

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

PARRY, Charles Henry

Cirencester 3.VII.1779 – Brighton 21.I.1860

The celebrated physician Dr Caleb Hillier Parry married Sarah Rigby of Warrington in 1778; they undertook a grand tour of France and the Low Countries before settling in Bath. Among his patients were Sir William Herschel, Edmund Burke and admirals Howe and Rodney, and he is mentioned in Jane Austen's correspondence. The crayon-painting son was the eldest child, Charles Henry, who was to take over their father's practice after studying medicine in Göttingen and Edinburgh (in 1799). His pastel, depicting his younger brother, the future Arctic explorer, was entered for a premium at the Society of Arts under class 173 ("for the best drawings of any kind...by young Gentlemen under the age of twenty-one...to be produced on or before the first Tuesday in March"), and a letter from Dr Parry was required to provide evidence of when the picture was executed to determine eligibility. It was we learn executed after Charles's return from London to Bath but before his departure to Germany which had already occurred by the time of the letter. The pastellist's tour of Germany took him to the Harz mountains with Coleridge in 1799. Parry was awarded the 1799 silver medal for this pastel. In the competition for 1797 Parry won the silver medal for a drawing of the Virgin and Child; the following year his drawing of his sister (one of four, unnamed) in the character of a little gleaner took the gold medal. While in both cases the medium was unspecified, they may well also have been in crayons.

Bibliography

RSA archives, 5.IV.1799; Hull, "Caleb Hillier Parry 1755–1822: a notable provincial physician", *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*, xci, 1998, pp. 335ff

Pastels

J5742.101 Admiral Sir William Edward PARRY (1790–1855), the artist's brother, in the character of a shepherd boy, struggling with a ram, crayons, c.1798