

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

LAWRANSON, Thomas

1708 – London p.1786

Lawranson (also Lawrenson, Laurenson), said to have been Irish. He exhibited portraits in oil, miniatures and a few crayons from an address in Great Russell Street, London, at the Society of Artists from 1762 to 1777. In 1774 he exhibited a portrait said to have been painted in 1733. He is first known for two prints of Greenwich Hospital advertised in 1742 (*London Evening post*, 23.1.1742; his lodgings were at the Fox, a whipmaker's, opposite Gray's Inn Gate in Holborn) with a proprietary varnish that dispensed with the need for glass. He was elected a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1771, and became a director of the Incorporated Society of Artists in 1772. A small whole length portrait of the King of Denmark shown at the Society of Artists in 1768 was described by Walpole as "execrable". His portrait by his son William (*q.v.*) was engraved. Thomas Lawrenson married Mary Vick at St Paul's on 6.VI.1741; according to the allegation of 3.VI.1741, he was a batchelor of 33 years of age, from St Andrew's, Holborn; she was 23.

Bibliography

Bénézit; McGuire 1939, p. 15; Oxford DNB; Strickland 1913; Waterhouse 1981; Wright 2006

Pastels

[J.465.101](#) Head, crayons, Society of Artists 1768, no. 88

[J.465.102](#) Head, crayons, Society of Artists 1768, no. 89