

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

HOPKINSON, Francis

Philadelphia 1737–1791

Hopkinson, a lawyer by training, was congressman for New Jersey, judge to the US Court in Pennsylvania, and a signatory to the Declaration of Independence. John Adams was struck by his curious personal appearance – “his head is not bigger, than a large Apple” – but thought him a “pretty little, curious, ingenious” man. Apart from politics, he was an accomplished composer and musician, and wrote poems and essays. An indefatigable draughtsman, designer and inventor, Hopkinson made pastel portraits in addition to designs for coins, seals, money and even, he claimed, the American flag.

Bibliography

American national biography, Johnson 1928–36

Pastels

SELF-PORTRAIT, pstl/ppr a/r Robert Edge Pine, 70.2x58, c.1785–91 (Philadelphia, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1891.10. Acq. 1891)

~version, pstl/ppr, 55.8x47, c.1785–91 (Baltimore, Maryland Historical Society, XX.4.198)

Jacob DUCHÉ (1737/38–1798), pstl/ppr, 44.3x33.9, c.1790 (Philadelphia, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1877.6. Acq. 1877)

James HOPKINSON (1769–1775), pstl/ppr, 43.2x33, c.1770 (Baltimore, Maryland Historical Society, XX.4.197)

Miss KEYS, a famous New Jersey beauty, crayons. Lit.: Letter from John Adams to Abigail Adams, 21.VIII.1776