

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

LONSDALE, Countess of, née Lady Mary Stuart

London 1740 – Fulham 1824

Daughter of the prime minister, John, 3rd Earl of Bute, in 1761 she married Sir James Lowther, Bt (1736–1802). Created 1st Earl of Lonsdale in 1784, he was described as “a man of immense wealth and political influence...whose violence, arrogance, despotism, and caprice rose almost to the point of madness.” There were no children. Lady Lonsdale was an accomplished amateur artist. A pastel self-portrait, said to date from c.1765, may be a version of a work sold as by Liotard (who portrayed her brother); it is in the manner of Katherine Read (who portrayed her mother). The two works apparently descended by different nieces of the artist. She was the subject of a portrait by Hamilton, in 1771.

Bibliography

W. E. Lecky, *A history of England in the eighteenth century*, 1890, p. 125; Steegman 1962, p. 155

v. Genealogy, Stuart

Pastels

SELF-PORTRAIT, in a flowered brocade dress with blue ribbons, holding a porte-crayon, pstl, 76x64 ov., c.1765 ([?the sitter's niece, Lady Congleton, née Lady Caroline Dawson-Damer; desc.:] Col. Henry Somerset Parnell Hopkinson (1899–), Llanvihangel Court, Abergavenny, 1957). Lit.: Steegman 1962, p. 155 n.r.

~?pstl, inscr. “Countess of Lonsdale” ([?the sitter's niece, Lady Ranfurly, née Mary Juliana Stuart; desc.:] Earl of Ranfurly; London, Christie's, 21.VI.1929, Lot 80 repr., as Liotard, 155 gns; Gaskell). Lit.: Jeffares 2006, p. 574Biii; R&L R21, fig. 818 [new attr., ?] 

