

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

HODGSON, Edward

Dublin c.1725 – London brd 27.I.1793

According to Pasquin (but unverified by parish records), he was “a native of Dublin” and “painted fruit and flowers, in water colours, with much address. He died in Great Newport-street, London, in 1794 aged 75 years.” In fact Edward Hodgson of Great Newport Street died “of decline”, aged 67, and was buried at St Anne’s, Soho, 27.I.1793.

He exhibited a good many of these watercolours, and a few drawings in chalk, at the Free Society and the Society of Artists in London between 1762 and 1791 from many different addresses; he also exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1781, 1782 and 1788 from 123 Jermyn Street. In 1762 “Edward Hodgson, painter of St Botolph, Bishopsgate” took on, for 7 years at a premium of £50, an apprentice, William Lewin (1747–1795), a natural history painter and engraver who published *The birds of Great Britain* in 7 volumes, 1789–94. In 1767 Hodgson was described as a drawing-master in Oxenden Street, Haymarket. He was, according to Pasquin, treasurer of the “Associated Artists of Great Britain” (unverified). He was no doubt the inventor of “Hodgson’s artificial Wood Ornaments sold at 14 St Martin’s Lane” who advertised repeatedly in the *Morning post* from 317.X.1778, among them glass and picture frames, as well as offering (in the 27.XI.1778 edition) “Also Paintings in miniature, and Crayons, from one Guinea to two, and nothing required if not a striking likeness.” The earlier advertisement claimed that Hodgson was the original inventor of the improved method of taking profiles, then in Tavistock Street.. His daughter, first name unknown, exhibited flower pieces in the Free Society 1770–75. Perhaps she was the Elizabeth Hodgson who married the silversmith and wax-portraitist Philip Cornman in St Martin-in-the-Fields in 1776; they moved to Great Newport Street in 1786.

Bibliography

McGuire 1939, p. 15; Oxford DNB; Pasquin 1796c; Redgrave; Waterhouse 1981

Pastels

J.3972.101 Fruit, crayons, Free Society 1783, no. 198