

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

RAWDON, Lady Helena, née Perceval

London 14.II.1718 – Bristol 11.VI.1746

Daughter of the 1st Earl of Egmont, on 10.XI.1741 at the chapel in her father's summer residence at Charlton, Kent, she married Sir John Rawdon, later Baron Rawdon (1750) and, after her death, Earl of Moira (1762). He was recently returned from his Grand Tour where he was portrayed by Charles Martin [J.5184.104](#). She was mentioned frequently in her father's diary: thus, when the couple became engaged, her father recorded that Rawdon's "amusements are the same with my daughter's, music, and painting &c." A topographical watercolour of 1737 is in the British Museum: Egmont's diary had earlier (15.IV.1732) noted that Bernard Lens "teaches my daughter Helena to draw". In 1737 she sat to Arthur Pond ([J.597.308](#)); it has plausibly been suggested that this was the anonymous, unidentified pastel [J.597.3082](#) recently discovered together with three further pastels ([J.597.471](#), [J.597.472](#), [J.597.473](#), these last three now in Gainsborough's House), possibly by a different hand, two being copies of *Rosalba Seasons*. If the portrait is by Pond and of Lady Helena (there is a general resemblance with the Faber engraving after James Wills's portrait of her; there are other portraits by Knapton and Latham), then the other three works might be by her as has been suggested, but there are several fragile links in this logic, and there is otherwise nothing to suggest that Helena worked in pastel.

Bibliography

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