

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

PEALE, Charles Willson

St Paul, Maryland 1741 – Philadelphia 1827
Prolific portraitist in oil and miniature (as well as saddler, jeweller and cabinet maker); he is recorded in Annapolis studying with the portraitist Johan Hesselius, and is also said to have been a pupil of Copley from 1765. In 1766 he travelled to London to study with Benjamin West. He was back in America by 1769, dividing the next seven years between Annapolis and Williamsburg. He served as a soldier under Washington (of whom he made numerous portraits) in the revolution. He was based in Philadelphia after 1776, devoting himself after 1782 to his museum.

Bibliography

Bénézit, Bolton 1923; Sellers 1952; Washington 1987

Pastels

Mrs Robert EDEN and child, pstl, 1775. Lit.: Sellers 1952, no. 242 n.r.
Mr WALLER, pstl, 1775. Lit.: Sellers 1952, no. 891 n.r.
George WASHINGTON (1732–1799), 1787 (Philadelphia, Historical Society of Pennsylvania). Lit.: Bolton 1923, p. 55 n.r.
Miss WRENCH, pstl, 1776. Lit.: Sellers 1952, no. 1004 n.r.
French gentleman at Jamaica, pstl, 1776. Lit.: Sellers 1952, no. 1041 n.r.
Boy with flute, pstl (Philadelphia, American Philosophical Society. Charles Coleman Sellars collection)