

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

GIANNINI, Vincenzo

fl. Florence 1776–1807

During his stay in Florence, John Ramsay, son of the painter Allan Ramsay, kept a diary; on 8.XI.1783 he breakfasted with Hugh Douglas Hamilton and Francesco Gianfigliuzzi. They then visited three Florentine artists: Giuseppe Fabbrini, who had a collection of engravings of statues, Pascino (untraced), who had a portrait of Lord Cowper, and “Giannini, another famous painter” who “showd us Lady Cowper in Pastelli.” Elsewhere Ramsay refers to pastels as crayons; Hamilton made several pastels of the countess. The name is mistranscribed as Giovanni in Ingamells 2003, but the manuscript (National Library of Scotland) is clear. Ramsay started lessons with Giannini soon after this entry, dispelling any doubt.

The inventories of the Cowper collection published by Ellis 2005 include references to four pastels by Giannini, of the Countess’s husband and three sons, although that of the Countess herself is not listed.

According to the archives of the Accademia delle arti del disegno in Florence, Vincenzo Giannini was a painter and miniaturist, elected professore at the Accademia 12.I.1787. He was known as a copyist in the Regia Galleria from as early as 1776, and was charged with dispatching Sir Horace Mann’s picture collection to England.

He is represented in the Palazzo Pitti (oil of Maria Theresia Königin von Sachsen); he is possibly the “Giannini”, an Italian miniaturist recorded in Bénézit for a miniature of Christoph von Buckwaldt c.1820.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Borroni Salvadori 1987; Ellis 2005; Ingamells 2003

Pastels

J.3466.101 George Nassau Clavering-Cowper, 3rd Earl COWPER, prince of the Empire (1738–1789), chev. St Hubert, pstl, 103x81 (George, 3rd Earl Cowper, inv. p.m. for export license from Florence to England, 9.III.1790, no. 61)

J.3466.105 Countess COWPER, née Hannah Anne Gore (1758–1826), pstl (seen by John Ramsay, Italian diary, 8.XI.1783, as by Giovanni)

J.3466.111 George Augustus Clavering-Cowper, 4th Earl COWPER (1776–1799), pstl, 65x49 (George, 3rd Earl Cowper, inv. p.m. for export license from Florence to England, 9.III.1790, no. 56, “di Vincenzo Giannini”; Countess Cowper, villa, Montughi, inv. .IX.1826, anon.)

J.3466.112 Peter Leopold Louis Francis Nassau Cowper, 5th Earl COWPER (1778–1837), pstl, 65x49 (George, 3rd Earl Cowper, inv. p.m. for export license from Florence to England, 9.III.1790, no. 56, “di Vincenzo Giannini”; Countess Cowper, villa, Montughi, inv. .IX.1826, anon.)

J.3466.113 Edward SPENCER COWPER (1779–1823), pstl, 65x49 (George, 3rd Earl Cowper, inv. p.m. for export license from Florence to England, 9.III.1790, no. 56, “di Vincenzo Giannini”; Countess Cowper, villa, Montughi, inv. .IX.1826, anon.)