

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

CONSTABLE, John

East Bergholt 11.VI.1776 – London 31.III.1837
According to Sée, the landscape painter began his career with portraits and pastels. A portrait of him by Daniel Gardner, from 1796, indicates that they knew one another by then (one source suggests that Constable and Gardner sketched with Mrs Elizabeth Cobbold in Ipswich as early as 1793, but this is uncertain), but there is nothing to suggest that Constable was a pupil of Gardner. The very rare examples in coloured chalk seem to be well into the nineteenth century. The subject of Sée's example, supposedly the artist's sister-in-law, may also be Laura Moubray. Constable also made oil copies of Katherine Read's pastel of Lady Lucy Digby for her descendents.

An advertisement in *Aris's Birmingham gazette*, 20.VI.1788, offered "portraits in crayons by a Young Gentlemen" aged 11; while the age would fit, there is no other evidence to suggest that Constable visited Birmingham at this date.



Bibliography

Bénézit; Grove; Graham Reynolds, *The early paintings and drawings of John Constable*, New Haven, 1996, p. 11; Saur; Sée 1911; Wright 2006

Pastels

J.2358.101 ?Mrs Robert MOUBRAY, née Laura Hobson (1788–p.1817), cr. clr/ppr, 28x22.1 ov., c.1806 (desc.: Major W. H. C. Moubray; desc.: Ivor Moubray-Philipps; London, Christie's, 2.IV.1996, Lot 15 repr., est. £10–15,000, £11,500; a nobleman; London, Christie's, 10.XII.2008, Lot 6 repr., est. £25–35,000, £22,500) φδσ



J.2358.103 ?The sister-in-law of the artist, pstl, 49x34 (R. R. M. Sée 1911). Exh.: Paris 1911, no. 12. Lit.: Sée 1911, repr. p. 287; Sée 1911b, p. 32 repr. Φ