Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

**Online edition**

REYNOLDS, Sir Joshua
Plympton 1725 – London 1792

Reynolds was a founder and first president of the Royal Academy of Arts in 1768. He was the pre-eminent British portraitist of his generation. Unlike his principal rival Gainsborough (q.v.) he does not seem to have worked in pastel, and his disapproval of the medium is well known, notably in his comments on Liéard (q.v.).

Perchance surprisingly Reynolds owned a number of pastels (e. Index of collectors), among them many sheets by Barocci and Lely which evidently influenced the study of his great-niece Marchioness Townshend (comte Louis Cahen d’Anvers 1908), the artist’s niece, red, with stump to achieve a very similar effect to where the artist used black, white and red chalk with stump to achieve a very similar effect to pastel.

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Dr Samuel JOHNSON (1709–1784), author, in a full wig and light brown coat, head, to l., looking up, to r., pnt. (London, NPG). Lit.: Mannings 2000, no. 1014.


J.6174.171 ~cop., pntl, 65x44 (Frome, Cooper & Tanner, 18.VII.2017, Lot 252 repr., as 19th century, anon., unknown, est. £70–100; [new attr., identification; comes with copy of George White] φκ

Hon. Charles TOWNSENDHED (1725–1767), chancellor of the exchequer, in a murray velvet robe over a yellow waistcoat, pnt., 72.4x60, c.1767 (PC). Lit.: Mannings 2000, no. 1760, fig. 1740.


~cop. pntl. (NPG 406); others

J.6174.17 ~cop., pntl, 57x45.5 (London, Sotheby’s, 22.X.1981, Lot 84; Paula Peyraud; New York, Bloomsbury, 8.V.2009, Lot 90 repr., attr., est. $4–6000, $3000. Billingshurst, Bellmans, 6–8.IX.2016, Lot 1508 repr., attr. Catherine Read, with two copies of grav., est. £200–300 φκ

~cop., Margaret Catilifi, q.v.

J.6174.182 Samuel, crayons, a/r Reynolds (Turner; London, Christie’s, 21–23.V.1796, Lot 86, 5 gns; Edwards) [unclear if a/r Calling of Samuel or The Infant Samuel]

J.6174.183 Girl with a muff; & pendant (London, Sotheby’s, 22.VI.1922, Lot 35 n.r., a/r Reynolds )

J.6174.184 The Infant Samuel, pntl, 41x35 ov. (Earl of Hardwick; sale p.m., London, Christie’s, 27.VI.1924, as autograph, 21 gns; Yorke) [??attr.]


J.6174.186 ~cop., J. Wells Champney, pntl, 48x35.5 (New York, American Art Galleries, 21–22.I.1904, Lot 90 repr.).

Infant Samuel & Angels head, q.v. Anna Russell

J.6174.188 Lady in a red dress with blue sash, leaning on a pedestal, full length, pntl, 66x46 (Sir Edward Coates; London, Sotheby’s, 22.VII.1922, Lot 35 n.r., a/r Reynolds)

?Robinetta or Lesbia, pntl (Tate). Lit.: Mannings no. 1768, fig. 292.
~grp. Pond, q.v.

J.6174.175 ~cop., pntl, 61x46 (Frome, Cooper & Tanner, 18.XIII.2017, Lot 268 repr., as 19th century, anon., est. £70–100; [new attr., identification; comes with copy of Rockingham in same frame] φκ

~cop. pntl. (Rockingham Castle; London, Christie’s, 18.VI.2006, Lot 315, as by Hoare, 45 gns; Ingamells 2004, p. 404 attr. Cotes [??attr.]

The age of innocence, pnt. (Tate). Lit.: Mannings 2000, no. 2008

The laughing girl; & pendant: the sleeping girl, pnt. Lit.: Mannings 2000, no. 2072/2077

Boy holding a pen, pnt. (PC). Lit.: Mannings 2000, no. 2022, fig. 1584

Child with Guardian Angels, pnt., Royal Academy 1786 (Duke of Leeds; PC). Lit.: Mannings 2000, no. 2043, fig. 1746


The snake in the grass, pnt.

Boy holding a pen, pnt. (PC). Lit.: Mannings 2000, no. 2022, fig. 1584