

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

ROSCOE, William

Liverpool 1753 – 1831

Historian, writer, lawyer, politician and amateur artist. He was trained in the “laborious and distasteful profession” of an attorney, but was more interested in literature and the arts. As a result of meeting Henry Fuseli, he was inspired to spend some ten years on a biography of Lorenzo de’ Medici. He played an influential role in the development of Liverpool as a cultural centre, and he was elected its MP in 1806. He was instrumental in establishing the Society of Encouragement of the Arts, Painting and Design in Liverpool, and he appeared at its exhibitions of 1774 (an ink drawing after a French engraving) and 1784 (including a pastel). Among numerous portraits of him are paintings by Richard Caddick (Walker Art Gallery) and Sir Martin Archer Shee.

Bibliography

Oxford DNB; Rimbault Dibdin 1917–18;
Wright 2007

Pastels

Portrait, m/u, Liverpool 1784

Boy sleeping, crayons, Liverpool 1784