

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

HEWETT, Mrs John, née John Norris Fisher

?Penicuik c.1745 – Richmond 22.XII.1790

The curiously named John Norris Fisher was the granddaughter of Admiral John Norris. Her mother, who was initially married into the Aylmer family, remarried against her father's wishes and was cut out of his will; her daughter was no doubt christened John Norris in a vain attempt to placate him. Her new husband was Robert Fisher of Sandieford, a member of the Royal Company of Scottish Archers. In 1738 he won the Musselburgh Arrow in a shooting competition. Two children were born, in 1739 and .I.1743 (a son, Richard); Norris' birth is not recorded but may have been at the end of 1743 based on her age at death (47, as entered in the Petersham parish register; however *Gentleman's magazine*, 1790, p. 1213 gave 45). In 1742 Fisher acquired the estate of Newhall in Penicuik, and was then "Fisher of Newhall". Delusions of grandeur followed: he devised his own arms and had them painted on his carriage, but had to remove them in 1747 as a result of proceedings. It appears he guaranteed the debts of an Edinburgh merchant, Robert Baillie; in 1757 he was drawn into insolvency proceedings, and obliged to sell Newhall.

Norris was presumably brought up in Penicuik. She married first, on 20.III.1764 at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Captain (later Lieutenant-Colonel) John Gordon of the 50th Foot, an Irish regiment. He divorced her for adultery, and on 11.V.1773, at St George's, Bloomsbury, she married Admiral John Storr (1709–1783) from whom she acquired a house in Bedford Square and a life interest in estates in Yorkshire. Shortly after his death she married for the third time, on 13.II.1784, at St George, Hanover Square, John Hewett, né Thornhaugh (1743–1787), MP and Sheriff of Nottinghamshire.

Norris Hewett died at her home in Richmond on 22.XII.1790. An ambiguity in her will led to litigation between her heirs, settled the following year before two posthumous sales of her pictures could be held by Christie's, on 16.I.1792 and 20.I.1792. (St Andrew Warde of Hooton Pagnell who owned the large copy after Peters was the son of John Hewett's sister Frances.) Her collection included landscapes by Hubert Robert and Dietsch, an oil of her second husband by John Russell, numerous anonymous flower pieces, landscapes, portraits etc.; copies after Stubbs, Kauffman and Cipriani. The second sale included—

a variety of pleasing, historical and other subjects in crayons, the property and performance of the late Mrs. Hewett, deceased, celebrated for her refined taste in the polite arts brought from her late residence at Richmond; the most of which are rich, and elegantly framed and glazed, with large plates of glass.

Her own work included copies after Kauffmann, Reynolds, Guido Reni and several after William Peters. Further subjects such as "A girl feeding a rabbit" or "A blind beggar-man and girl" might well be after Russell. In view of the title page, many of the works for which no

medium is described are likely to have been in pastel.

Bibliography

Jeffares, [post](#) 2016

GENEALOGIES [Aylmer](#)

Pastels

- [J.3893.101](#) [John] HEWETT [], né Thornhaugh (1720–1787), sheriff of Nottinghamshire, MP]; & pendant: [J.3893.102](#) spouse [née John Norris Fisher, the artist], m/u (artist; sale p.m., London, Christie's, 20.I.1792, Lot 11)
- [J.3893.103](#) Lady's head, m/u, unframed (artist; sale p.m., London, Christie's, 20.I.1792, Lot 22)
- [J.3893.104](#) A pair of large crayons, ov. (artist; sale p.m., London, Christie's, 20.I.1792, Lot 10, £2/3/-; Sir J. Day)
- [J.3893.105](#) Two portraits in crayons, ov. (artist; sale p.m., London, Christie's, 20.I.1792, Lot 13)
- [J.3893.107](#) Two portraits in crayons, ov. (artist; sale p.m., London, Christie's, 20.I.1792, Lot 14, 9/-; Smith)
- [J.3893.108](#) Three heads various and a sleeping boy, m/u, unframed (artist; sale p.m., London, Christie's, 20.I.1792, Lot 23)
- [J.3893.112](#) Two heads, m/u, unframed (artist; sale p.m., London, Christie's, 20.I.1792, Lot 24)
- [J.3893.113](#) Head of Christ, crayons, unframed (artist; sale p.m., London, Christie's, 20.I.1792, Lot 20)
- [J.3893.114](#) Two from Sir Joshua Reynolds and Angelica, m/u (artist; sale p.m., London, Christie's, 20.I.1792, Lot 25)
- [J.3893.115](#) A Madonna and Infant Jesus, m/u (artist; sale p.m., London, Christie's, 20.I.1792, Lot 26)
- [J.3893.116](#) A child with a dog; & [J.3893.117](#) A girl's head, m/u (artist; sale p.m., London, Christie's, 20.I.1792, Lot 27)
- [J.3893.118](#) Madonna; & [J.3893.119](#) Angel's head of the Annunciation, m/u, a/r Guido Reni (artist; sale p.m., London, Christie's, 20.I.1792, Lot 28, £2/10/-; Skinner)
- [J.3893.121](#) A girl by candlelight; & [J.3893.122](#) An old man's head, m/u (artist; sale p.m., London, Christie's, 20.I.1792, Lot 29)
- [J.3893.123](#) A beautiful head of a female saint, m/u (artist; sale p.m., London, Christie's, 20.I.1792, Lot 30)
- [J.3893.124](#) A girl with chickens; & pendant: [J.3893.125](#) m/u (artist; sale p.m., London, Christie's, 20.I.1792, Lot 31, £4/10/-; Lord Lake)
- [J.3893.126](#) A girl feeding a rabbit, m/u (artist; sale p.m., London, Christie's, 20.I.1792, Lot 32)
- [J.3893.127](#) The shepherd's boy and dog, m/u (artist; sale p.m., London, Christie's, 20.I.1792, Lot 33, £2; Lord Lake)
- [J.3893.128](#) A pair of landscapes, upright shape, m/u (artist; sale p.m., London, Christie's, 20.I.1792, Lot 34, £5/15/-)
- [J.3893.131](#) A moonlight; & [J.3893.132](#) A frost piece, m/u (artist; sale p.m., London, Christie's, 20.I.1792, Lot 35, £9)
- [J.3893.133](#) A girl playing with a kitten, whole length, the size of nature, m/u (artist; sale p.m., London, Christie's, 20.I.1792, Lot 36)

- [J.3893.134](#) ~pendant: A girl sitting, m/u (artist; sale p.m., London, Christie's, 20.I.1792, Lot 37, £3/18/-; Lord Lake)
- [J.3893.135](#) One historical subject from Angelica, m/u (artist; sale p.m., London, Christie's, 20.I.1792, Lot 38, 5 gns; Skinner)
- [J.3893.136](#) A portrait of the Jew beggarwoman and child, m/u (artist; sale p.m., London, Christie's, 20.I.1792, Lot 39, 7 gns)
- [J.3893.137](#) St John with the Lamb, m/u (artist; sale p.m., London, Christie's, 20.I.1792, Lot 40, 5 gns)
- [J.3893.138](#) Ariadne, from Angelica, m/u (artist; sale p.m., London, Christie's, 20.I.1792, Lot 41, 7 gns)
- [J.3893.139](#) A boy at prayers, a/r Reynolds, m/u (artist; sale p.m., London, Christie's, 20.I.1792, Lot 42, £5/15/-)
- [J.3893.141](#) An Angel and child; & pendant: [J.3893.142](#) same, m/u, a/r Peters (artist; sale p.m., London, Christie's, 20.I.1792, Lot 43, £7/17/-)
- [J.3893.143](#) Venus punishing Cupid, m/u (artist; sale p.m., London, Christie's, 20.I.1792, Lot 45, 6 gns; Lund)
- [J.3893.144](#) A blind beggar-man and girl, m/u (artist; sale p.m., London, Christie's, 20.I.1792, Lot 46, 8 gns)
- [J.3893.145](#) One historical subject from Angelica, m/u (artist; sale p.m., London, Christie's, 20.I.1792, Lot 47, £8; Gordon)
- [J.3893.146](#) The resurrection of a pious family, pstl, c.123x90 (artist; sale p.m., London, Christie's, 20.I.1792, Lot 48, "one very large of angels and spirits ascending, from Mr Pieters" £11)=? (artist; legs: St Andrew Warde of Hooton Pagnell; desc.: London, Bonhams Knightsbridge, 1.XII.2015, Lot 358 repr., est. £2–3000, b/i; Edinburgh, Bonhams, 22.VI.2016, Lot 589 repr., est. £700–1000, £625). A/r pnt. M. W. Peters [new attr. .X.2016] φκνσ

