

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastelists before 1800*

Online edition

PORTER, William

fl. London 1788–1802

Portraitist in oil, miniature and pastel; according to Waterhouse, he entered Royal Academy Schools on 31.XII.1791 “aged 15”. He had however exhibited crayons from 1788 (from Oxford Street); presumably the critic of the *Bee* was being ironic when he described the five portraits in the 1788 exhibition as “All the same family, by the striking resemblance to each other”. The reviewer in the *True Briton* in 1800 however thought his small portraits in crayons “excellent”: the comment is the only indication of the medium of these works which were omitted from Jeffares 2006. They were sent to the Royal Academy 1800 exhibition from Great Newport Street. The medium is not specified for his submissions in 1799 (from Henrietta Street), 1801 (where his subjects seem to have been Scottish) or 1802 (32 Newman Street). A later label on J.5992.116 indicates that the artist came from Barton-on-Humber, but the catalogue prints the name as Parker.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Graves; Sée 1911; Waterhouse 1981

Salon critiques

Anon., *The bee; or, the exhibition exhibited in a new light: being a complete catalogue-raisonné of all the pictures [Royal Academy 1788]*, London, 1788

All the same family, by the striking resemblance to each other.

Pastels

J.5992.101 Miss AUBIN, m/u, Royal Academy 1802, no. 453

J.5992.102 Mrs BRUN, Royal Academy 1800, no. 659

J.5992.103 Miss GOMM, Royal Academy 1800, no. 364

=?Sophia Gomm (–1817), sister of Sir William Gomm (*Gomm*; London, Christie’s, 6.III.1914, Lot 1 n.r.) [*v. English sch.*]

J.5992.105 Miss G. GORDON, m/u, Royal Academy 1801, no. 577

J.5992.106 Mrs Inchbold [Mrs Joseph INCHBALD, née Elizabeth Simpson (1753–1821), actress], Royal Academy 1800, no. 402

J.5992.107 Miss C. JONES, m/u, Royal Academy 1801, no. 518

J.5992.108 Vice-Admiral [Thomas] MACKENZIE [(1753–1813), vice admiral of the White], m/u, Royal Academy 1801, no. 543

J.5992.109 Mrs MARTIN [née Catherine Fanshaw], in blue dress, with her two sons [Admiral Sir William Fanshawe Martin and Henry Byam Martin], pstl, 25x20 ov. ([sitter’s son] Admiral Sir William Fanshawe Martin, Bt; sale p.m., London, Christie’s, 26.I.1923, Lot 130 n.r., as by “Porter”; 55 gns; Agnew) [attr.]

J.5992.11 Mr NUNN, m/u, Royal Academy 1799, no. 518

J.5992.111 Miss URQUHART, Royal Academy 1800, no. 592

J.5992.112 A young lady, m/u, Royal Academy 1799, no. 520

J.5992.113 A lady, Royal Academy 1800, no. 660

J.5992.114 Five portraits, crayons, Royal Academy 1788, no. 172

J.5992.115 Portrait in a highland dress, m/u, Royal Academy 1801, no. 385

J.5992.116 A child, pstl, 26.6x21.3, Royal Academy 1801, no. 423 (Chiswick Auctions, 11.I.2023, Lot 167 repr., as by William Parker, ?artist’s son, est. £200–300) *ov*

