

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

MAYER, Tobias

Marbach 17.II.1723 – Göttingen 20.II.1762

Mathematician, astronomer and cartographer, he was professor at Göttingen where he worked closely with Georg Moritz Lowitz (*q.v.*). According to Günther (*q.v.*) he invented wax crayons in 1757, but died before they were perfected. Among his papers published posthumously by Lichtenberg was an essay on colour based on three primary colours. Lichtenberg also described an invention involves a rather bizarre attempt to reproduce Guido Reni's *Erigone* using a mosaic of slices from prisms filled with coloured wax. His portrait in pastel by Kaltenhofer was engraved in 1799 by Westermayr.

Bibliography

Günther 1792; Georg Christoph Lichtenberg, "Opera inedita Tobiae Mayeri", 1775, in *Observationes: die lateinischen Schriften*, ed. Nikolaus Hasse, Göttingen, 1997, p. 118