

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

CHANTREY, Sir Francis Legatt

Norton 7.IV.1781 – London 25.XI.1841

The celebrated sculptor was the son of a tenant farmer and carpenter in Derbyshire. He was apprenticed to Robert Ramsey, a carver, gilder and printseller in Sheffield in 1797. Here he came across Ramsey's lodger, John Raphael Smith (*q.v.*), who drew him in pastel, and, before his apprenticeship reached its seven-year term, Chantrey bought himself out and commenced a career as an independent portrait painter in 1802. On 22.IV.1802 he advertised in the *Sheffield Iris* to take portraits in crayons from 24 Paradise Square "and trusts in being happy to produce good and satisfactory likenesses, and no exertion shall be wanting on his part, to render his humble efforts deserving some small share of public patronage." Two years later, in .X.1804, he announced that he "commenced taking models from the life." He also offered miniatures, and added that, "though young, he was had an opportunity of acquiring improvement from strict attention to the works and productions of J. R. Smith and Co." Holland lists a fair number of "very early" portraits in "crayons", which may well be pastel rather than the chalk he usually employed in view of his connection with Smith. It is however unclear which were undertaken while still an apprentice, and whether any (perhaps those Holland indicates as "very early"?) were made before 1800.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Edwards 1934; John Holland, *Memorial of Sir Francis Chantrey, RA*, Sheffield, 1851; Oxford DNB

Pastels

- J.2182.101 SELF-PORTRAIT, in a sky-blue coat, crayons, c.1801 (John Read, Greenhill, near Norton 1851). Lit.: Holland 1851, p. 144, no. 1 n.r.
- J.2182.102 SELF-PORTRAIT, head, crayons, very early (William Overend 1851). Lit.: Holland 1851, p. 148, no. 7 n.r.
- J.2182.103 SELF-PORTRAIT, crayon, 1803 (artist; don: W. Bramhall, of Sheaf House, Sheffield; acqu. W. Bateman, 1826). Lit.: *A descriptive catalogue of the antiquities...in the museum of Thomas Bateman at Lomberdale House, Derbyshire*, Bakewell, 1845, p. 286
- J.2182.104 John BROWN, boot maker, head, crayons (Mr Brown 1851). Lit.: Holland 1851, p. 171, no. 62 n.r.
- J.2182.105 Samuel DAKEN (1716–p.1800), gardner in Norton, wearing a handkerchief tied about the head; & pendant: J.2182.106 dame Lee, of Norton Green, as an old woman, with a handkerchief tied over her cap, heads, crayons (Miss Shore, of Meersbrook 1851). Lit.: Holland 1851, p. 144, no. 5–6 n.r.
- J.2182.107 Robert FOX, son of the artist's schoolmaster, full-sized head, crayons (John Read, Greenhill, near Norton 1851). Lit.: Holland 1851, p. 144, no. 3 n.r.
- J.2182.108 Thomas FOX, the artist's schoolmaster, small head, crayons (John Read, Greenhill, near Norton 1851). Lit.: Holland 1851, p. 144, no. 2 n.r.
- J.2182.109 Thomas GREGORY, builder, crayons (Thomas Gregory, Jr, solicitor, London 1851). Lit.: Holland 1851, p. 161, no. 39 n.r.
- J.2182.11 Mrs HILL, wife of the Sheffield carver and gilder, head, crayons (Mr Wild, George Street, Sheffield 1851). Lit.: Holland 1851, p. 162, no. 40 n.r.
- J.2182.111 Nicholas JACKSON (–1811), Sheffield file-smith, crayons, very early (John Read, Greenhill, near Norton 1851). Lit.: Holland 1851, p. 151, no. 16 n.r.
- J.2182.112 Susanna JACKSON (–1812), dau. of Nicholas Jackson, crayons, very early (John Read, Greenhill, near Norton 1851). Lit.: Holland 1851, p. 152, no. 17 n.r., ?first attempt in crayons
- J.2182.113 James MONTGOMERY (1771–1854), poet, crayons, a.1807 (Nanson 1851). Lit.: Holland 1851, p. 155, no. 25 n.r.
- J.2182.114 Richard RODGERS, solicitor, crayons (Mr Thomas, surgeon, Norfolk Street 1851). Lit.: Holland 1851, p. 161, no. 38 n.r.
- J.2182.115 William WILD, head, crayons (Mr Wild, George Street, Sheffield 1851). Lit.: Holland 1851, p. 162, no. 41 n.r., similar in style to J. R. Smith