

# Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

## Online edition

### COLES

*fl.* London c.1749

In a letter to “Mrs Belfour” (Lady Bradshaigh) of .1.1749, the novelist Samuel Richardson responded to her enquiries about Highmore’s illustrations for his novel *Clarissa*. He added:

Dr Chancey, a physician in Austin Friars, a man of learning and politeness, has also a head of Clarissa in crayons; a piece that wants neither spirit nor dignity, nor such an innocence in the aspect, as made me ready, as much as I was on seeing Mr Highmore’s to curse the Lovelace I had drawn.

Shortly after, Richardson borrowed the picture, and later wrote to Charles Chauncy to report the approval of his friends of the pastel, the artist of which he identifies as an unrecorded “Mr Coles”. One wonders if this might be a confusion with Rosalba’s Callisto which Chauncy owned, possibly acquired from Christian Cole (*q.v.*).

#### **Bibliography**

T. C. Duncan Eaves, “Graphic illustration of the novels of Samuel Richardson, 1740–1810”, *Huntington Library quarterly*, XIV/4, 1951, pp. 349–83

#### **Pastels**

[J.2328.101](#) Clarissa, head, crayons (Dr Chauncy)