MARTIN, James
fl. New York 1794–1820
From England, Martin arrived in New York c.1794, and produced portraits in “Oil, Water, or Crayon from $1 to $50” according to his advertisement in the New Jersey journal, 23.IX.1795 (“miniature painter from New York, late of Fleet Street, London”). In the New York daily advertiser for 12.V.1797, he advertised–

Portrait Painting pleasing and striking likeness taken to any size in crayons or pastels on moderate terms, at No 8, Wall-street, nearly opposite the presbyterian church, by Mr. Martin, from London. Profile shades taken at 1 dollar each, one minutes sitting only required. Miniatures neatly executed.

He is probably the same as the Martin, from Sheffield, recorded by Bolton 1923 as a portrait draughtsman in pastel in New York between 1797 and 1808: “although his work was poor it was in steady demand”. Some of his pastels show distinctive backgrounds of red blending into blue. Two pastels in Martin’s style bear an improbable, later inscription attributing them to an obscure artist, David Swope (1771–1845), by whom no work is securely known.

Bibliography
Bolton 1923; sales catalogues, New York, Sotheby’s, 20.I.2002, s. Lot 1268; New York, Christie’s, 3.X.2007, s. Lot 69
Pastels
1519.102 Dr Samuel HARRIS (?) of Philadelphia, pstl, 60.3x49.5 (Marlborough, Massachusetts, Skinner, 20.VII.2017, Lot 184 repr., anon., est. $300–500, $461) [new attr.] φ
1519.103 George HOLLINSHED of Woodstown (Salem County Historical Society, New Jersey). Lit.: New York Historical Society, 20.I.2002, s. Lot 1268, n.r., as by same hand as Stretch
1519.104 Anthony LISPENARD (c.1746–1806), brewer and property developer in New York, pstl, 59x50 oct. (Antique Associates at West Townsend 2012, attr.) φ
1519.105 Captain Joseph NOYES (1758–1820), son of Judge William Noyes, pstl, c.1798 (n/k) φ
1519.106 Mrs Mary Ann NOYES (1768–1819), pstl/ppr, c.1798 (PC) φ
J.519.12  Joseph STRETCH (1758–1815), pstl/ppr, 69.8x53.5, c.1805 (New York, Sotheby's, 20.I.2002, Lot 1268 repr., American sch., est. $20–30,000) [new attr.] φ

J.519.122  Garrison WRIGHT, pstl/ppr, 60x45, c.1818 (Freehold, New Jersey, Monmouth County Historical Association). Lit.: Choi & Makin 2013, fig. 7


J.519.128  Man from North Weymouth, Massachusetts, in a blue uniform, pstl, 62.9x50.5, c.1790 (Norfolk, Chrysler Museum of Art, inv. 80.264.8. Don Edgar William & Bernice Chrysler Garbisch, New York) [new attr.] φν

J.519.13  Man in a blue coat, pstl/ppr, 54.5x42.5, c.1810 (Providence, Rhode Island School of Design, inv. 2000.81. Acq. Georgianna Sayles Aldrich Fund) φ

J.519.132  Young boy with blue eyes in a blue costume, pstl/ppr, 61x44.5 (New York, Sotheby's, 23.x.1994, Lot 209 repr., attr., est. $2–3,000, $1900) φ

J.519.134  Gentleman, pstl, 73.7x55.9 (New York, Christie's, 3.x.2007, Lot 69 repr., attr., est. $4–6000, b/i) φ

J.519.136  Gentleman, pstl, 73.7x55.9 (Freehold, New York, Carlsen Gallery, 6.iv.2014, Lot 66 repr., attr. Micah Williams, est. $1–2000) [new attr.] φ

J.519.138  Homme en uniforme bleu, pstl, 64.2x47.6, c.1790; & pendant: J.519.139  Dame en chapeau, châle bleu, pstl, 63.8x47.6, c.1790 (Baltimore Museum of Art, inv. 1972.78.10/11, Dutch sch., repr./n.r. Don Edgar William & Bernice Chrysler Garbisch, New York) [new attr.] φν

J.519.141  Gentleman in blue coat; & pendant: J.519.142  lady in black dress, white cap, pstl, 58.5x48 ov. (Downington, Pook & Pook, 6.x.2012, Lot 908 repr., anon., est. $1500–2500) [new attr.] φν
Four portraits (Salem County Historical Society, New Jersey). Lit.: cat. for New York, Christie’s, 3.x.2007, t.o.m. Lot 69