

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

HOLLOWAY, Thomas

London 14.VIII.1748 – Coltishall, Norfolk
19.II.1827

Portraitist and engraver. He was the eldest son of Thomas Holloway and Ann Hedley. According to the obituary written by his younger brother John, he was apprenticed at a young age to “Mr Stent, an eminent seal engraver”: this must be John Stent, to whom Thomas Holloway was apprenticed on 29.XI.1762 for 7 years for a premium of £20 (although John Stent is described as a skinner in the indenture, his previous apprentice, Anthony Bodlidge, also became an engraver). Holloway trained as a gem engraver at the Royal Academy Schools from 9.XI.1773 (“aged 24 29th July last”, although his memorial, in St John the Baptist, Coltishall, states that he died in his 79th year, confirmed by his baptismal record at St Benet Fink). Thomas Holloway, “citizen and skinner of London” took on at least four apprentices, in London from 1788 and 1792:

Holloway’s brother John (1759–1820) married Eleanor Jane Jenkinson on 12.V.1778 at St Benet Fink. They had numerous children, among them Ann, Dorcas, Peace and Philadelphia.

Holloway published and made many of the 800 engravings for Hunter’s translation of Lavater’s *Essays on physiognomy*, London, 1789–98, among them one after Gilbert Stuart’s portrait of Washington. He came from a dissenting background – Whitfield, Wesley, Romaine and Rowland Hill were family friends, and probably John Russell (*q.v.*), who made a pastel of Holloway’s mother (*sd* 1774). He exhibited crayon portraits at the Royal Academy in 1776 (the portrait of his intimate friend, the eloquent Robinson of Cambridge), 1784 and 1792, and at the Society of Artists in 1777–78. His address of 11 Baches Row, near Charles Square, Hoxton is given in Royal Academy catalogues between 1790 and 1792. He was appointed engraver to the King in 1792, and devoted much of the last part of his life to a series of engravings after the Raphael cartoons then at Hampton Court. In this he was assisted by two of his apprentices, Richard Slann and Thomas Stallard Webb, both of whom married his nieces (confusingly a third niece, Ann’s sister, Dorcas, married Webb’s brother William). The team moved to Coltishall, Norfolk c.1820 where Holloway died.

His brother’s memoir of the artist mentions pastel of the artist and of his nephew and niece as having been exhibited in the Royal Academy. They may be the two identically framed children which are included below.

Bibliography

Alexander 2021; Clarke, *The Georgian era*, 1834, IV, pp. 217ff; obituary, *Gentleman’s magazine*, CXLI, .VIII.1827, pp. 183ff; A. E. Goodman, *Goodman, a family history*, 1916; [John Holloway], *Memoir of the late Mr Thomas Holloway, by one of his executors*, London, 1827; Oxford DNB; Sée 1911; Waterhouse 1981; Register of duties paid for apprentices’ indentures 1710–1811

Pastels

J.402.101 SELF-PORTRAIT, pstl, Royal Academy, date n/k. Lit.: *Memoir*, 1827, p. 23 n.r.

J.402.102 [?John HOLLOWAY], the artist’s nephew, pstl, Royal Academy, date n/k. Lit.: *Memoir*, 1827, p. 23 n.r.

=?young gentleman, crayons, Royal Academy 1792, no. 344

=?J.402.113 *infra*

J.402.104 Capel LOFFT (1751–1824), writer, pstl, ov. Φ



~grav. Ridley 1802

J.402.107 Rev. [Robert] ROBINSON [(1735–1790), Baptist pastor in Cambridge], Royal Academy 1776, no. 137

J.402.1075 [=J.402.103] Mrs Thomas Stallard WEBB, née Ann Holloway (1781–1841), the artist’s niece, pstl, 1792, Royal Academy, date n/k (desc. PC). Lit.: *Memoir*, 1827, p. 23 n.r. Φ



J.402.1076 =?young lady, crayons, Royal Academy 1791, no. 418

J.402.108 Gentleman, Royal Academy 1777, no. 172

J.402.109 Gentleman, crayons, Society of Artists 1778, no. 292

J.402.11 Gentleman, crayons, Society of Artists 1778, no. 293

J.402.111 A dissenting clergyman, crayons, Society of Artists 1778, no. 296

J.402.112 Young gentleman, crayons, Royal Academy 1792, no. 344

J.402.113 Boy in a blue coat with silver buttons, pstl, 54.5x44 ov., s *verso* “Thomas Holloway/Baches Row/Nr Charles Square/Hoxton” (acqu. c.1979, £250, Gerald Pendred; Nottingham, Mellors & Kirk, 30.IV.–1.V.2009, Lot 839 repr.; London art market; London, Bonhams Knightsbridge, 13.IX.2011, Lot 134 repr.; Oxford, Bonhams, 25.I.2012,

Lot 215 repr., £650 [=£813]). Lit.: Pendred 1989, fig. 8 [?=J.402.102] $\Phi\sigma$



J.402.115 Lady, crayons, Society of Artists 1777, no. 43

J.402.116 Lady, crayons, Society of Artists 1778, no. 294

J.402.117 Lady, crayons, Society of Artists 1778, no. 295

J.402.118 Portrait, crayons, Royal Academy 1784, no. 348