

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastelists before 1800*

Online edition

LAWRENCE, George

Dublin c.1758 – p.1807

Also Laurence. His two brothers John and Robert were miniaturists. He was a pupil of F. R. West and James Mannin at the Dublin Society school, and exhibited at the Irish Society of Artists from 1771. From 15 Exchange Street (to 1781) and then 34 Grafton Street, he advertised his likenesses “in Crayons, and in Miniature at one guinea each. The same size of the crayons, in oil at one guinea and a half”; later his prices rose to two guineas. In *Saunders’s news-letter*, 28.VII.1781, a typical notice appeared:

STRIKING LIKENESSES ENGAGED

In Crayons and in Miniature, finished in the best Manner, at one Guinea each, by

GEORGE LAWRENCE,

At his Lodgings, No. 34, Grafton-street, near Ann-street, where Specimens of his Work may be seen.

Both the unknown subjects sold in 2002 and 2005 are inscribed with the artist’s later address, 35 Frederick Street, Dublin. The pastelists brother Robert was recorded as a miniature painter at 35 Frederick Street in the Wilson’s Dublin directories of 1798, 1804 and 1820; this, together with the lease description of George’s profession (*v. infra*), suggest he remained an amateur artist.

Documents in the Irish Registry of Deeds indicate a George Lawrence, gentleman and cabinet maker of Grafton Street, who leased his property in Grafton Street for 100 years from 1.X.1784 (memorial 309134), and assigned property in Frederick Street to George Lawrence, Junior, described as a scrivener and evidently the artist. George Lawrence, cabinet-maker of Ballybough-bridge, died in 1810 leaving a will (not seen). A George Lawrence of Peter Street was buried at St Nicholas Without, Dublin, on 27.IV.1820 but there is nothing to exclude this being a homonym.

There are several miniatures in the National Gallery of Ireland. He exhibited portraits in oil from 1801. An oil portrait, signed and dated Dublin 1807, indicates that the 1802 date of his death reported in most sources is incorrect.

The technique reflects Lawrence’s training: the pastel is applied thinly and modelling is achieved by extensive use of visible black chalk lines in a manner found on early Hamilton portraits. There is however a distinctive spontaneity in the expressions.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Crookshank 1969; Crookshank & Glin 2002; *Dictionary of Irish biography*; Dublin 1969; Foskett 1987; McGuire 1939, p. 15; McGuire 1936; Strickland 1913; Waterhouse 1981

Pastels

J.4654.101 Mrs Robert BARNEWALL, née Sophia Barnewall, daughter of Captain Silvester Barnewall, bust-length, in a pink gown, gauze and pearls in hair; & pendant: J.4654.102 Gentleman, bust-length, grey powdered wig, in a red and gold trimmed waistcoat, pstl/pchm, 48.3x40.6 ov. (London, Christie’s South Kensington, 2.VI.2009, Lot 620 repr./n.r., unknown sitters, circle of Hamilton, est. £800–1200) [new attr., ?] φαα



J.4654.104 ~version (*lady*), with blue eyes, pstl, 49.2x41 ov. (Bath, Holburne Museum, inv. FB714. Legs Frank Brown 2001) φαδσ



J.4654.106 Lady of the BARNEWALL family, in a light brown dress, pstl, 23x18 ov., sd ✓ “Lawrence”, 1781 (PC 1936). Lit.: McGuire 1936, pl. I φ



J.4654.108 Young lady of the BARNEWALL family, in a light blue dress, pstl, 23x18 ov., sd “Lawrence 1781 Dublin” (PC 1936). Lit.: McGuire 1936, pl. II φ



J.4654.11 Lady of the BARNEWALL family, pstl, 23x18 ov., 1781 (PC 1936). Lit.: McGuire 1936, n.r.

J.4654.111 Man of the BARNEWALL family, in a grey coat, white waistcoat edged with blue, pstl, 32.5x26 ov., sd “G. Lawrence Dublin 1789” (PC 1936. =?Dublin, Christie’s, 24.X.1988, Lot 2, Ir£650 [=Ir£715]. Thomas Agnew & Sons, London. Edinburgh, Bonhams, 19.II.2015, Lot 81 repr., as 1784, unidentified, £125). Lit.: McGuire 1936, pl. v φ



J.4654.113 Richard BIBBY, pstl. Lit.: Crookshank & Glin 2002, n.r.

J.4654.114 Robert Dillon, 1st Lord CLONBROCK (1754–1795), head and shoulders, m/u, sd “G. Lawrence, Dublin 1791”. Lit.: McGuire 1936, p. 208 n.r.

J.4654.115 Two ladies of the CUFFE family, large pstls, ov., sd 1792 (Miss Pratt, Ardee, 1936). Lit.: McGuire 1936, p. 208 n.r., citing Strickland’s revised notes

J.4654.1155 Frances FOXCROFT (1763–1852), ∞ 1782 Thomas Jones of Stapleton House, Gloucestershire; & pendant: J.4654.1156 sister Eliza Foxcroft (1756–1832), ∞ Robert Slade, parents of Felix Slade, pstl, 20.5x17/20x16.5 ov., sd ✓ “Lawrence, Dublin, 1782” (desc.: Frances’s great-great-grandson Robin Robertson-Glasgow of Hinton Charterhouse; South Cerney, Dominic Winter, 25.VII.2024, Lot 108 repr., est. £700–1000) φ





Jones, v. Foxcroft

J.4654.116 Mr SHERMAN; & pendant: J.4654.117 wife, pstl, 23x18 ov., sd 1788 (Colonel Harman, Killiney, Co. Dublin, a.1936). Lit.: McGuire 1936, p. 208 n.r., citing Strickland's revised notes

Slade, v. Foxcroft

J.4654.118 Rev. J. WILLIAMSON, bust-length, pencil, pstl, 26x20 ov. (Dr James White. London, Christie's, 12.V.2005, Lot 58 repr., circle of Hamilton, est. £500–800, £480) [new attr., ?] Φαv



J.4654.12 Three portraits of gentlemen, crayons, Dublin 1780, nos. 98–100

J.4654.121 Boy, crayons, Dublin 1780, no. 101

J.4654.122 Man in a red uniform, 38x32 ov., sd 1781 (PC 1936). Lit.: McGuire 1936, pl. IV φ



J.4654.124 Man, head and shoulders, crayons, sd 1790 (Mrs Agar, Stanton House, Highworth, Wiltshire, 1913). Lit.: Strickland 1913, n.r.

J.4654.1245 Gentleman in a brown coat, pstl/ppr, 67x46, sd → “G. Lawrence/35 Frederick Street/ft 1790” (Bridport, Busby, 21.XI.2024, Lot 277 repr., est. £300–500) φ



J.4654.125 Man with folded arms, pstl, ?originally oval, sd “Lawrence/Frederick St/Dublin/1792” (US PC 2010) φ



J.4654.127 Man, pstl (Crampton Walker 1936, attr.). Lit.: McGuire 1936, p. 208 n.r.

J.4654.128 Gentleman in dark blue coat, pstl, 33x28 ov., sd indistinct (Ramster, Phillips, 26.II.2001, Lot 354, attr., £460)

J.4654.129 Gentleman in a black coat, pstl/buff ppr, 34x29 ov., s → “G. Lawrence.../No. 35 Frederick Street/Dublin 17...” (Dublin, Whyte's, 8.V.2002, Lot 164 repr., est. €1500–2500, €2300; Irish PC; Dublin, Adam's, 23.VIII.2020, Lot 121 repr., est. €1000–1500) Φ



Photo courtesy Whyte's

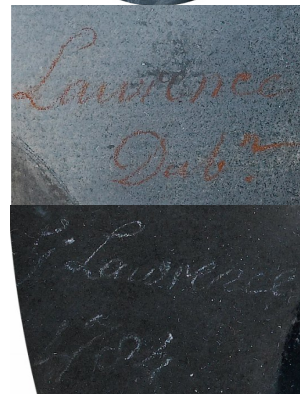
J.4654.132 Two portraits of ladies, crayons, Dublin 1780, nos. 102, 103

J.4654.133 Lady in a white dress, pstl, 56x43 ov., sd 1789 (Dr Michael Wynne; Dublin, James Adam, 28.IX.2005, Lot 95 repr., est. €800–1000; Dublin, James Adam, 29.III.2006, Lot 85 repr., est. €400–600, €3000) φ



J.4654.135 Lady, head, crayons (George Crampton, St Valerie, Bray, 1913). Lit.: Strickland 1913, n.r.

J.4654.136 Gentleman in a buff-coloured coat, s → “Lawrence/Dublin”; & pendant: J.4654.137 lady in a white cap with blue ribbon, sd ← “G. Lawrence/1784”, pstl/ppr, 24x19.3 ov. (London, Bonhams Knightsbridge, 27.X.2010, Lot 36 repr., est. £1200–1800, £1320) φσ



J.4654.142 Drawings in crayons, Dublin 1774