

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

HURTER, Johann Heinrich von

Schaffhausen 9.IX.1734 – Düsseldorf 2.IX.1799
Miniaturist and enamellist. He was recorded in Bern 1768–70. In 1772 he was admitted to the Confrerie Pictura in The Hague; Pieter Terwesten's register noted him as a portraitist in enamel and crayon. He was in Paris before 1776, the year in which he published a curious *Prospectus d'un plan de souscription pour une exécution en émail d'un nouveau genre...* which he had printed in The Hague and distributed to wealthy connoisseurs. That sent to the marquis de Paulmy was reprinted in the *Revue universelle des arts* (XI, 1860, pp. 105ff). Hurter's *avant-propos* begins by stating that he had occupied several years in The Hague making portraits in enamel and pastel.

Hurter then spent five years in London from c.1777. Here he was taken up by Lord Dartrey, and copied the works of Sir Joshua Reynolds. In 1779 he exhibited three pastels as well as two enamels from an address in Covent Garden. Two further pastels, dated 1781 and 1786, are known, but otherwise his work is in enamel or miniature. Between 1785 and 1787 he travelled to Schaffhausen, Karlsruhe, The Hague and Paris before returning to London; he continued to spend time in both London and Germany. He received a major commission from Catherine II of Russia in 1787.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Foskett 1987; Hofstetter 2008; K. Obser, *Mannheimer Geschichtsblätter*, x, 1909, pp. 149ff; Sanchez 2004; Sée 1911; Terwesten 1776; Waterhouse 1981

Pastels

J.4114.101 CHARLOTTE, Queen of England, née von Mecklenburg-Strelitz (1744–1818), in white dress, with powdered hair, pstl, 60x47, sd "J. H. Hurter 1781" (J. Meyrick Head collection, Pennsylvania Castle, Portland, 1910; London, Christie's, 10.VII.1916, Lot 153, as by J. H. Hurter a/r Gainsborough, 22 gns; Parsons. [Mrs Bowring-Hanbury;] London, Puttick & Simpson, 31.V.1932, Lot 6 n.r., 14 gns; Harper). Lit.: *The Penn family*, unpublished manuscript, 1910, Penn State University collections; Crookshank 1989, no. 16 n.r., as by R. Hunter, a/r Gainsborough; Belsey 2019, no. 166y n.r.

J.4114.102 KARL Friedrich Markgraf von Baden-Durlach (1728–1811), pstl, 60x49, sd "Hurter pinxit 1786" (*olim* Baden-Baden, Neues Schloß, K 120). Lit.: Kircher 1958, no. 458 n.r.

J.4114.103 Three portraits, crayons, Royal Academy 1779, no. 157