

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

CAMBRUZZI, Giacomo, chevalier de

Castel di Soligo 1744 – p.1803

Worked in the courts of Milan, Venice, Vienna (1768), Munich, Mannheim, Köln (where he was painter to Kurfürst und Erzbischof Maximilian Franz, who made him a “cavaliere di onore decorato, e distinto”), Versailles, Württemberg, Madrid, 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). 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 to the collection now at the Uffizi.

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; Domenico Maria Federici, *Memorie Trevigiane alle opere di disegno*, II, pp. 183f; Fernandez 1977, p. 102; Christopher Maycock, *A passionate poet*, 2003; Saur; Waterhouse 1981, s.v. Cambruzzi; Castruzzi

Pastels

AUTORITRATTO, pstl, 55x42.5, sd ↓ “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. ◻



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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. ◻



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

~grav.: for Lonsdale’s *Worthies*, 1873

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) ◻



Jacobus de GABBIATTI (1744–); & pendant: 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.) ◻



Margaret LLEWELLYN (1741–1822), pstl, 46x34, sd 1777 (London, Sotheby’s, 7.III.1974, Lot 3 n.r.)

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



An artist’s head, crayons, Society of Artists 1774, no. 382

Gentleman, crayons, Royal Academy 1777, no. 38

Gentleman in blue coat, white stock, pstl, 46x34, sd 1777 (London, Christie’s, 20.II.1914, Lot 31, 2 ½ gns; Lacey)

Gentiluomo, pstl/pchm, 36x25 (Vicenza, inv. A 997). Lit.: Avagnina 2003, no. 433 attr. ◻

An artist’s head, crayons, Society of Artists 1774, no. 382

Lady’s head, crayons, Society of Artists 1774, no. 381

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

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