

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

EGERTON, Hon. Miss

fl. London 1776–79

As reported in the *Public advertiser*, 2.V.1776 (and later in the Society's *Transactions*, II, 1784. p. 130), "The Society for the Encouragement of Arts and Sciences have presented a Gold Medal to the Hon. Miss Egerton, for a Drawing in Crayons." These medals were awarded to the children and grandchildren of peers whom the society wished to encourage to develop taste and become patrons, and were clearly separated from premiums awarded to potential professional artists. Percival 1977 suggests that the Hon. Miss Egerton was targeted by the Society of Arts as a potential patron. In 1779 the Hon. Miss Egerton was an honorary exhibitor at the Royal Academy.

As Waterhouse notes, it is not clear who she was: Eleanor Egerton (19.VII.1770–29.XI.1846) was not only very young, but not at that stage styled the Hon. (she was the daughter of a baronet who was not elevated to the peerage until 1784). Eleanor showed a commitment to the arts in various dimensions; she was the dedicatee of some songs by Domenico Motta and six sonatas by Thomas Haigh. In 1794 the marriage of the "Hon. Miss Egerton, daughter of Lord Grey de Wilton", with Lord Belgrave took place; she later became Marchioness of Westminster. Her diaries for 1781–88 were published in 1855.

Nor can the pastellist have been Amelia Egerton (1751–1809), daughter of the Bishop of Durham and granddaughter of the Duke of Kent and a subject of Reynolds; she married Sir Abraham Hume in 1771 (in 1808 she was given the special title of Lady Amelia Hume). Sloane 2000 notes only that the artist was related to this family, and quotes a letter of 29.IX.1780 from Lady Grantham (née Lady Mary Yorke) in the Wrest Park archives in which Mary Black (*q.v.*) "talked of Miss Egerton's paintings" (not necessarily the same artist as the 1776 medallist).

The Royal Academy exhibition of 1787 included a miniature of "Hon. Miss Egerton" with members of the Paget family (William Paget, Lord Paget, Miss Dunn and Mrs Masters), in one frame (1787, no. 273, by Paillou; the sitters named in a press report in *The World*, 3.V.1787). ("Mrs Masters" was no doubt Mrs Richard Master, née Isabella Frances Egerton (1759–1847), Lady Amelia Hume's cousin. Clayton 1876 refers to the amateur artists "Miss Egerton and her three sisters, great aunts of Charles Master, Esq of the Abbey, Cirencester.")

Bibliography

Ellen Clayton, *English female artists*, 1876; Alicia Percival, *Journal of the Royal Society of Arts*, CXXV, 1977, p. 332; Sloan 2000, p. 176f

GENEALOGIES [Egerton](#)