

# Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

## Online edition

### LELY, Sir Peter

Soest 14.IX.1618 – London 30.XI.1680

The Dutchman Pieter van der Faes, known only by his surname, studied in Haarlem and moved to London in the 1640s. Initially he produced landscapes and history paintings, but it was as a portraitist that he achieved recognition. By 1647 he had attracted the support of Van Dyck's patron, the Earl of Northumberland. He rapidly became the "best artist in England" and was an enormously prolific portraitist in oils, of which many replicas and copies were made by a methodically organised studio. In 1661 he was made Principal Painter to the restored King. He was also an active collector, owning some 160 paintings and 10,000 drawings and prints.

Lely's chalk drawings, made independently from his oil portraits, were highly prized at the time; Lorenzo Magalotti noted that he "lavora a maraviglia de' pastelli." In 1663 Christiaan Huygens was interested in the technique of these "portraits, qu'il a faits avec du pastel", reporting that he used greyish paper ("un peu griastre") and "n'employe de couleurs que dans le visage et cela encore légèrement." He and his brother Contantijn II (*q.v.*, where the correspondence is set out; *v.g.* TREATISES) visited Lely in 1663; after some persistence they managed to obtain Lely's recipe for pastel. (Greenhill, *q.v.*, also encountered Lely's secretiveness.) Although intended to be framed, these "craions" remain drawings rather than pastel paintings: he used black chalk on blue-grey paper, over which he applied oil-charcoal with white highlights, occasionally adding touches of pink, blue and yellow pastel to the faces. Only a selection of these works are listed below. The British Museum study of a nymph is quite different in technique, using a mixture of pastel and gouache to make a truly coloured image, carrying on a tradition from Rubens which was followed by later pastellists. Although no other examples have survived, the catalogue entry for the Cosway sale (Lot 53, date n.k.) refers to "one of those highly-finished little pictures which Sir Peter used to paint when he first came to England". After his death, his executor Roger North made an inventory of the studio contents, noting a group of "craiyons...in Ebony frames".

Among Lely's pupils and assistants (who included painters such as Largillierre), Greenhill, Gibson, Thrumpton and Tilson (*qq.v.*) all made pastels, using the medium much more extensively on their sheets. Joseph Farington (*q.v.*), much later, is said to have made pastel copies of works by Lely.

### Monographic exhibitions

Lely 1978: *Sir Peter Lely*, London, NPG, 15 Carlton House Terrace, .XI.1978 –.III.1979. Cat. Oliver Millar

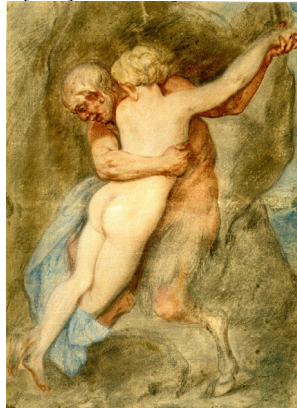
### Bibliography

"Sir Peter Lely's collection", editorial, *Burlington magazine*, LXXXII, 1943, p. 188; Bell 1915, pp. 8f; Burns 2007, pp. 18ff; Croft-Murray & Hulton 1960; Eisler 1968; Huygens 1888–1950, IV, pp. 361ff, 370ff, 389ff; London 1987a; Lorenzo Magalotti, *Relazione di viaggio in Inghilterra, Francia e Svezia*, 1668; Oxford DNB; Shelley 2002;

Whinney & Millar 1957, p. 100f; Woodward 1951; Wright 2006

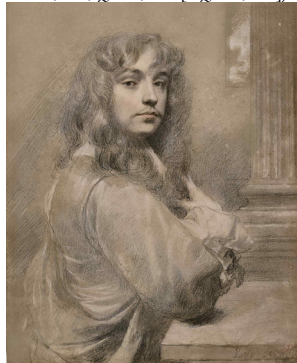
### Pastels

J.473.101 Nymph carried off by a satyr, cr. clr, gch./ppr, 38.9x28.5 (British Museum O.o.10.177. Richard Payne Knight; legs 1824). Lit.: Binyon 1898–1907, III, p. 53, no. 15 n.r.; Croft-Murray & Hulton 1960, no. 34, pl. 221 [?attr.] φα



### Drawings

J.473.104 SELF-PORTRAIT, black, white, red chlk/br. ppr, c.34.5x26 (Peter Lely; dep.: Fitzwilliam Museum 2006; London, Sotheby's, 5–6.VII.2016, Lot 216 repr., est. £600–800,000, £720,000 [=£869,000]) φσ



J.473.106 SELF-PORTRAIT, bust, to right, in dull yellow mantle, long dark brown hair parted in middle, face in ¾, looking at spectator, ruddy complexion, small moustache, white laced necktie, crayons, 28.5x23.5 (Horace Walpole; desc.: Earl Waldegrave; Strawberry Hill, George Robins, 25.IV.1842 & seq., p. 135, no. 46 n.r., 2½ gns; Earl of Derby, Knowsley Hall). Lit.: Walpole 1774; Walpole 1784, p. 492 n.r.; Scharf 1875, no. 350 n.r.

J.473.107 =?His own head, crayons (Richard Graham; London, Thomas Pelletier, 6.III.1712, Lot 47, £2/10/-; Foreman)

J.473.108 ??Duchess of CLEVELAND, née Barbara Villiers (1641–1709), wearing a hood, chlk/br. ppr, 24x18, s (British Museum 1866.0714.34. Dr H. Wellesley; London, Sotheby's, 30.VI.1866, Lot 851; acqu.). Lit.: Binyon 1898–1907, III, p. 53, no. 5 n.r.; Woodward 1951, pl. 40; Croft-Murray & Hulton 1960, no. 20, pl. 213

J.473.109 Sir Charles COTTERELL (1615–c.1687), master of ceremonies to the king, black, red, white chlk, 27.7x19.4, 1660 (British Museum 1884.0726.25). Lit.: Binyon 1898–1907, III, p. 53, no. 3 n.r., as of Edmund Waller, crayons; Croft-Murray & Hulton 1960, no. 28; Burns & Saunier 2014, p. 119 repr.

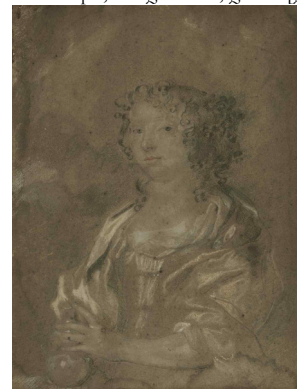
J.473.111 Countess of Grammont [GRAMONT, née Elizabeth Hamilton (1641–1708)], in a red décolleté dress, pstl, 51x46 (Lord Desborough; sale p.m., London, Christie's, 9.IV.1954, Lot 59 n.r., £10; Cheltenham) =?/cop. *Beauclerk, q.v.*

J.473.112 John GREENHILL (1642–1676), black, red, white chlk/ppr gr., 27.5x20.5 (British Museum 1857.1114.213. Richardson; Sir John Charles Robinson). Exh.: London 1974, no. 148; Lely 1978, no. 82. Lit.: Binyon 1898–1907, III, p. 53, no. 2 n.r.; Woodward 1951, pl. 48, as pstl; Croft-Murray & Hulton 1960, no. 20, pl. 213

J.473.113 John LELY (1668–1728), the artist's son, holding an orb, cr. clr/br. ppr, 21x16.5 (Peter Lely; dep.: Fitzwilliam Museum 2006; London, Sotheby's, 5–6.VII.2016, Lot 217 repr., est. £80–120,000, b/i) φσ



J.473.115 Ursula LELY (–1674), the artist's common-law wife, black, cr. clr/br. ppr, 21x16.5 (Peter Lely; dep.: Fitzwilliam Museum 2006; London, Sotheby's, 5–6.VII.2016, Lot 218 repr., est. £6–8000, £6000 [£7500]) φασ



J.473.117 John Maitland, 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of LAUDERDALE (1616–1687), bl. chlk/buff ppr, 18.2x16.8 (British Museum 1874. 0088.2263. Hugh Howard. Earls of Wicklow). Lit.: Croft-Murray & Hulton 1960, no. 25, pl. 216

J.473.118 A lady of the PACKINGTON family (Kingston Lacy, National Turst, inv. 1251186) φ



Lacy SHERMAN (?Edward Burman Adams. London, Christie's, 14.III.1978, Lot 114, as by Lely), v. Greenhill

J.473.121 Chancellor of the order of the Garter, cr. clr, 50x30 (Amsterdam, Rijksprentenkabinet. Ploos van Amstel; Jac. de Vos Jacsz.). Lit.: Woodward 1951, pl. 34

J.473.126 Woman, chlk/br. ppr, 24x18.5, s (British Museum 1866.0714.36. Lord Spencer; London, Philipe, 10–17.VI.1811. Esdaile, L.2617; London, Christie's, 25.VI.1840, Lot 1264; Colnaghi. Wellesley; Sotheby's, 30.VI.1866, Lot 863; acqu.). Lit.: Binyon 1898–1907, III, p. 53, no. 6 n.r.; Woodward 1951, pl. 41; Croft-Murray & Hulton 1960, no. 24, pl. 214

J.473.127 Lady, cr. clr/ppr, 25.1x19.7 (Royal Collection 13255). Lit.: Burns 2007, fig.15

J.473.128 Lady as a shepherdess, with a necklace, ??Nell Gwynne, ??Barbara Villiers, bl., red, white chlk/ppr, 25.4x19.5, s ← "Lely", c.16660–70 (Oxford, Ashmolean, inv. 1937.210. F. C. Lewis; don: Rev. Robert Finch 1828; legs Finch 1830). Exh.: Lely 1978, no. 78. Lit.: Bell 1915, pl. 1a; Brown 1982, no. 155, pl. 98 φ

J.473.129 Madonna, crayons, a/r Parmegiano (Sykes; London, II.1724, Lot 141)

J.473.1292 Young girl with pearl necklace, chlk, pstl/ppr, 29.5x20, inscr. ← "PL" (Richardson. Richard Houlditch, Henry Wellesley; 29.VI.1866, Lot 854. Fred Locker. PC Pittsburgh. London PC; French PC; desc.: Nantes, Couton Veyrac Jamault, 13.VI.2017, Lot 30 repr., est. €12–15,000, €520,800). Lit.: *Gazette Drouot*, 24.VI.2017, p. 161 repr. φ



J.473.13 Three heads in crayons (Rt Hon. Thomas Coke; London, 27.II.1728, Lot 38)

J.473.131 =?Three heads in crayons (Penelope Atkins, Lady Rivers; London, Christie's, 2–3.VI.1797, Lot 6 part, 13/-; Seguier)

**Anon. related pastels**

Elisabeth BOOTH (1638–1734), pnt. (Dunham Massey)

J.473.134 ~cop., pstl, 45x32 (London, Christie's, 8.VI.2000, Lot 49 repr., with pendant of brother, Earl of Warrington, a/r Kneller, est. £3–5000) φ



J.473.136 Duchess of CLEVELAND, née Barbara Villiers, Countess of Castlemaine (1640–1709), pstl, a/r Lely (Chirk Castle, National Trust, inv. 1171153.3) φ



J.473.137 ?Duchess of CLEVELAND, née Barbara Villiers, Countess of Castlemaine (1640–1709), pstl, 58.5x43, a/r Lely (desc.: PC 2022 [new attr., identification] φκν

CHARLES II (1630–1685), in armour, pnt., c.1675 (London, NPG 153) ~grav.: Vertue a.1745

J.473.139 ~cop., cr. clr, 27.3x22 (Oxford, Ashmolean, inv. W.A.B.I.VIII.465. Sutherland). Lit.: Brown 1982, no. 164, pl. 106, ?by or a/r Luttrell [?; cf. Bloteling; Luttrell] φκσ



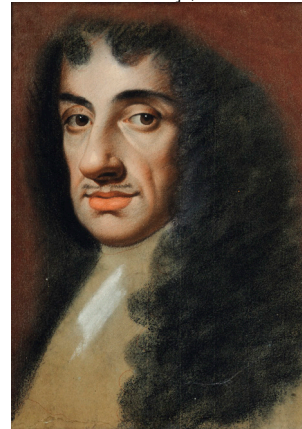
J.473.141 ~variant, pstl/ppr br., 24.5x18 (New Haven, Yale Center for British Art, inv. B1977.14.5311. Desc.: Colonel Fernyhough, Chalgrove, Ash Vale, Surrey; London, Sotheby's, 11.V.1932, Lot 87; Leonard Duke 1932–65). Exh.: New Haven 1979, no. 11 repr., attr. Luttrell. Lit.: Woodward 1951, pl. 59, as by Luttrell [?; cf. Bloteling; Luttrell] φβ



J.473.143 ~cop., pstl, 26x21.5 ov. (Exeter, Bearnas Hampton & Littlewood, 3–4.VII.2013, Lot 207 repr., English sch., c.1800, est. £600–800; Salisbury, Woolley & Wallis, 12.IX.2017, Lot 124 repr., attr. Ashfield, partly restored, est. £600–800, £1100; Timothy Langston Fine Art, as by Ashfield) φκν



J.473.145 ~cop., pstl, 36x26 (Paris, Drouot, Vincent Wapler, Mica, 3.VII.2015, Lot 114 repr., éc. anglaise, XVII<sup>e</sup>, suiveur de John Greenhill, inconnu, est. €600–800) [?period; new identification] φπν



J.473.146 ~cop., pstl, 26x22; & pendant: J.473.1461 ??Catherine of Braganza, pstl, 26x22 (Dorset PC; Dorchester, Duke's, 7.X.2021, Lot 57 repr., as by Ashfield, of Charles II and ?Catherine of Braganza, est. £3–5000, £4800) [??Ashfield; cf. Luttrell] φκν/φκδν





J.473.1461 ~cop., pstl, 26x22 (Wilson, North Carolina, Langston, 1.1.2020, Lot 459 as by Lily, est. \$50–100, \$375. Bobby Carpenter & Dr Garrett Saikley; Camden, South Carolina, Wooten & Wooten, 26.III.2022, Lot 376 repr., as British sch., 18<sup>th</sup> century, est. \$250–400; Chevy Chase, Maryland, Sloans & Kenyon, 12.IX.2024, Lot 469 repr.; PC; Ripon, Yorkshire, Elstob, 22–23.I.2025, Lot 848 repr., est. £100–150) φκν



J.473.147 Charles, 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron CORNWALLIS (1655–1698), First Lord of the Admiralty; & pendant: J.473.148 1<sup>st</sup> spouse, née Elizabeth Fox (c.1655–1681), daughter of Sir Stephen Fox, pstl/ppr, [c.35x25] (PC 2012). A/r Lely pnts., c.1673 (Audley End). Lit.: R. J. B. Walker, *Audley End. Catalogue of the pictures*, London, 1973, nos. 474/475 n.r.; numerous versions of Lady Cornwallis pnt. exist with various identifications: two at Audley End are identified as of Elizabeth and of her sister Jane Fox; one at Felbrigg is supposedly of Mary Ashe, Viscountess Townshend.] φκσ



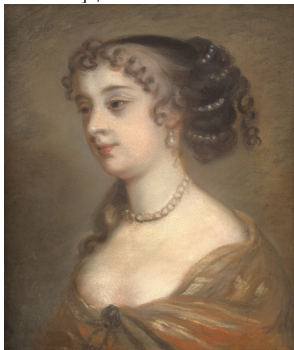
Nell GWYN (–1687), actress, mistress of Charles II  
~various versions, copies, grav.

J.473.149 ~cop., cr. clr, 28x24 (Frank Sabin. Lewes, Gorrings, 25.III.2024, Lot 731 repr., a/r Lely, est. £50–80, £320; PC). Lit.: *Burlington magazine*, X/44, .X.1906, p. 131 φκ

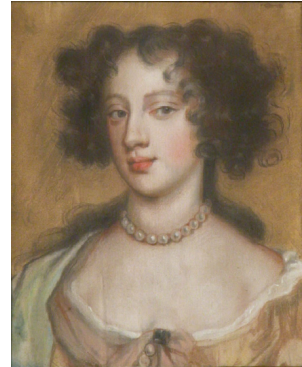


J.473.151 Margaret HUGHES (–1719), actress, mistress of Prince Rupert, pnt. (Earl of Jersey) ~grav. Robert Williams

J.473.153 ~cop., pstl/ppr, 50.8x43.2 (Canadian PC; Philip Mould 2010, as circle of Lely) [cf. Luttrell] φκ



J.473.155 [MARIA Beatrice d'Este, Queen Mary of Modena (1658–1718)], pstl, a/r Lely (Chirk Castle, National Trust, inv. 1171153.2, as of Mary “Moll” Davis (c.1640–c.1721)). A/r Lely pnt., c.1672 φκ



J.473.157 Duchess of PORTSMOUTH AND AUBIGNY, née Louise-Renée de Penancoët de Kéroualle (1649–1734), pstl, a/r Lely (Chirk Castle, National Trust, inv. 1171153.1) φ



Countess of SHREWSBURY, née Anna Maria Brudenell (1642–1702), pnt. (London, NPG 280)

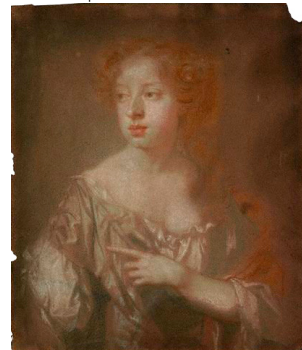
J.473.16 ~cop., pstl/ppr, 28.2x20.9 (Waddesdon W2/36/4. Miss Alice de Rothschild; desc.). Lit.: Waterhouse 1967, no. 20 n.r., ??Beale; ?cf. Ashfield

~cop. *Duchess of Montagu, q.v.*

J.473.161 Duchess of SOMERSET, née Elizabeth Percy (1667–1722), pnt.

~grav. van der Vaart p.1684

J.473.163 ~cr. clr, 31.8x27, a/r Lely, c.1679 (London, NPG, inv. NPG 1753. Mrs W. W. Whitehead, Newcastle upon Tyne; acqu. 1915). Lit.: *The year's art*, 1917, p. 47, as pstl, by Ashfield; Keyes 1929, fig. 9, attr.; Ingamells 2009b φκ



Edward STILLINGFLEET (1635–1699), bishop of Worcester, antiquarian, pnt., 1672  
~grav. Bloteling

J.473.167 ~cop., pstl/ppr, 28.6x22.9 (London, NPG 2516. Desc.: Mrs Edith Stillingfleet Bowles, Malvern; acqu. 1931). Lit.: Ingamells 2009b, as chalk φκ



Countess of WESTMORLAND, née Dorothy  
Brudenell (1646–1740), pnt., c.1668  
(Boughton)  
~cop. *Duchess of Montagu, q.v.*