

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

HAMILTON, Gavin

Murdieston House, Lanark 1723 – Rome 1798
History painter, archaeologist and dealer. He moved to Rome in 1748 and studied under Agostino Masucci as a portraitist. Visits to Pompeii and Herculaneum led him to specialise in classical antiquities. He introduced Mengs to Winckelmann in 1755, and was a welcoming host to many British travellers to Rome. He continued to make occasional portraits, some during short visits to England. However it seems unlikely that many of these were in pastel, and the description of the 1787 example suggests a confusion with Hugh Douglas Hamilton. The Head of Achilles “in crayons” sent from Rome to the Society of Artists in 1765 may have been a study for the painting of Achilles lamenting the death of Patroclus which was shown beside it.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Grove 1996; McGuire 1939, p. 15; Philadelphia 2000a, pp. 380ff; Waterhouse 1981; Wright 2006

Pastels

Rev. Mr FROUD, *sd* “Hamilton Fect. Roma 1787”
(*London, Phillips, 13.V.1997, Lot 32 n.r.*) [*n. H. D. Hamilton*]

Head of Achilles, crayons, Society of Artists
1765, no. 47