

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

DOYLE, William Massey Strode

Boston 1769–1828

The son of a British army officer based in Boston, Doyle was listed in the Boston city directories between 1796 and 1827, first as a wallpaper manufacturer. By 1803 he had become a “painter of manuscripts and portraits”. In 1805 he joined the Columbian Museum as “miniature painter”. The museum had been founded by Daniel Bowen in Boston in 1795, and displayed waxworks, natural history specimens and curiosities as well as paintings by Robert Edge Pine and others. It was destroyed by fire twice but reopened. Bowen’s financial problems led to Doyle becoming owner of the institution, which continued until 1825 when the collections were sold to the New England Museum. Numerous silhouettes and miniatures by Doyle are known, as well as some large pastels of mediocre achievement and 19th century feel which are not included here. There are confusions with homonyms, among them Doyle’s daughter, Margaret Byron Doyle, later Mrs John Chorley, who made some pastels in the early nineteenth century.

Bibliography

Bolton 1923; Arthur B. & Sybil B. Kern, “The pastel portraits of William B. Doyle”, *The Clarion*, XIII, 1988, pp. 41–47

Pastels

Members of the ALDRICH family, 2 pstls, each 63.5x52 (New York, Sotheby’s, 23.I.2005, Lot 927 repr., est. \$25–35,000)



Nancy BALCOM, c.1815 (Rhode Island Historical Society)

Mrs BURRELL and daughter (location unknown)
Alexander HAMILTON, pstl, 41.3x31 (New York, Parke-Bernet, 22–24.I.1953, Lot 73, attr.)

[Marie-Joseph-Paul-Yves-Roch-Gilbert du Motier, marquis de] LA FAYETTE [(1757–1837)], pstl, 41.3x31 (New York, Parke-Bernet, 22–24.I.1953, Lot 73, attr.)

John LOWELL II, pstl, 24.1x19.7 (New York, Parke-Bernet, 5–6.I.1940)

Nanette de POYEN, with a parrot, pstl/ppr, 43x33 (Wilde Collection, Boston. Edith Gregor Halpert, American Art Gallery, New York. PC; New York, Sotheby’s, 23.I.2009, Lot 175 repr., attr., est. \$7–10,000) [Poyen de Saint-Sauveur, a French refugee from Guadeloupe, landed in Newburyport, Massachusetts, in 1792] φ



Rachel Fox READ of Salem, pstl, 58.5x47, sd \vee
“Doyle 1810” (Cambridge, Massachusetts, CRN Auctions, 12.IX.2010, Lot 94 repr., est. \$2–3000, \$1500) φ



Chloe Ally SILL and son (Old Sturbridge Village)
Samuel STILLMAN, m/u
~grav.: Smith. Lit.: Bolton 1923, p. 23 n.r.
Lady with a rose shawl, pstl/ppr, 65x51, inscr.
 \checkmark “Doyle” (Boston, Skinner, 24.IV.2004, Lot 330 repr., British sch., est. \$7–9000) [?Attr.] φ



A child seated in a bamboo chair, pstl, 76x61, sd \vee
“Doyle, 1825” (Edgar William & Bernice Chrysler Garbisch; don 1968: The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; New York, Sotheby’s, 16–17.I.1999, Lot 267; the Gaess family; New York, Sotheby’s, 30.IX.2010, Lot 49 repr., est. \$30–60,000) φ