

Line Infantry, Officer

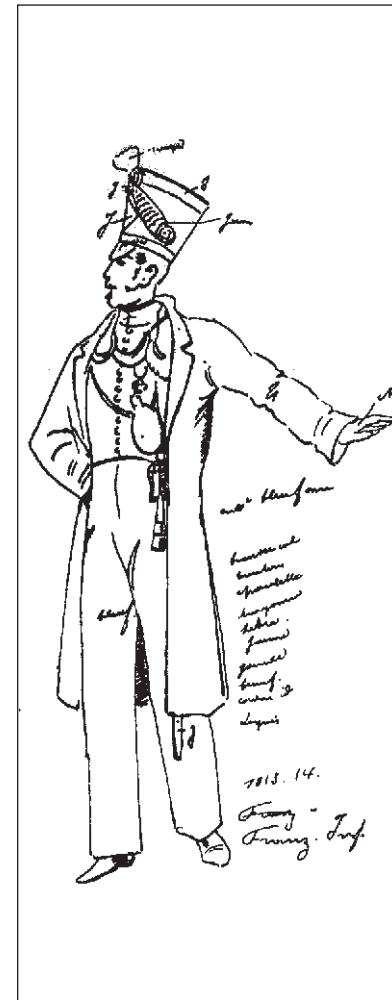
The source of this Charles Brun illustration, titled "Officer of Infantry, 1813" cannot be directly attributed with certainty. However, based on Richard Knötel's original description of this plate when evaluating the *Freiberg Manuscript* for the German collector J. P. Zarn, this Brun illustration appears to be a copy of a missing Winkler painting from Part I of the manuscript.

In several instances, when making his tracings of the missing Part III of the *Freiberg Manuscript*, Brun used space on the same sheet of paper to trace a figure from another part of the manuscript. To the immediate right is a duplicate of Brun's tracing of what was apparently the original Winkler figure (I, 25) found on the annotated sheet with the tracing of Part IIIC, 158, which depicted three Westphalian hussars (one of which is reproduced as Plate 108).

The red pompom on his shako (around which his chinscales are tied) might identify this captain as an officer of a grenadier company. The uniform is a very plain one, as is the case for most of the officers portrayed. Here we are presented with a clue about a possible practical reason for wearing epaulettes in an unbuttoned, drooping way frequently shown in this collection. Unbuttoning the outer end of the epaulettes, so as to allow them to fall forward, accommodates the limited shoulder space within an overcoat. Overcoats were a necessity in the continual rainy weather. Wearing the epaulettes this way may have simply been pragmatic; one cannot wear an overcoat over epaulettes if they are fastened on the shoulders. Perhaps because of this self-evident practicality, Brun faithfully copied Winkler in a detail he otherwise frequently "corrected."

This veteran officer is decorated with the Legion of Honor, making him a valuable leader to the raw army of 1813. He is carrying a leather-covered water bottle that often served just as well for carrying more fortifying beverages.

Brun N° 28 from
Freiberg I, 25 >



Brun's annotated tracing (above) of I, 25 used to prepare his final illustration.



34-1813 Officier d'infanterie