

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

PARS, Anne

London c.1750–p.1787

She was awarded prizes at the Society of Arts in 1764–66 (in 1764, “two guineas to Miss Anne Pars, Drawing-school, Strand”, in the category of drawings of any kind by girls under 15) and was an amateur exhibitor of a crayon portrait at the Royal Academy in 1786. During 1774 she was employed at Wedgwood’s Chelsea factory, working mainly on his Russian service, receiving 10s. 6d. per week; the accounts refer to her as “Miss”, indicating a superior social situation to most of the enamellers. She was the daughter of Albertus Pars (1702–1773), an immigrant goldsmith from Holland, of Furnival’s Inn Court, and sister of Henry (1734–1806), who assisted William Shipley in his drawing school; William Pars (1742–1782), the landscape painter, apprenticed to Shipley in 1755 and admitted to the Royal Academy Schools in 1769; Albert (1745–), a wax modeller; and Edward Pars of Stanhope Street, St Clement Danes, a goldworker. Her early training was no doubt at her brother’s school, where, from 1767, the ten-year old William Blake was also taught. A portrait of a “young lady; whole length” by James Cranke, exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1787 (no. 399), was identified as of Miss Pars in an annotated copy of the catalogue. Henry’s daughter, Elizabeth (1768–1834), Mrs John Gibson was the subject of a pastel by John Russell.

Bibliography

Edwards 1808, for William Pars; Mallalieu 2003; *Museum rusticum et commerciale*, II, 1764, p. 373; Oxford DNB, *s.v.* Henry Pars; Sée 1911; Waterhouse 1981; Andrew Milne, private communication, 9.III.2014

Pastels

J.5746.101 Gentleman in blue coat, white waistcoat, profile to left, blue eyes, pstl/ppr, 25x18 ov. (O’Neill. Émile Gross; Xavier Haas; New York, Anderson, 13–14.I.1927, Lot 190 n.r., as by one of the Pars family) [?attr.]

J.5746.102 A young lady, crayons, Royal Academy 1786, no. 418