

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

KNELLER, Sir Godfrey, Bt

Lübeck 8.VIII.1646 – London 19.X.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 (Rome and Venice), 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, including one of Louis XIV in black chalk with sanguine “drawn by the Life” at Versailles in 1684 for the painting commissioned by Charles II. 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.

Kneller’s celebrated portrait of Isaac Newton (1689) was the subject of numerous copies, including one in pastel formerly in Dresden attributed to Rosalba. When Joseph Spence (who knew both artists personally) asked her about the painter c.1741 (*Anecdotes*, 1820, p. 247), she admitted she had seen very little of his work, praising the Mocenigo portrait from his Venetian trip but conspicuously omitting any reference to the Newton of the pastel copy of which she is unlikely to have been the author.

Bibliography

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

Pastels

- J.4322.101 SELF-PORTRAIT, crayon (London, Painter–Stainers’ Hall 1906; not located 2012). Lit.: W. Hayward Pitman, *The Worshipful Company of Painters, otherwise Painter-Stainers, its hall, pictures and plate*, London, 1906, no. 59 n.r. [Attr.]
- J.4322.102 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. φ



J.4322.105 WILLIAM III (1650–1702), crayons/ppr, 47x38 ov. (Welbeck, Portland collection. Colnaghi; acqu. 6th Duke of Portland .II.1898). Exh.: Amsterdam 1898, no. 506; London 1950b. Lit.: Goulding 1936, no. 853 n.r.; Oliver Millar, rev. of London 1950b, *Burlington magazine*, XCII/569, .VIII.1950, p. 234 n.r., ??attr.

Anon. related pastels

JAMES II (1633–1701) pnt., 1684 (London, NPG 666)

~numerous versions, prints etc.

J.4322.103 ~pstl, gch/ppr, 28.9x21.3 (Hartford, Wadsworth Atheneum, inv. 1948.327, as by Ashfield. Don Mrs Thomas W. Lamont) [??attr.; cr. Luttrell] φκ

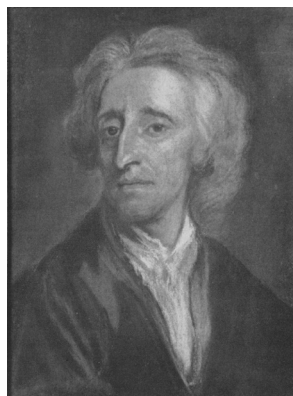


John LOCKE (1632–1704), philosopher, pnt., 1704 (Richmond, VMFA)

~cop., pnt. (NPG 550)

~cop. *Geekie; Luttrell, qq.v.*

J.4322.11 ~pstl (Mrs E. M. Williams, Soning, Berkshire). Lit.: Peter Laslett, “John Locke...”, *William and Mary quarterly*, XIV/3, 1957, repr. opp. p. 402 φκ



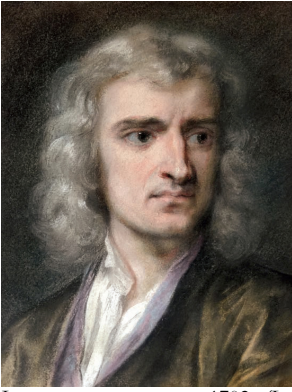
J.4322.112 Frances, Lady MIDDLETON (c.1666–1694), pstl, 32x23.8, c.1690 (London, NPG 1761a. Lord Weardale; don 1915) φκ



Photo courtesy National Portrait Gallery, London

Isaac NEWTON (1643–1727), mathematician, pnt., 1689 (Earl of Porstmouth, Farleigh House). Lit.: Milo Keynes, *The iconography of Sir Isaac Newton to 1800*, 2005, no. II-1, with list of versions; Ingamells 2009, p. 192 repr.

J.4322.116 [*olim* J.21.2237] ~cop., pstl, 25x20 (*olim* Dresden P75; returned to Wettin family 1924; acqu. P. Rusch, Dresden, cat. 1925, visible in room display. Expertise Dr Heinrich Wichmann, 1949, as by Rosalba Carriera, ex Dresden. Bonn-Beuel, Von Zengen, 19–20.VI.2015, Lot 1510 repr., as by Carriera, est. €2500; PC Barcelona 2019). Lit.: Riedel & Wenzel 1765; Woermann 1887, p. 769; Posse 1920, p. 294; Henning 2009, no. III-21 n.r., all as unidentified by Carriera; Sani 2019, repr., as Newton by Carriera [??]; new attr. as a/r Kneller, identification 2015] φκν



Isaac NEWTON, pnt., 1702 (London, NPG 2881). Lit.: Keynes, *op. cit.*, 2005, no. III-1, with list of versions; Ingamells 2009, p. 189f repr.

J.4322.117 ~cop., pstl, 18.7x12.7, inscr. 1716 (Newhailes, Musselburgh, National Trust for Scotland. ?Sir David Dalrymple). Lit.: Keynes, *op. cit.*, 2005, no. III-10 n.r.

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

J.4322.119 ~cop., in orange turban, black chl, 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. φκν



~ cop., v. Knapton

J.4322.122 ~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. φκν



J.4322.124 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) φκσ



Photo courtesy Christie's

J.4322.127 ~ 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) φκσ



Photo courtesy Christie's

J.4322.13 [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)

J.4322.132 ~cop., pstl, 45x32 (London, Christie's, 8.vi.2000, Lot 49 repr., with pendant of sister, a/r Lely, est. £3–5000) φκ

