

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

REYNOLDS, Frances

Plympton 10.v.1729 – London 1.xi.1807

Sister of Sir Joshua, for whom she kept house as well as copying his works. She was also a published poet and writer. She worked in miniature, oil and pastel; in a letter of 9.i.1758, Dr Johnson reported that “Mr Reynolds has...raised his price to twenty guineas a head, and Miss is much employed in miniatures.” Her facility is said to have surpassed her brother’s when they were children, although she received no formal training.

A satirical article in the *Town and country magazine*, 1781, p. 625, entitled “Histories of the Tête-à-tête annexed: or, Memoirs of the patriotic senator and Miss R-ds” is thought to concern Sir George Saville and Miss Reynolds, and alludes to her “masterly stile of painting in crayons”.

While one may assume that she made some of the pastel copies of his works, the two extant pastels, of the artist’s nieces (both first found in the collection of Lord W... in 1911), seem to be in a style that borders on later pastiche, and the red chalk inscription on one seems surprising.

Bibliography

Ellen C. Clayton, *English female artists*, London, 1876, I, pp. 231ff; Foskett 1987; Greer 2001; Sée 1911; Waterhouse 1981; Wright 2006

Pastels

J.6172.101 Mrs Robert Lovell GWATKIN, née Theophila Palmer (1757–1848), pstl, 74x60 ov., inscr. ← “Souvenir from your/Aunt Fannie/1776 [?1775]” (Lord W..., 1911. Mrs Henry Oppenheim; sale p.m., London, Christie’s, 26.v.1933, Lot 138 n.r., 10 gns; Mrs Ittner. Paris, Drouot, Beaussant-Lefèvre, 7.xi.2011, Lot 56 repr., est. €5–8000, b/i). Exh.: Paris 1911, no. 97. Lit.: Sée 1911, repr. p. 185. Related to Joshua Reynolds pnt., 1777 (Mannings 2000, no. 1390) Φα



J.6172.103 ~cop., pstl, 17x13.5 ov. (French PC 2007; London, Claridge’s, Europ Auction, 6.v.2011, Lot 43 repr., est. €3–5000) φκ



J.6172.105 Marchioness of THOMOND, Countess of Inchiquin, née Mary Palmer (1750–1820), 72x60 ov., c.1780 (Lord W..., 1911. Mrs Henry Oppenheim; sale p.m., London, Christie’s, 26.v.1933, Lot 137 n.r., 5½ gns; Edwards). Exh.: Paris 1911, no. 97. Lit.: Sée 1911, repr. p. 191; See 1911b, p. 27 repr. Φα



J.6172.107 Lady, bust, ¾ to right, full face, looking front, the face only finished, pstl/ppr, 22x17 ov. (Lord Amherst of Hackney. Ernest Renton; Xavier Haas; New York, Anderson, 13–14.i.1927, Lot 208 n.r.)