Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

**BUCK, Adam**

Cork 1759 – London 1833

Irish portraitist in oil, watercolour, miniature and coloured chalk. He was the son of a silversmith in Cork; Adam and his brother Frederick both became portrait miniaturists. Adam moved to London in 1795 and exhibited a large number of works (medium unspecified) at the Royal Academy, from 174 Piccadilly (1795–97) and 49 Frith Street thereafter. Most of his drawings (mainly nineteenth century) seem to be in a mixture of media including chalks and watercolour, which confuses classification (the presence of touches of blue chalk often leads to these drawings being described as pastels). Pasquin, reviewing his submission to the 1796 Royal Academy, praised a “spirited drawing of figures skating. It is executed on a new principle, with crayons consolidated by wax: among the group we could easily recognize the features of Mr. Pack”, no doubt referring to the artist Faithful Christopher Pack (q.v.).

**Monographic exhibitions**


**Bibliography**

Bénézit; Crystal Bennes, *Apollo*, VII.2015, pp. 67–70; Crookshank & Gin 1994; Dublin 1969; Edinburgh 2008; Figgis 1987; McGuire 1939, p. 15; New Haven 1979; Oxford DNB; Saur; Wright 2006

**Salon critiques**

*Anthony PASQUIN* [John Williams], *A critical guide to the Royal Academy, for 1796*, London, 1796: 773 — *A Drawing*. A. BUCK. This is a spirited drawing of figures skating. It is executed on a new principle, with crayons consolidated by wax: among the group we could easily recognize the features of Mr. Pack.*

**Pastels**


J.185.112 Miss FOSTR[E], cr. clr (New York, 15–16.I.1952, $35)


J.185.115 Mrs MOUNTAIN, with a guitar, m/u, sd 1802 (Mrs Elliott Wood). Lit.: *Connoisseur*, LVIII, 1917, p. 143

J.185.117 Belby PORTEUS (1731–1809), DD, bishop of Chester and of London, chlk, watercolour, 40.6x30.5 (London, NPG 735). Lit.: Bénézit, as pstl, aquarelle

J.185.118 Claude RUSSELL of Bingidd, pstl, 26x23, inscr. verso (Marlborough, Massachusetts, Skinner, 13.VIII.2017, Lot 376 repr., attr. est. $1000–1500, $984)


J.185.12 =?pencil, pstl. 27.4x21.6 (London, Christie’s, 12.IV.1994, Lot 30 attr., £90)


J.185.124 Mme VESTRIS, cr. clr (New York, 15–16.I.1932, §80)

J.185.125 A master’s mate, RN, pstl, 24x19 [p.1800] (Greenwich, National Maritime Museum, inv. PAJ 3150) [new attr.] φσ


J.185.133 Lady, half-length, seated, wearing a blue dress and white hat and shawl, cr. clr, pencil, 18.5x16 (London, Sotheby’s, 16.V.1996, Lot 392 n.r, attr., est. £600–800)

J.185.134 Lady in a white dress, standing, full length, pstl/ppr, 46x35.5 (London, Sotheby’s, 16.VII.1998, Lot 19 repr., est. £2–3000, £3400) φσ