

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastelists before 1800*

Online edition

KNELLER, Sir Godfrey, Bt

Lübeck 1646 – London 1723

Kneller studied at the university of Leiden, intending to pursue a military career, but he developed an interest in painting under the guidance of Ferdinand Bol and Rembrandt. After travels in Italy, he arrived in England in 1676 and remained the dominant portraitist in England for many years, founding the first academy of painting in England in 1711 at his house in Great Queen Street. He was knighted in 1692 and made a baronet in 1715; he also became a knight of the Holy Roman Empire in 1700.

Kneller left numerous drawings in black (and occasionally coloured) chalk, mostly studies for paintings. In a letter from Alexander Pope to Lady Mary Wortley Montagu (c.1720), the poet asks her to sit for Sir Godfrey, but to minimise her inconvenience, he is to do her face “in crayons” at her house in Twickenham, to be transferred to canvas back at the studio. Although there are contemporary pastel copies of a number of his portraits, it is difficult to decide the autograph status of the couple of examples in pastel that do not relate to known works.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Croft-Murray & Hulton 1960; Grove 1996; Mariette 1851–60; Waterhouse 1981; Wright 2006

Pastels

Lady Anne GREVILLE, née Wilmot (1672–1703), pstl, ov. (Earl of Lisburne 1974). Lit.: Graham Greene, *Lord Rochester's monkey*, London, 1974, p. 153 repr. ♀



WILLIAM III (1650–1702), crayons/ppr, 47x38 ov. (Welbeck, Portland collection. Colnaghi; acqu. 6th Duke of Portland .II.1898). Exh.: Amsterdam 1898, no. 506. Lit.: Goulding 1936, no. 853 n.r.

Anon. related pastels

John LOCKE (1632–1704), philosopher
~pstl, inscr. verso 1704 (Penzance, David Lay, 2.IV.2009, Lot 291 repr., est. £100–150) ♀



Frances, Lady MIDDLETON (c.1666–1694), pstl, 32x23.8, c.1690 (London, NPG 1761a) ♂



Photo courtesy National Portrait Gallery, London

Alexander POPE (1688–1744), poet, pnt., 1722 (Lord Harcourt, Stanton Harcourt, 1965). Lit.: Wimsatt 1965, no. 7.1 repr.

~cop., in orange turban, black chlk, pstl/buff ppr, 46x35.5 (acqu. antiques fair, Malvern, .VI.1966; Kenneth Whitty. =?Father Lopes. London, Christie's, 19.VI.1979, Lot 77 repr., attr. Kneller, £400). Lit.: Riely & Wimsatt 1979, no. 7.6a repr. ♀



~cop., v. Knapton

~cop., pstl, 28x21.5 ov., inscr. verso “Alexander Pope, Drawn by Richardson” (Farmington, Lewis Walpole Library, inv. SH-000332, as by Richardson. Horace Walpole; Strawberry Hill, George Robins, 25.IV.1842 & seq., 22nd day, Lot 72, with 3 other drawings; Young, Pope's Villa, £4/10/-; Lady Waldegrave; Strawberry Hill, 25.VII.1883 & seq., Lot 978, attr. Richardson. A. G. Tite, London; I. K. Fletcher, London; acqu. W. S. Lewis, Farmington, Connecticut, 30.VII.1938). Exh.: New Haven 1988. Lit.: Walpole 1774, as by Richardson; Fink 1959, p. 150 n.r.; Wimsatt 1965, no. 7.6 repr. ♀



Frederick, 1st Duke of SCHOMBERG (1615–1690), KG 1689, pstl, a/r Kneller, 28.5x22.3 (London, National Army Museum, inv. 2004-06-3, attr. Michael Dahl. Dukes of Leeds, Hornby Castle; 10th Duke of Leeds estate; London, Christie's, 3.VI.2004, Lot 46 repr., est. £2–3000, with pendant) ♂



Photo courtesy Christie's

~ pendant: Meinhardt, Duke of Leinster and 3rd Duke of Schomberg (1641–1719), KG 1703, pstl, a/r Kneller, 35x25 (London, National Army Museum, inv. 2004-06-4, attr. Michael Dahl/studio of Kneller. Dukes of Leeds, Hornby Castle; 10th Duke of Leeds estate; London, Christie's, 3.VI.2004, Lot 46 repr., with pendant) ♂



Photo courtesy Christie's

[A portrait in crayons of the Duke of Schomberg was bequeathed by 6th Duke of Leeds to Earl Amherst, as upheld in *Duke of Leeds v. Earl Amherst*, Chancery Div., 29–31.V.1843]

Henry Booth, 2nd Baron Delamer of Dunham Massey, 1st Earl of WARRINGTON (1651–1695), pnt. (Dunham Massey)

~cop., pstl, 45x32 (London, Christie's, 8.VI.2000, Lot 49 repr., with pendant of sister, a/r Lely, est. £3–5000) ♂

