

# Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

## Online edition

### RUSSELL, William

London bpt 26.XI.1784 – Shepperton 14.IX.1870  
Third son of John Russell (*q.v.*). His date of birth is given differently: Williamson has 1782 and 1780, while Webb 1910 and the Oxford DNB give 26.XI.1784, when John and Hannah's son William was christened at St Mary's, Marylebone (as were five other children in the records between 1778 and 1785). He executed pastels and exhibited at the Royal Academy and at the British Institution between 1805 and 1809 when his output fell off and he turned to the church. In a letter to his mother of 24.III.1809, discussing the prospects for continuing his father's business, he wrote as follows—

With respect to the Enamels I believe they will prove of very little value. It is true they cost a good deal. You speak of interest in the busines to be given up – one thing seems to be requisite – the name of Russell & this I have found is no substitute for capacity. The Crayon making will be only an advantage to a professed crayon maker. If there was a tolerable good crayon painter or if the art was in any degree in fashion I should alter my tone.

At his ordination in 1814 (not 1809), he vowed to abandon art. He was rector of Shepperton for 53 years. The known works are all nineteenth century; they include a portrait of Judge Bayley, commissioned for the Law Courts, which was initially rejected as the judges thought pastel would not be durable; an oil repetition was supplied. In 1851 William Russell's daughter Laetitia Neale Russell married John Walter Lea, the grandson of a nonconformist portrayed by John Russell; and a group of Russell portraits belonged to members of the Lea family in 1894 including one of William's son John Fenn (1828–1882) as a child: if correctly identified the work cannot be by John Russell, but may be by William. The Russell album assembled by Francis H. Webb, William Russell's great nephew, contains a section on his work.

#### Bibliography

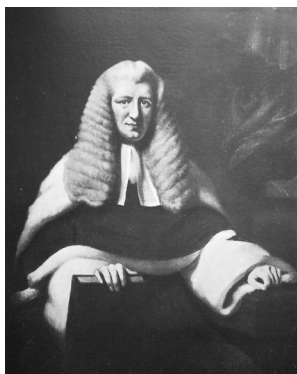
Bénézit; Oxford DNB, *s.v.* John Russell; Sée 1911; Webb 1910; Williamson 1894, p. 99; Williamson/Webb, pp. 86, 99; Wright 2006

#### Pastels

J.6414.091 Rev. George Ferne BATES (1775–1841), pstl, 60x45 (desc.: PC 2024). [new attr., ?] φα



J.6414.101 Sir John BAYLEY, 1<sup>st</sup> Bt (1763–1841), pstl, 1809 (Miss Clissold, Bath, 1911). Lit.: Sée 1911, repr. p. 53; Williamson 1894, n.r. Φ



~repl., pnt., 124.5x100 (London, NPG 457)

J.6414.104 Lord ERSKINE, Royal Academy 1808

J.6414.105 Lady GRANTLEY, née Anna Margareta Midgley (–1795), 31x25 ov. (Lord Grantley 1911). Exh.: Paris 1911, no. 145 [cf. J. Russell, *q.v.*]

J.6414.106 Mrs GRANE as St Agnes, pstl, 73x61, Royal Academy 1809 (Miss Clissold, Bath, 1894. London, Christie's, 11.VII.1930, Lot 84 repr., 22 gns; Hood). Lit.: Williamson 1894, p. 99 n.r. φ



J.6414.107 Lady Catherine Sophia HEATHCOTE, née Manners (1773–1825), pstl, 61x51 ov., sd ← "WR/1808" (Grimsthorpe) [new attr., ?] Φ



Photo courtesy owner

J.6414.111 Mrs Thomas JESSON, née Anna Elliott Percy, pstl, 60x44 (Thomas Jesson 1911). Exh.: Russell 1909, Paris 1911, no. 146. Lit.: Sée 1911b, p. 32 repr. φ



J.6414.113 Rev. Henry MARTYN [(1781–1812) BD, fellow of St John's College, Cambridge, chaplain to the Hon. East India Company], pstl, 60x45 (Oxford, Church Mission Society. George Ferne Bates (1775–1841); legs: Church Mission Society 1841, as by "Russell"). Exh.: Paris 1911, no. 147, as by William Russell φ



Photo courtesy Marylynn Rouse/ www.johnnewton.org

J.6414.116 John PEARSON (1758–1826), FRS, surgeon, pstl, 75x62, sd ↖ "WRp 1809", Royal Academy 1809, incr. *verso* "John Pearson Doctor of Diseases" (Washington, West Sussex, Toovey's, 25.III.2015, Lot 37 repr., est. £250–350) φ



J.6414.119 Robert SHURLOCK, pstl/ppr, 60.6x45.4, c.1801 (New York, MMA, inv. 1975.217.1. Desc.: sitter's grandson, Captain Charles Shurlock; his daughter, Olive Shurlock Sjölander (1897–1987), Skara, Sweden, 1966; don 1975). Lit.: Baetjer 2009, no. 71 repr., as attr. William Russell [cf. Ann Russell] φ



J.6414.121 Frank STOKES, Royal Academy 1807  
J.6414.122 Frederick, Duke of YORK (1763–1827); & pendant: J.6414.123 Frederica Charlotte, Duchess of York (1767–1820), head and shoulders, pstl, 61x48.5 (London, Sotheby's, 7.IV.1977, Lot 156 n.r.)  
J.6414.124 Clergyman, Royal Academy 1805, no. 333  
J.6414.125 Youm Saam Tak, Royal Academy 1806, no. 251  
J.6414.126 Boy, Royal Academy 1808  
J.6414.127 A school boy, crayons, 91.5x76, British Institution 1808, no. 191  
J.6414.1275 Youth with flute, m/u (desc.: artist's great-nieces, Elizabeth Anne and Bertha Marianne Russell 1884). Exh.: Guildford 1884, no. 28 n.r.  
J.6414.128 An English boor; or a shepherd of Salisbury Plain, holding a clay pipe, pstl, 56x41, inscr. *verso* (William Stalker; don 1809: John Thomas Mayne (1792–1843), FRS, of Teffont Evias. Alys Trotter; don: E.M.K. c.1950. Red Cross Committee; London, Christie's, 2.X.1942, 3 gns; Beech. Mayne family). A/r John Russell, Royal Academy 1792, no. 281 [new attr.] φv



J.6414.136 A gleaner, crayons, 96.5x81, British Institution 1807, no. 80  
J.6414.136 Lighting the oven, crayons, 76x61, British Institution 1808, no. 70  
*Jeune femme* (?Camille Groult; Paris, Charpentier, 27.IV.1951, Lot 49). Lit.: Bénézit, as by William Russell; Dorange 2010, no. 53 n.r., as by John Russell [v. John Russell]