

# Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

## Online edition

### **BALDREY, Joshua Kirby**

Ipswich 1754 – Hatfield Woodside,  
Hertfordshire 6.XII.1828

An announcement appeared in the *Ipswich journal*, 25.VII.1778:

J BALDREY returns Thanks to the Ladies and Gentlemen of Ipswich for the encouragement he has met with, and ... continues to teach Drawing in most of its branches, ..in Indian-ink, Chalks, Water-colours and Crayons, on his usual Terms: Eighteen Shillings per quarter for Two lessons a week, Half-a-Guinea for One ditto, and Half-a-Guinea Entrance...J. Baldrey likewise acquaints his Friends, he paints Portraits, in Oil or Crayons, and also copies pictures with exactness.

He was the engraver whose name is given incorrectly in many reference books (following Redgrave) but who was actually Joshua Kirby Baldrey, the eldest son of the domestic and heraldic painter Andrew Baldrey of Ipswich (Cross-Keys Street in 1777, when J. Baldrey first advertised as a teacher). A younger brother, John Baldrey (1758–?1826), is also recorded as a printmaker (the firm of J. & J. Baldrey, recorded between 1799 and 1809, led to the erroneous inference that there were two Johns, father and son), but is probably too young to be the advertiser, particularly if he is the Baldrey listed by Fawcett as painting crayon portraits at Norwich in 1775. Joshua was married at least three times : a first wife (hitherto unrecorded), Ann, died aged 26 in Ipswich (while her husband was in London), on 2.VII.1786 (*Bury and Norwich post*, 5.VII.1786; buried at St Matthew's two days later); in 1795 in London to Elizabeth Parsons (the allegation reveals that he was already a widower); and in 1808 in Cambridge to Mary Jane Copsey.

From c.1780 for over twenty years Joshua Baldrey divided his time between London and Cambridge, as engraver and printseller; among his productions were reproductions of a Cambridge portrait by Huquier (*Labutte*) and two pieces by Gardner for Boydell (*A young florist*; and *Affection*). In 1811 he described himself as a miniature painter; illness and a large family led to his death in poverty.

### **Bibliography**

Alexander 2021; Fawcett 1978; Oxford DNB; britishmuseum.org database; Redgrave 1878; Waterhouse 1981