

# Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

## **MANINI, Gaetano**

Milan 1730 – London brd 5.VIII.1784

Miniaturist, enamellist and pastellist. He studied in Bologna under Domenico Creti. In 1736 he was in Naples, painting the portrait of the singer Vittoria Tesi, “La Fiorentina”. He travelled to England, perhaps c.1750 and is later said to have visited Ireland. His death, first published here, is from the burial entry for “Chevelus Geaton Mannini, St Mary Le Bone”, in the register at St James’s Paddington. (He is unlikely to be the illiterate homonym who married a Dorothy Andrews, also unable to sign the register, on 17.I.1786 at St Botolph, Aldgate.)

He exhibited prolifically at the Society of Artists from 1762 to 1775 and the Free Society between 1761 and 1772 (from New Bond Street, 1763; Orchard Street, 1772 and Portman Square, 1775), calling himself “chevalier”. He is known for mythological and allegorical subjects. Only one picture is recorded as a pastel; it was exhibited with “an enamel of the same on the top of the frame”. Walpole was not impressed by his history paintings, calling them “tawdry & not well” and “execrable”.

### **Bibliography**

AKL; Edwards 1808; Hofstetter 2008; Schidlof 1964

### **Pastels**

J511.101 A lady at work by candlelight, in crayons, Free Society 1761, no. 53