

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

BURCHARDT, Johann Christoph

fl. Ballenstedt 1789–1825

Also spelt Burckhardt, Burkhardt, Burchard etc. Miniaturist and pastellist; worked for the court of Anhalt-Bernburg (Schloß Ballenstedt, where he was described as Hofmaler) and in Leipzig. He must have worked with the portraitist and landscape painter Karl Christian Kehrer (1755–1833), Hofmaler in Ballenstedt from 1788. Burckhardt exhibited at the Berlin Akademie in 1789, 1793 and 1798, showing pastels and miniatures. Some oil portraits made at the court of Anhalt have been attributed to him, and a portrait of Alexis Herzog von Anhalt Bernburg by C. Burkhardt (m/u, 1825) was engraved by Tobias Falcke.

Biographical information on Burchardt has been elusive, but records from the church registers at Ballenstedt (located by Claudia Entschladen, pr.comm., 4.XI.2025) provide some detail from the marriage of Christoph Burchard, Hofmaler, son of Caspar Nicolaus (a shoemaker, deceased in Gernrode) to Friederike Juliane Lilienberg, from Halberstadt, widow of a surgeon, Gottfried Becker. Both husband and wife were dead by 1836 when a daughter married.

It is possible that he was related to the prominent family from Basel, which included the collector and silk ribbon maker, Johann Rudolph Burckhardt, a J. R. Burckhardt, colonel in the French army, and his son, the Middle East explorer John Lewis Burckardt (1784–1817).

There are several probably unrelated homonyms. A Christian Burkhardt was admitted to the Royal Academy Schools in London on 31.XII.1777 (aged “15 24 last Oct”), and was awarded a silver medal in 1780. A Dutch painter was baptised Johann Christian Burckhardt in Leiden 9.XII.1772. Another Johann Christian Burckhardt (1771–1848), German by birth, was in London from at least 1808, when he married an Emily Gilchrist. He was naturalised by act of parliament in 1810. On 21.II.1824 he married a Mary Jelly Walford, daughter of a milliner. A goldsmith and jeweller by trade, he was made bankrupt in 1826 and 1832. A prominent freemason (and temporarily head of the order after the death of the Duke of Sussex), his “worldly circumstances...were most unfortunatate” for some time before his death. In W. H. Rylands’s *Records ...of the Royal arch Chapter of St James’s* (1891), Borchhardt’s numerous miniature topographical drawings are mentioned. It does not seem that any of these can be identified with the German pastellist in view of the 1825 print.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Leipzig 1912; Saur

Pastels

J.187.101 Johann Philipp GUISCHARD (1726–1798), königl.-preußischer Hofrat, Erfinder der Fabrication des Englischen Steinguts in Magdeburg; & pendant: J.187.102 spouse, née Sophia Margaretha Ludewig (1741–1805), pstl/ppr, 35.5x29, 1797 (Magdeburg, Kunstmuseum, inv. G444/G472.

Kunsthändlerin Josepha Kirchner, Halberstadt; acqu. 1950, DM100. Lost Art-ID 302318/302316). Lit.: Saur, n.r.; Helmut Asmus & Manfred Wille, *1200 Jahre Magdeburg*, Magdeburg, 2002, p. 192 repr.

J.187.103 ~?version, pstl/ppr, 36x30, s.d. verso “gemahlt den 26ten August 1797 von Burckhardt hochfürstl. Anhalt Berenburgischem Hofmahler in Ballenstädt” (Stuttgart, Nagel, 5.XII.2007, Lot 330 repr., est. €900) φ



J.187.106 Frau von HOFF, 55x43.7, sd 1796 (Otto Nauhardt, Leipzig, 1912). Exh.: Leipzig 1912, no. 24, Tafel 107. Lit.: Brieger 1921, repr. φ



J.187.108 Wilhelm Theodor von PODEWILS, Rittmeister; & pendant: J.187.109 spouse, Theophile, pstl, 52.5x46, sd 1799 (Stuttgart, Nagel, 6.XII.2001, Lot 1033 repr., est. €3600) φ

J.187.112 Ein Jäger, Brustbild, pstl, Berlin 1798, no. 142

J.187.113 Ein Amor, Ganze Figur, pstl, Berlin 1798, no. 143

J.187.114 Zwei Knaben mit Trommel, pstl/ppr, 67.5x58.5, sd “J. C. Burckhardt/...1797” (Antikart, Karlsruhe, 2013) φ

