

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

DELANY, Mrs Patrick, née Mary Granville, Mrs Alexander Pendarves

Coulston 1700 – London 1788

Born into a branch of the Granville family (and a distant cousin of Countess of Dysart, *q.v.*), at the age of 18 she married Alexander Pendarves, a 57-year old MP. By 1725 she was a widow, living in London (Lower Brook Street from 1733), where she formed important friendships with the Duchess of Portland and others, correspondence with whom formed the basis to her autobiography (published in 1862). On a trip to Dublin in 1731 she met an Irish clergyman, Patrick Delany, whom she married in 1743; thereafter she divided her time between Delville, near Dublin, Down, of which Delany was made dean in 1744, and England. She returned to London after his death in 1768.

Mrs Delany was an amateur artist, accomplished in various media; her paper cut-out flowers and her designs in shell-work were particularly celebrated. She is said to have been a pupil of Bernard Lens, one of the Goupys, probably Louis (*q.v.*), and it seems Arthur Pond (*q.v.*), whose “colouring in crayons [she thought] *the best I have seen of any English painter*” (letter to Anne Granville, 30.VI.1734). Some 72 pictures in oil or crayons are recorded in the appendix to her autobiography (1862). (One of these, a copy of Carriera’s autoritratto now in the Accademia in Venice, provides the only indication of the provenance of that pastel before the twentieth century.) Her will, made at Bulstrode (the Duchess of Portland’s house in Buckinghamshire), 22.II.1778 (reprinted in her autobiography, with numerous codicils), included bequests of pastels by artists from Pond to Liotard, as well as her own work, often copied after old masters. She was at Bulstrode much earlier (5.XII.1740), when she wrote to Lady Throckmorton to thank her and Sir Robert (both subjects of Hoare pastels) for sending a box of crayons.

Monographic exhibitions

Delany 2009: *Mrs Delany and her circle*, New Haven, Yale Center for British Art, 24.IX.2009 – 3.I.2010; London, Sir John Soane’s Museum, 19.II.–1.V.2010. Cat. Mark Laird & Alicia Weisberg-Roberts

Bibliography

Bénézit; Delany 1862; Crookshank & Glin 1994; *Dictionary of Irish biography*; Greer 2001; Hayden 2005; Johnson 1925; Oxford DNB; Saur; Sloan 2000; Vulliamy 1937

v. Genealogy, Granville

Pastels

Mrs Letitia BUSHE (c.1705–1757), crayons, from life (the artist; legs: Mrs Sandford)

Rosalba CARRIERA (1673–1757), pstl/ppr, 29x24.7, 1739 (don: Mrs Dewes, née Anne Granville, the artist’s sister. PC 2009). Lit.: Crookshank & Glin 1994, fig. 28; Delany 2009, p. 216ff, fig. 110. A/r autoritratto, pstl (Accademia) φ



Mrs John DEWES, née Anne Granville (1707–1761), sister of the artist, crayons, from life (desc.: Llanover 1925). Lit.: Johnson 1925, repr. opp. p. 112; Hayden 2005, repr. p. 36 ◻



Mrs [Daniel] SANDFORD [née Sarah Chapone (1731–p.1788)] and Mrs [Nathaniel] Preston [(∞ 1763), née Mary Hamilton], m/u

Holy Family, crayons, a/r Trevisani (the artist; legs: Duchess of Portland, who died before the testator)

Holy Family, crayons, a/r Trevisani (the artist; legs: Lady Weymouth)

Charity, crayons, a/r “Paris Bourdon” (the artist; legs: Lady Weymouth)

Madonna in the blue veil, crayons, a/r ?Guido (the artist; legs: Mrs Boscawen)

Rachel and Leah at the well, crayons (the artist; legs: Mrs Ravaud of Bath)

St Catherine, crayons, a/r Veronese (the artist; legs: Mrs Dickenson, née Hamilton)

Summer, crayons, a/r Rosalba in the Louvre (don: Mrs Dewes, née Anne Granville, the artist’s sister; desc.: Augusta, Lady Llanover 1859)

Sigismunda, crayons, a chef d’œuvre

Angel and lily, crayons

Mary, the Maid of the Inn, crayons

Our Saviour and St John and a lamb, a/r Guido, crayons