Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

**COTES, Samuel**
London 1734–7.III.1818

Younger brother of Francis Cotes (q.v., and for family background), whose success induced Samuel to switch from the medical profession of his father to that of his brother. In 1768 he married Mary Creswicke, the daughter of Joseph Creswicke (1702–1772), a director of the East India Company (and guardian of Warren Hastings); their only child, born in 1770, died four years later. Ten years after his first wife’s death, he married (in 1780) the amateur artist Sarah Sheppard (–1814) of Titchfield Street. Her marriage settlement, rehearsed in her will, mentions Philip Sheppard of Northaw, Hertfordshire, and Thomas Sheppard, clerk in the Chancery Office, as well as Matthew Yatman of Percy Street, a apothecary and a neighbour (Samuel Cotes’s address in Percy Street appears in a lost property advertisement in 1769 for a miniature of an infant girl).

Samuel Cotes worked mainly as a miniaturist. The enamellist Francis Sykes (q.v.) claimed to have taught him (according to the *Diary of Sylas Neville*). He also made some pastels: some of them are derived from the Reynolds portrait of Charles James Fox. The style is quite different from his brother’s.

His obituary notes that “The works of Samuel Cotes in crayons were deservedly and highly esteemed, and he became the first miniaturist of his time.”

**Bibliography**

Bénézit; Edinburgh 2008; Foskett 1987; *Gentleman’s magazine*, III.1818, LXXXVIII, pp. 276f; Oxford DNB; Pilkington 1852; Saur; Sloman 2002, p. 200; Strickland 1913

**Genealogies Cotes**

**Pastels**

*Altemarle, v. Gardner*

J.244.101 *Miss Frances BANKES*, pstl, 61x44.5 ov., sd 1793 (London, Bonhams, 11.III.2003, Lot 37 repr., est. £500–700) [i/r Reynolds pnt., grv. Samuel William Reynolds]


J.244.103 *Anne de Crespigny*, n. Read

J.244.104 *Master FINCH*, pstl, 60x45 ov., sd 1792 (Chichester, Stride & Son, 25.XI.2011, Lot 690 repr.; Salisbury, Wolley & Wallis, 21.III.2012, Lot 69 repr., est. £1000–1500, £600)


1244.117 John PERROTT, in brown coat and vest, with white stock, pstl, 60x44.5, sd 1785 (London, Christie’s, 15.X.1951, 7 gns; Smith)
1244.118 Mrs Moses PORTER, née Kitty Lockman (c.1750–1788), pstl/ppr, 60x44.5 ov., sd “S. Cotes pxt/1790” (New Haven, Yale University Art Gallery, Don Julian Street, Jr. a.1951). Lit.: Yale University portrait index 1701–1951, New Haven, 1951, p. 71 n.r.
1244.1181 [olim J.243.571] Mrs John Child ?Powis [PURVIS] (∞ 1784 admiral), née Catherine Sowers (1757–1789), pstl, 25x19 ov. (c.1780) (James Thursby-Pelham; Mrs Guy Angles; London, Sotheby’s, 19. XI.1947, as by Francis Cotes, £28; Spink. PC 2020) [new attr.] ϕν


1244.121 Thomas STEPNEY, 6th Bt (1725–1772), in a blue coat, pstl, 27x18.5. (Derwyydl Mansion, Sotheby’s, 15.IX.1998, Lot 34, est. £300–500, £598). Lit.: Steegman 1962, p. 53, no. 41
1244.122 Miss [Anne] WILLIAMS of Penpont, [daughter of Philip Williams, ∞ 1806 Osborne Yeats], wearing a white dress, pstl, 59.5x49.5 ov., sd 1790 (Penpont, Brecon, Sotheby’s, 22.X.1991, Lot 220 repr., est. £1000–1500, £2199). Lit.: Steegman 1962, 11, p. 14, no. 3 φσ
1244.123 Gentleman in a wig, half-length, pstl/ppr, 58.4x45.7, sd 1787 (Leominster, Russell Baldwin & Bright, 1.X.1944, Lot 1038 repr., £480)
1244.125 Elderly lady in blue dress, white fichu and bonnet, black lace mantilla, ermine muff, pstl, 59x44, sd “S Cotes Pxt/1790” (Gallery Verite, Winchester 2018) ϕ