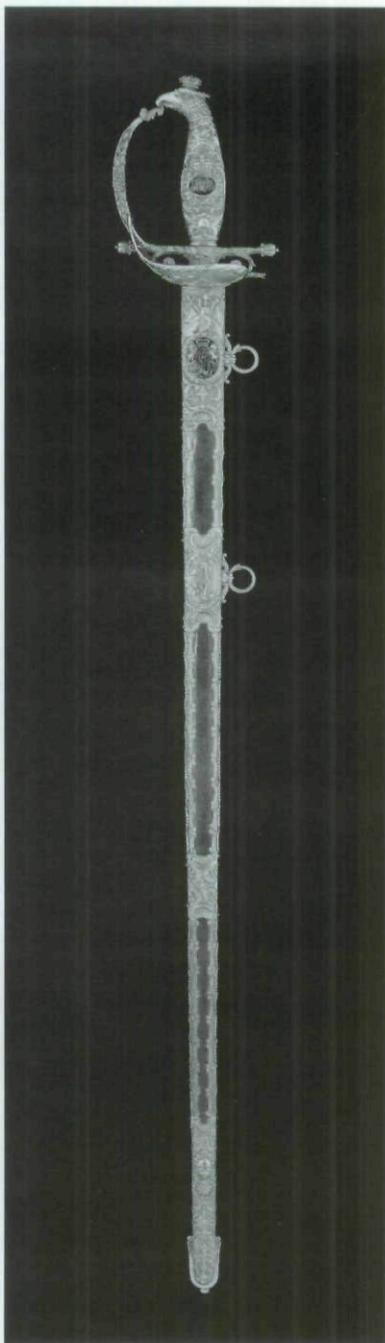
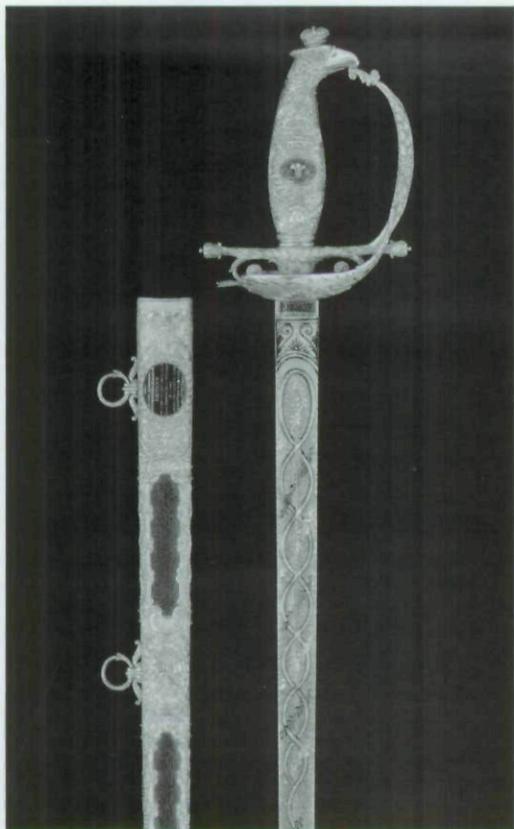
Colour plate 2 Gold and enamel-mounted sword presented by the Prince Regent to his brother, Prince Adolphus, 1st Duke of Cambridge, on 22 July 1816. London, maker's mark of Thomas Price, signed by Rundell, Bridge & Rundell, London. By courtesy of Bonhams 1793 Limited.



Figure 27 Admiral Sir Philip Charles Henderson Calderwood Durham, GCB (1765–1845) by William James Ward after the painting by Francis Grant (now in the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, PG 1605). Durham wears the star of the Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath, the Cross of the Order of Military Merit of France, the Small Naval Gold Medal for Trafalgar, and holds the presentation sword by Thomas Price discussed in the main text and illustrated in figure 26. Print published 1 January 1837. National Portrait Gallery, London (D15551).

made at the Congress of Vienna, an occasion that may be linked to the presenting of this sword. A popular member of the royal family, he was particularly close to his younger sister, Princess Mary, and to his older brother, George, Prince of Wales, the Prince Regent (later George IV).

On the occasion of Princess Mary's wedding to her cousin, William Frederick, Duke of Gloucester, in the Grand Saloon of the Queen's Palace, on the evening of 22 July 1816, it was Adolphus who brought the princess by hand into the Grand Saloon in which a temporary altar had been erected (or to use a contemporary term 'handed her in') and introduced her to the assembled guests and then publicly presented her to their brother, the Prince Regent, who was to give her away in marriage. After the Archbishop of Canterbury had performed the ceremony, the princess, now attired in travelling dress, was accompanied to her



Figures 28a, b and c Reverse of hilt, full length and inscription detail. (See also colour plate 2). Gold and enamel-mounted sword presented by the Prince Regent to his brother, Prince Adolphus, 1st Duke of Cambridge, on 22 July 1816. London, maker's mark of Thomas Price, signed by Rundell, Bridge & Rundell, London. By courtesy of Bonhams 1793 Limited.

carriage by the Prince Regent and Adolphus, who saluted her, and 'handed her into the travelling-chaise'. The Prince and Adolphus then embraced her husband, the Duke of Gloucester, 'who stepped into the carriage and the newly-married pair drove off to Bagshot amidst the huzzas of an immense multitude, the band meanwhile playing God save the King'.¹¹

The affectionate inscription of presentation on the sword, with its precise date, leaves little doubt that it was the Duke of Cambridge's role as Princess Mary's 'best man' (or supporter-in-chief) at her wedding (as well as being a close confidante of his elder brother) that a gift of a fine sword was presented to him by the Prince Regent on that day. Regrettably, Rundell, Bridge & Rundell's invoice for this token has not apparently survived.¹² This is a pity, because Rundell's invoices are detailed and informative and may have provided other details, such as cost.

Peter Finer



Figure 29 Adolphus Frederick, 1st Duke of Cambridge (1774–1850), artist unknown, published by E. Harding, 19 May 1806. National Portrait Gallery, London (D10631)

Conclusion

The sword presented by the Prince Regent to his brother the Duke of Cambridge in 1816 is not only the most elaborate and particular sword produced by Thomas Price, but also the last known token struck with his mark. Following Waterloo and the end of the long years of European warfare, the practice of presenting elaborate and distinctive swords declined, although swords have continued to be awarded to certain individuals to mark special national events or personal endeavour and, most notably, to honour distinguished campaigns and successes in major conflicts, such as the various campaigns of Victoria's reign and the two world wars (see Southwick 1990).

The last presentation sword retailed through the royal goldsmiths and jewellers, Rundell, Bridge & Rundell (the firm that commissioned all but one recorded sword made by Price) known to this writer, is the gift awarded by the Trelawny Regiment of Militia to their colonel, the Hon. William Miller, in 1827 (Southwick 1985). This was a specially designed silver-gilt stirrup-hilted sabre of light cavalry form, modelled on the 1796 pattern. This token was a type of sword that Thomas Price would almost certainly have manufactured for Rundell's, if he had not died seven years earlier. The maker's mark on William Miller's token is that of John London, another little-known but gifted manufacturer to the trade.

Acknowledgements

I should especially like to thank David McAlpine, Mrs Anne Buddle, Robin Dale, Ms Pamela Clarke, Archivist, Windsor Castle; David Beasley, Librarian, The Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths, London; Gerhard Grösse Löscher, Göttingen; Anne Dorte Krause, Bildarchiv, Deutsches Historisches Museum, Berlin; Jaroslav Rozsypal; Prokop Paul; Kristina Paulova; Dr M Christian Ortner, Heeresgeschichtliches Museum im Arsenal Vienna; David Williams and Kate Phayer at Bonhams London; Josephine Warburton, Head of Collections, National Maritime Museum, Falmouth, Cornwall; the National War Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh, the National Army Museum, Chelsea, the National Portrait Gallery, London, and The Corporation of London Records Office.

Notes

1. For accounts of Rundell, Bridge & Rundell, see L Southwick (2001) and C Hartop (2005).
2. Small-swords were still being made and presented up to the end of the Napoleonic war (such as those awarded to Captain Broke, General Hill, General Don, and Viscount Exmouth), but most of the later important gifts, such as those discussed in this paper, were based on military patterns. However, Ray and Montague did produce several fine military swords, such as those awarded to Jeremiah Coghlan, Edward Pakenham and Lieutenant-Colonel Joshua Jonathan Smith, and it is not known why Rundell's turned to a new name, that of Thomas Price, during this period (see Southwick 1997).

3. For the important information on a tradesman's family, beneficiaries and assets contained in wills, see Southwick (2004).
4. The modern term, 'sponsors mark' (or 'sponsoring' retailer), relates to tradesmen who dealt in works made of precious metal and who had (as operators) to register a mark at Goldsmiths' Hall. The term has been introduced by historians of the applied arts in an attempt to distinguish between those craftsmen who actually manufactured swords or other objects which bear their marks (such as the handicraftsmen who ran small workshops, like Thomas Price), and those who commissioned others to do the work for them and then sold the objects struck with their own marks. It is often very difficult to decide who actually made what, as the London trade operated in a variety of ways and was very secretive. However, a sponsor (that is, a prominent retail tradesman) used outworkers or subcontractors to make quality goods for them and did not actually do the work himself (see Southwick 2001b: 107). Where this is thought to be the case, the term 'sponsor's mark' is used.

As far as fine swords are concerned, most of the major London retailers, such as Robert Makepeace, Thomas Harper and Thomas Goldney, sold the weapons, signed them, but did not strike the item with an individual mark. However, a few well-known names, such as John Prosser, Richard Johnston and John Salter, struck their mark on several known silver-gilt swords (as well as engraving their names and addresses on the scabbard lockets) and it is virtually certain that these objects were not personally manufactured by those men: a sub-contractor or appointed journeyman had made them on their behalf (*ibid*). In contrast, James Morisset, who, like Thomas Price, ran a small manufacturing 'workshop to the trade', placed his registered mark on the fine swords his workshop produced, but he did not sign the tokens. In turn, the swords were signed with the names of the retail firms that had commissioned the pieces from him, such as Robert Makepeace or Rundell & Bridge. (For further views on this subject, see the discussion in Culme 1987, Southwick 2004 and Clifford 2004).

5. It is not known why this sword was not signed. My own view is that the Corporation of London first commissioned the Graham sword (made by Thomas Price) from Rundell, Bridge & Rundell, the most prominent supplier of all kinds of presentation plate and tokens in this period. However, the Corporation (scrupulous in being seen to be fair in sharing their commissions for their swords and freedom gifts with several prominent tradesmen) realised that Rundell's had provided the sword to Wellington just before the Graham gift, and that their decision to commission the same retailers so soon afterwards might appear to be unfair in the eyes of the London trade. Realising this, they passed the Graham commission to another prominent City tradesman, Richard Clarke of Cheapside (the only freedom gift he ever provided for the City, incidentally). However, as Price's sword was of a suitable and favoured 'General Officer' design (a sabre with a Mameluke-hilt) and quality and was probably already made, they chose this gift for presentation, but failed to have the retailer's name and address engraved on the scabbard locket.
6. An almost identical sword, but cast in ormolu (gilt-bronze), was presented by the same group of passengers on board the Marlborough to its Master, Mr William Macdonnell, for the same incident in 1814. This token was also supplied and signed by Rundell, Bridge & Rundell, and, as the process of casting silver and ormolu is exactly the same (except the latter is not required to be hallmarked), it is almost certain that the ormolu sword was also made in the workshop of Thomas Price. Moreover, the sword being cast in ormolu, rather than in silver, also points to the differences in rank of the master and the vessel's commander. See Bonhams Antique Arms, Armour and Modern Sporting Guns, Thursday 27 July 2006, Knightsbridge, Lot 244 (ill). I have been informed by David Williams at Bonhams that Macdonnell's sword was purchased by the National Maritime Museum, and will be exhibited with its counterpart at Falmouth (FAMMC: OC. 123).
7. I am indebted to Gerhard Grösse Löscher, who kindly supplied me with details and the location of General von Alten's sword in Hanover.
8. This sword has been in the possession of the recipient's family since 1815 and has not been seen in England since that time.

9. I should like to thank Gerhard Grösse Löscher for supplying me with information on Blücher's swords in Berlin. A catalogue of swords held in the Zeughaus, Berlin, in 1914, describes one sword as being a City of London sword given to Blücher, although an illustration of the weapon does not compare with the design of Schwarzenberg's or de Tolly's tokens (this description may merely relate to the fact that the sword was signed by a 'London' retailer). Moreover, the Deutches Historisches Museum in Berlin has informed me that a gilt-metal, stirrup-hilted sabre signed 'S. Brunn of Charing Cross' is thought to be the sword presented by the City in 1814. Judging from illustrations, description, ornamentation, metal, lack of heraldic insignia and inscription, and engraved with the name of the wrong supplier, this sword is definitely not Blücher's City of London presentation sword (The Corporation of the City of London, who presented these gifts, is situated within the square mile, but is not the same as the present capital of England, a large sprawling area, which combines the old City with the City of Westminster and outlying counties). If ever found Blücher's City of London sword (and that of Hetman Count Platov) will be similar to those of Prince Schwarzenberg and Count Barclay de Tolly (see swords nos 11 and 12 in the main text).
10. Six weeks before the marriage of Princess Mary and the Duke of Gloucester and the presentation of a sword from the Prince Regent to his bother, the Duke of Cambridge, the royal sword-cutter and beltmaker, John Prosser, submitted a bill to the Prince Regent, now in the Royal Archives at Windsor (RA GEO/ 29569), dated 29 April 1816, for providing two items: '[A] Fine large Boatshell Field Marshals Sword – very large shell with broad Edges – very large Pomel & silver gilt wire Grip, similar to Marshal Bluchers sword given him by the Emperor Alexander, solid blade & brown Scabd [costing] £15-15s-0' and 'To making a Pat[tern] hilt for a gold Sword Hilt to be mounted hereafter with Diamonds resembling the above Sword of Field Marshal Bluchers – deliv'd to Mr Bridge [costing] £7-7-0'. Two months later, on 22 June 1816, Prosser delivered another sword (on the same invoice above) described as a 'Fine Field Marshals Boatshel [sic] Sword as last £12-12-0 [with] Bag f. ditt. 3 shillings'.

A number of interesting speculations arise from Prosser's bill and with the Cambridge presentation sword. During this period, British field marshals (of which there were few) were not issued with a particular pattern of sword and the first known regulation order for a sword of that rank did not occur until 1831 (Robson 1996: 208). Before that date, most high-ranking army officers of General and above, were issued with the boat-shell Heavy Cavalry Officer Dress Sword, introduced in 1796, or wore (as in the case of Wellington) Mameluke-hilted sabres or models of personal preference. Therefore, Prosser's use of the term 'Boatshell Field Marshals Sword', was (according to AVB Norman, 1980: 214) the earliest reference known to him which specified a particular pattern of sword for a 'British Field Marshal', although no War Office regulation appears to exist to denote its introduction (Sietz in *Blankwaffen II* calls attention to a Model 1814 [this is the same as the boat-shell General Officer sword under discussion], see Norman 1980).

The second interesting point is that Prosser states that the swords he delivered were 'similar to Marshal Blüchers sword given him by the Emperor Alexander' and that the 'pattern hilt' (delivered to Mr Bridge of Rundell, Bridge & Rundell) resembled 'the above Sword of Field Marshal Blüchers'. Prosser's reference must relate to the sword that Tsar Alexander gave to Blücher in 1813, a token that the Field Marshal referred to in his letters on several occasions. It was also the sword that Blücher wore, when the allied sovereigns and their field marshals visited London in June 1814 (see sword no. 11 above). The fact that Prosser made the reference points to the sword being particularly distinctive, a weapon that was probably commented upon in the summer of 1814, and perhaps requested to be copied.

(Swords with eagle-headed pommels are usual to sabres of Prussia, Mecklenburg and Hanover in the short period of Ernst August (1837–51) and that boat-shell hilted swords were used as undress swords by Hanoverian officers of the Garde du Corps around 1820. I am indebted to Gerhard Grösse Löscher for this information.)

According to Laking's Windsor catalogue of European arms and armour (1904) and the late AVB Norman's forthcoming account, the swords that Prosser delivered to the Prince Regent in April and June 1816 can be identified and are at Windsor (although with so many swords of similar pattern in the collection, the identifications are not fool-proof). These weapons are thought to be swords L877 / RCIN 72728 and L767 / RCIN 62971, swords which Norman describes as 'British, variant of the Pattern of 1796'.

Prosser's 'pattern' for a 'gold sword to be mounted hereafter in diamonds', delivered in 1816, was given the Carlton House number of 2891, when it was returned from the Prince's Wardrobe in January 1820, but (according to Norman) there is no gold and diamond-embellished sword at Windsor that matches this pattern. (Nick Norman died in 1998 and did not know of the Cambridge sword, which has only recently come to light. However, the sword has always been in the recipient's family, and it was never in the Royal Collection at Windsor).

What then is the connection, if any, between the Cambridge sword and those provided by Prosser in the spring of 1816? It may well be that Prosser's 'pattern hilt' may have been the stimulus for the Cambridge sword (gold, but without diamonds, the diamonds may have been jettisoned due to cost and time) or, perhaps, for the gold and diamond-encrusted boat-shell sword supplied by Rundell's to the Prince (then George IV) on 7 August 1820 (invoice RA GEO/ 25996), following his accession (Laking no. L610 / RCIN 67134), a 'pattern hilt' issued in 1816, but not returned to Carlton House, the Prince Regent's residence in central London, until four years later, when George became king.

Both the Duke of Cambridge's gold and enamel sword (sword no. 15 above) and the Prince Regent's gold and diamond-encrusted dress-sword are elaborate and ornate, but they are similar in basic form to Prosser's gilt-metal 'Boatshell Field Marshal's swords', and (ignoring the differences in quality between the royal swords and the regulation models), the only distinctive structural difference between the two sets of swords is that the elaborate royal dress-pieces retain the 'arms of the hilt' (linking the quillons with the inside of the shell), whereas the army patterns do not have 'arms'. Moreover, the Duke of Cambridge's sword is enhanced and ornamented with Continental features, such as an 'imperial' eagle-headed pommel. It may be suggested that as the Duke of Cambridge was indeed a British Field Marshal, his gift was an ornate version of a sword he was allowed to carry. This variant pattern may not have suited every British Field Marshal, but it may have suited a field marshal of the Hanoverian family who, like Cambridge, had commanded the King's German Legion in the Napoleonic War and who, in the same year the sword was presented, was appointed Viceroy of Hanover, a post in which he served until 1837.

Lastly, it is interesting to note that out of the many designs that the new king, George IV, could have chosen to wear as a dress court-sword, he chose what was, in effect, a variant military boat-shell Field Marshal sword with Continental features (for example, instead of the normal pommel, it has one in the form of a barred helmet). Both as King and as Commander-in-Chief of British armed forces, the military enthusiastic monarch selected to wear an elaborate gold and diamond-encrusted sword that can be described as being an elaborate version of the 'Boat-shell Field Marshal pattern', one which may have been modelled on Prosser's pattern of 1816. Prosser supplied a pattern, one which may not have been copied precisely by Rundell's and the royal goldsmiths and jewellers may have altered the model to suit the Prince Regent's preferences and requirements, or adapted and embellished a hilt already in stock.

AVB Norman, for example, has described this sword as having a gold 'Hilt, probably German, about 1750, with additions of 1820; blade and scabbard, probably British' (Norman forthcoming no. 437). Gold small-sword hilts of about 1750 are very rare. Moreover, the new king's sword, with its lavish diamond embellishment, was completed by 7 August 1820, when Rundell's delivered the sword and their invoice to George IV at a cost of £3,687 (RA GEO/ 25996). This was just a few months after Prosser's pattern re-appeared from the new King's Wardrobe (or Rundell's workshop) (George IV acceded his father on 29 January 1820) and was installed and given a Carlton House registration

number. The sword is not hallmarked nor struck with a date letter (clearly this was avoided due to the delicacy of the gold and diamond decoration) and the date of manufacture and the cost come only from Rundell's invoice. Four years may seem a long time for a sword to be modelled after Prosser's pattern of 1816 was submitted, but an enormous amount of work went into the making of the king's sword, and, in addition, it may not have been required to be delivered to the royal wardrobe until the Prince Regent acceded to the throne (George, Prince of Wales, became Prince Regent in 1811, due to his father's mental incapacity, and waited nine years before becoming king).

Two other details appear relevant. The first is that the pommel on the military sabre presented by Marshal Blücher to the Prince Regent in 1814 (Carlton House Arms Cat. No. 2412), is formed as an unusual 'fantastic barred and plumed helmet', not unlike the pommel on the King's sword of 1820 (see Carlton House 1991:163, no. 133 ill). Perhaps, this again is a salute to Blücher (died 1819), one that reflects another aspect of design on swords worn by him (Blücher was not only fêted as a hero in 1814, but also again following Waterloo in 1815, a battle in which he had given Wellington valuable support). The second detail is that on 3 September 1816, John Prosser delivered to the Prince Regent a loop-guard hilted sword costing £21, which he described as 'a Pattern for the Court of Hanover' (RA GEO 29569) (Norman 1980:191). This appears to confirm that Prosser had been commissioned to produce patterns for swords to be worn at the Hanoverian Court, at the same time as the Duke of Cambridge was appointed Viceroy to the Kingdom of Hanover in the autumn of 1816.

11. The Royal Archives do not hold a record of this royal event, an account that may have provided details of a sword being presented. However, the wedding ceremony is recorded in *The London Gazette* 1816 (No. 17156: 1433), *The Gentleman's Magazine*, July–Dec. 1816 (Vol. LXXXVI: 78–79) and *The Annual Register* 1816 (under date), but no sword is mentioned in any of these reports. It appears that the presentation of the sword, from the Prince Regent to his younger brother, was arranged privately.
12. I should like to thank Ms Pamela Clarke, Archivist, Windsor Castle, for permission to examine the surviving tradesmen's invoices of George IV (as Prince of Wales, Prince Regent and King), submitted to the Royal Wardrobe for payment between 1783 and 1830.

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