

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

DEANE, Hugh Primrose

Cork c.1730 – Brighton brd 4.VIII.1787

Also Dean; Hew. The “Irish Claude” was a landscape painter. He was the son of Alexander Deane, a customs officer from Donaghadee based (from 1720) at Kinsale, Co. Cork, and Grizell Kennedy. On 27.XII.1761, at Christchurch, Cork, he married an Eleanor Gamble. He moved to London soon after: a son, Kennedy Deane, was born 25.XII.1763 and baptised in London, Bridewell Chapel, 21.I.1764. He was influenced by the landscape painter Richard Wilson. He exhibited landscapes at the Free Society, the Society of Artists and the Royal Academy 1765–80. Under Lord Palmerston’s patronage Deane travelled to Rome (1773) and Florence (1776, where he was elected a member of the academy), on his return advertising in the *Morning chronicle*, 25.II.1780:

Mr Dean, Landscape Painter, lately returns to England from Italy...will take the opportunity of exhibiting upwards of 300 drawings in crayons, some of which are copied from original Pictures of Salvator Rosa, Claude Lorraine, Poussin, and other eminent Masters; but the far greater number from nature, being views of some of the most remarkable ruins, beautiful landscapes etc. in the neighbourhood of Naples, Rome, and other parts of Italy, done during his travels. They will be disposed of to any person inclinable to purchase them altogether.

Later that year he launched a “transparent representation of the eruption of Vesuvius” but the spectacle failed, and he became a Methodist preacher. Although sources to date (2024) suggest he died in London in 1784, it is here suggested he was the “Hugh Primrose Dean, late of Portsmouth” buried in Brighton, St Nicholas, in 1787. His son Kennedy Deane was living in Cork in 1795, when he wrote to Earl Fitzwilliam seeking employment in Excise or Customs.

Bibliography

Dictionary of Irish biography; Edwards 1808; Strickland 1913; Waterhouse 1981; Thomas Manly Deane, “Younger sons of Alex. Kennedy of Craigoek and Kilkenzie”, *The Scottish antiquary*, 1896, pp. 43f