

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

DAWE, Philip

London ?4.IX.1748–?brd 8.XII.1819

Mezzotint engraver of portraits and fashion satires (after Morland, Foldson, Cosway, Kauffman, *qq.v.*, etc.), by whom only a few independent works are recorded, two in pastel. Apparently the illegitimate son of a city merchant, there is much uncertainty over his date of birth (he may be the Philip Dawe born to Philip Dawe, brazier of Rolles Court, and Sarah, née Potter, 4.IX.1748, baptised at St Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey, or the Philip born to William and Mary Dawe, baptised at St Martin-in-the-Fields, 25.VIII.1745), and he has been confused with a pupil of Hogarth, P. or William Dawes. He was described (in 1769 and 1770 exhibition catalogues) as a pupil of Henry Robert Morland, some of whose work he engraved, and was godfather to his son, the painter George Morland (*qq.v.*); it seems that he was related to the family. He exhibited at the Free Society between 1761 and 1782, and is recorded at Woodstock Street (1772), 1 Goodge Street (1773), 15 Goodge Street (1782). Although his own apprenticeship does not seem to be recorded, “Philip Dawe, of Brook Street, St Pancras, engraver” himself took on apprentices William Fleureau in 1784 (7 years, for premium of £20) and Tho. C. Worley in 1792 (6 ¾ years, £25).

Dawe’s own son, also George (1781–1829), wrote an early biography of George Morland (1807); several more of Dawe’s children, by his wife Jane (c.1752–1832), became artists. They included Mary Margaret (1785–1871), who married Thomas Wright of 50 Berners Street. Another daughter, baptised Sarah Elizabeth (1778–), may have been the Elizabeth Dawe, active as a miniaturist in the early 19th century, and said to be the niece of William Grimaldi (the family name of Jane, Mrs Philip Dawe is not known). One of Philip and Jane’s daughters was the Miss Dawe who made a portrait of Fanny Godwin in 1805 (letter Charles Lamb to William Hazlitt, 10.XI.1805). In Jane’s will of 1832, only her son James Philip (1795–1879) is mentioned, with the residue (including a portrait of the deceased son George) passing to her daughter Caroline (1788–1849), Mrs Michael Prendergast.

Dawe’s date of death is also uncertain; the only plausible entry in parish records discovered so far is the burial at St Marylebone on 8.XII.1819 of a Philip Dawe of St Pancras, aged 71, consistent with the 1748 birth of Philip and Sarah’s son.

Bibliography

Alexander 2021; Edwards 1808, as Dawes; Oxford DNB; Redgrave 1874; Saur

Pastels

J.2602.101 Clergyman, crayons, Free Society 1773, no. 41

J.2602.102 Lady, crayons, Free Society 1774, no. 50