

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

EDWARDS, John

?London 1742 – Hampstead 31.VIII.1815

Flower and animal painter in oil and pastel; he was also a botanist. In 1763 the Society of Arts awarded the first premium of seven guineas to “John Edwards, Apprentice to Mr Maxfield in Little-Queen-Street, Lincoln’s-Inn Fields, for the best drawing in Crayons of fruit and flowers after nature.” This is confirmed by the records of his apprenticeship to Thomas Maxfield, painter–stainer of London (who himself had been apprenticed to Thomas Hearne, 1725), for 7 years from 6.VII.1757 for a premium of £10. Thomas Maxfield was a London coach painter to whom a number of artists were apprenticed, among them the royal academicians Charles Catton, John Baker and Thomas Daniell. Edwards exhibited prolifically in London between 1763 and 1791 from various London addresses, although he moved to Surrey around 1778. In 1769–70 he published *The British herbal containing 100 plates of the most beautiful and scarce flowers and useful medicinal plants* in monthly parts. He became a Fellow of the Society of Artists in 1771.

Bibliography

Alexander 2021; James Ayres, *Art, artisans and apprentices*, Oxford, 2014; *London chronicle*, 16–19.IV.1763, p. 372; Saur; Waterhouse 1981; Wright 2006; Register of duties paid for apprentices’ indentures, 1710–1811

Pastels

- J.298.101 Piece of fruit, pstl, Society of Artists 1764, no. 34; 1766, no. 48; 1768b, no. 41
- J.298.102 Piece of flowers and fruit, pstl, Free Society 1763, no. 72
- J.298.103 Piece of flowers, pstl, Free Society 1763, nos. 73–75
- J.298.104 Bunch of grapes, pstl, Society of Artists 1777, no. 32
- J.298.105 Brace of partridge, from nature, pstl sketch, Society of Artists 1790, no. 74