

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

CAMBRUZZI, Giacomo, cavaliere

Castel di Soligo 1744 – p.1809

According to Federici 1803, Cambruzzi's earliest biographer (who wrote while the artist was still alive), the pastellist was the great-grandson of Antonio Bellucci. His own genius drove him to portraiture, working in oil, miniature and mainly pastel, which for Federico, demonstrated "dei tocchi esquisiti", delicate and life-like. After some local commissions, he travelled widely, working in the courts of Milan, Venice, Vienna (1768, where he drew the emperor, members of the imperial family and other nobles and illustrious persons), Innsbruck, Munich, Mannheim, Köln (where he was painter to Kurfürst und Erzbischof Maximilian Franz, who made him a "cavaliere di onore decorato, e distinto"), Holland (where he was busy for a year with his pen and pastels), Paris, Versailles, Württemberg, Madrid, Barcelona, Zaragoza, England, Vicenza, Florence and Barcelona (1791). During his five years in Britain, he travelled around the country as far as Edinburgh. He is evidently the "Castruzzi" who exhibited pastel portraits at the Society of Artists in 1774 from 34, Suffolk Street in London. The name was printed correctly when he exhibited at the Royal Academy (in 1775, from Baker's Lottery Office, Charing Cross, and in 1777, from 13 Long Acre). A notice appeared in the *Morning post* on 5.V.1777–

The same Person who congratulated Mr. De Cambruzzi on his picture of Mr Rauzzini, in the Morning Post of last February, rejoices on hearing it is applauded by the public in the Royal Exhibition, although it is placed so high, that its number, 38, is scarcely distinguishable.

In 1778 "Mr Cambruzzi, portrait painter from Venice", by an advertisement in the *Glasgow Mercury*, "informed the Ladies and Gentlemen of Glasgow that he had arrived from London and lodged at Mr. Hutton's, Head of the Old Wynd, Trongate, where he gave attendance from 11 to 3", and invited them "to view the performances which he had finished since his arrival."

On his return to Italy he lived in Venice and Florence, where he was admitted to the Accademia del Disegno and presented his self-portrait (1791) to the collection now at the Uffizi. When Federici was writing (1803), Cambruzzi had retired to his native town; but a further sighting in Metz occurs in 1806, with this advertisement in the *Affiches, annonces et avis divers pour les Trois Evêchés et la Lorraine*.

Le Maire de la ville de Metz prévient les amateurs de Part que M. Jacques de Cambrozzé, professeur de l'Académie de Florence est actuellement à Metz. Il peint le portrait au pastel d'une manière permanente et loge chez M. Sibille, rue de la Pierre-hardie, no. 120.

A Giacomo Cambruzzi was recorded as a member of the consiglio comunale di Feltre (the town near Castel di Soligo where his family had roots going back at least to the seventeenth century) in 1809.

Some early paintings of the imperial family were done in Vienna in 1768. Thereafter his known works are all in pastel. His portraits are wooden and rather primitive, although there is significant improvement between the examples

from around 1777 and the 1791 self-portrait. The two ladies from the London period are drawn with such exaggerated hairstyles that it has been assumed that Susanna Blamire's improbable locks were a later addition, but the similarity with the dated example shows that this is as much a part of the Kavalier's style as his elongated faces.

Bibliography

Avagnina 2003; Bénézit; Berti 1979; Federici 1803, II, pp. 183f; Fernandez 1977, p. 102; Jean-Julien 1924, p. 203; Christopher Maycock, *A passionate poet*, 2003; Saur; Waterhouse 1981, s.v. Cambruzzi; Castruzzi; *Dizionario biografico degli Italiani*, 1977

Pastels

J.1926.101 AUTORITRATTO, pstl, 55x42.5, sd
1 "Cav. Giacomo de Cambruzzi di Feltre fatto nel 1791" (Uffizi, inv. 1890, no. 2089, A166. Pitti a.1710; Poggio Imperiale 1845; Uffizi). Lit.: *Dizionario biografico degli italiani*, XXII, Rome, 1974; Berti 1979, repr. φ

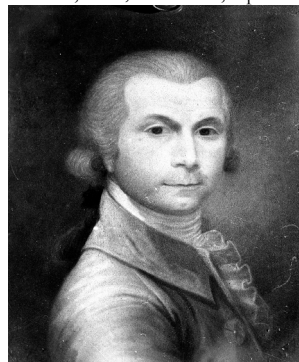


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J.1926.102 Family of the duque de ALBA, m/u. Lit.: Federici 1803

J.1926.104 Susanna BLAMIRE (1747–1794), poet, pstl, sd ← "De C..." c.1777 (desc.: sitter's great-nephew, Lieut.-Col. Thomas Young (1825–1892) of Thackwood; PC 2003). Lit.: Maycock 2003, repr. φ



~grav. W. H. Mote, for Sidney Gilpin, *Songs and poems by Miss Blamire*, 1866

~grav. for Lonsdale's *Worthies*, 1873

J.1926.108 Mrs CRAMLINGTON, with an ermine mantle, pstl/ppr, 49.5x37, sd ← "De Cambruzzi 1777" (James S. Murdock; his daughter, Henrietta Murdock; don 1914:

Gibbes Museum, Charleston; deaccessioned; New York, Christie's East, 22.VI.1982, Lot 27 n.r., est. \$200–400 with another. Boston, Skinner, 11.IV.2009, Lot 539 repr., attr., unidentified sitter, est. \$100–200) φ



J.1926.109 Giuseppe FERRE, m/u, c.1768 (famille du sujet 1803). Lit.: Federici 1803, "bellissimo"

J.1926.11 Jacobus de GABBIATTI (1744–); & pendant: J.1926.111 spouse, née Maddalena Rusconi, pstl/ppr, 41x31, sd "Pinxit Cambruzzi Tergesti Dit 26 Januarij 1789" (Herbert Wollmann, Hofrat, Kunzler der Deutschen Botschaft beim Heiligen Stahl. Stuttgart, Nagel, 27.VI.1998, Lot 754 repr., est. DM1000, DM900; Venice, Franco Semenzato, 12.XII.1998, Lot 42 repr.) φ



J.1926.112 Don GABRIEL, Infante de España (1752–1788), m/u. Lit.: Federici 1803

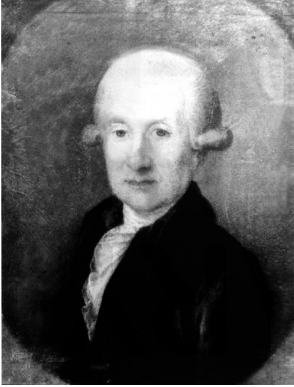
J.1926.113 JOSEPH II. (1741–1790), Kaiser, 1768.
Lit.: Federici 1803; Maycock 2003, n.r.

J.1926.114 Duque de LANCASTER, m/u, Zaragoza.
Lit.: Federici 1803

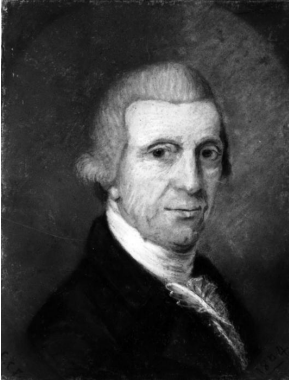
J.1926.115 Margaret LLEWELLYN (1741–1822),
psth, 46x34, sd 1777 (London, Sotheby's,
7.III.1974, Lot 3 n.r.)

J.1926.116 Venanzio RAUZZINI (1747–1810),
castrato, composer and impresario, crayons,
Royal Academy 1777, no. 38, as “a
gentleman”. Lit.: Whatley 1928, II, p. 376,
identified as of Rauzzini

J.1926.117 Francesco SANGIOVANNI (1724–1806),
membro del collegio dei Giudici, mecenate,
psth/pchm, 51.5x41, 1791 (Vicenza, inv. A 396.
Legs Chiara Ghellini Sangiovanni, Vicenza,
1824–42). Lit.: Avagnina 2003, no. 431 repr. φ



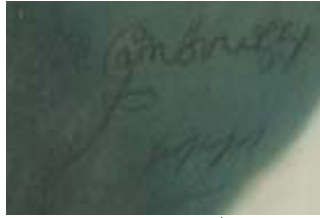
J.1926.1175 Vittore SCALABRINI, psth, 24x19, 1804
(Feltre, Museo civico, inv. 183, as by Nicola
Cambruzzi) φ



J.1926.118 An artist's head, crayons, Society of
Artists 1774, no. 382

J.1926.119 Gentleman in blue coat, white stock,
psth, 46x34, sd 1777 (London, Christie's,
20.II.1914, Lot 31, 2½ gns; Lacey)

J.1926.1191 Gentleman in grey coat, red collar, psth,
51x38.5, sd ← “Cambruzzi/ft/1777” (Bologna,
Gregory's Casa d'Aste, 15.XII.2017, Lot 118
repr., est. €500–800) [new attr.] φv



J.1926.12 Gentiluomo, psth/pchm, 36x25 (Vicenza,
inv. A 997). Lit.: Avagnina 2003, no. 433 attr. φ

J.1926.122 Lady's head, crayons, Society of Artists
1774, no. 381

J.1926.123 Giovane donna, psth/pchm, 49x40
(Vicenza, inv. A 397. Legs Chiara Ghellini
Sangiovanni, Vicenza, 1824–42). Lit.: Avagnina
2003, no. 432 attr. φ

J.1926.125 Five portraits, crayons, Royal Academy
1775, no. 93