

# Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

## MILBOURN, John

*fl.* London 1763–1816

Trained in the Royal Academy Schools from 1769, John Milbourn (also Melbourn, Milbourne) was a pupil of Cotes, whose influence is evident. His fellow pupil John Russell (*q.v.*) appears to have tried to convert him to Methodism, and recorded in his diary (11.v.1768) “Cotes ordered Milbourn never to go near me again.” Milbourn exhibited pastels including some full-lengths in small format at the Royal Academy between 1772 and 1774 (from Harley Street, 1772; Mr Gibson’s, Berwick Street, 1773; and Mr Conaway’s, Queen Street, 1774). He worked in oil and pastel, and made genre pictures as well as portraits (he is not to be confused with the Charles Milbourne, a theatrical scene painter active at Covent Garden who visited the USA in 1792). His versatility extended to, restoration and copying (Walpole was among his clients, and the Strawberry Hill sale included his copy of a Holbein), and according to Farington earned some £500–600 p.a. as a drawing-master. He is recorded as such in the New Road, Marylebone in 1795 (by Walpole and *The gentleman’s magazine*, carrying a report of the death of his 15-year-old son). A document in the papers of the Baker Wilbraham family of Rode Hall (Cheshire and Chester Archives, DBW/N/Λ/Λ/105) of 1811 records the address of Mr Milbourne of Marylebone, crayon painter, with a note in Maria Baker’s hand: “repaired my F[ather]’s Picture July 1811”; it is unclear if he made the original.

### Bibliography

Oxford DNB; Sée 1911; Waterhouse 1981; Williamson 1894, p. 10

### Pastels

?Sir George BAKER, 1<sup>st</sup> Bt (1722–1809),  
physician, m/u (family PC 1811)  
Gentleman, crayons, Royal Academy 1773, no.  
196  
Gentleman, crayons, Royal Academy 1774, no.  
183  
Lady, crayons, Royal Academy 1772, no. 157  
Child, 58x49 ov. (Young 1911). Exh.: Paris  
1911, no. 86