

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

LYTTELTON, Lady, née Elizabeth Rich

1716 – London 17.IX.1795

An amateur portraitist in oil and pastel, she was an honorary exhibitor at the Society of Artists in 1774 and at the Royal Academy in 1771, 1775 and 1780. In 1749 (at the same time as she acquired a small crayon head from Arthur Pond, *q.v.*) she became the second wife of the politician and writer Sir George Lyttelton, 5th Bt (1709–1773), who was created Baron Lyttelton of Frankley. She brought him £20,000 but “her indiscretions made an unhappy household” (she had an affair with George Durrant, and her love letters to an opera singer, Sgr Tenducci led to formal separation in 1759); “with good talents [she] was, I fear, little esteemed by any one, though had been pretty” according to Mrs Piozzi. Her son Thomas, 2nd Baron Lyttelton – a man of “detestable character” according to Walpole – supported the pastellist Cunningham (*q.v.*) but later ended up in litigation with him.

Bibliography

Cockayne 1959, VIII, p. 311ff; Greer 2001; Raat 2010, p. 399; Sée 1911; Waterhouse 1981

Salon critiques

Joan Gideon Loten:

The Exposition of pictures &c. in the Strand of the Society of Artists of Great Britain, &c. is not near so beautiful as in 1772, as there was now but ...two crayons by Lady Littleton.

Pastels

J5064.101 Fame, crayons, Royal Academy 1775, no. 364

J5064.102 Portrait, crayons, Royal Academy 1780, no. 124

J5064.103 Two pictures, crayons, Society of Artists 1774, nos. 352, 353