

# Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

## Online edition

### SAUNDERS, John

1682–p.1758

Also perhaps Sanders. An itinerant portraitist working in the Midlands, East Anglia and the South of England, who is said to have produced at least two thousand works in his career. This estimate is probably based on the unexplained numbers he included prominently with his signature at the top left of a number of his pastels. Assuming they are sequential, he produced about 1300 pastels between 1720 and 1742, or some 60 a year; 210 in the ten years from 1742, and 66 pastels in the next four years. No account book is known, and by any calculation a great many of his works are lost. One brief glimpse of him occurs in a shop sign recorded in Old Fleet Street, London, in 1730: "Mr Saunders, Face Painter with Crayons, removed from Bath: now lives at W. Griggson's at this sign [Two White Fryars]." Mr Gregson's lodging-house appears in other contemporary sources (e.g. the diary of missionary Samuel Johnson). He may well have had access there to prints, such as the Nanteuil engraving of Cardinal Barberini which he copied in London in 1731. An earlier copy of a Rembrandt self-portrait, made in Norwich in 1722, might at first sight suggest that he trained with Lutterell who also copied this print; but the differences between their interpretations indicates that they worked independently.

Saunders evidently had some interest in the Jacobite cause, although the portrait of the Pretender was drawn from Wille's engraving of the Tocqué painting. An unusual religious pastel may be by him; the signature has not been seen, but *if* correctly transcribed it suggests that Saunders or a homonym with a very similar style was in Vinton in Virginia in 1735. The number of examples in American collections reinforces the possibility that he worked there.

A group of 11 pastels of members of the Postlethwayt family are probably typical. Executed in Norwich, they are roughly 38x28 cm in size, the men all in full wigs, and the women, in full décolletage, each have a long single curl brought from behind to lie on the shoulder.

Pastels from the 1750s may be by one of the two artists named John Sanders (*qq.n.*), although the portrait of the young pretender displays the same wooden features and modelling, and even the stumped highlight below the right jaw, shown in the self-portrait.

#### Bibliography

F. G. Hilton Price, "The signs of Old Fleet street", *Archaeological journal*, LII, 1895, p. 377; Simon 1998; Waterhouse 1981

#### Pastels

SELF-PORTRAIT, pstl/ppr, 46x35.6, inscr. "Saunders Ipse Pinxit. Aetatis 50/November the First Anno 1732" (London, NPG 3135. B. F. Stevens & Brown, Little Russell Street; acqu. 1943). Lit.: Kerslake 1977, II, pl. 709 ◊



Photo courtesy National Portrait Gallery, London

Cardinal Antonio BARBERINI (1607–1671), grand aumônier de France, archevêque de Rouen, pstl/ppr, 40.5x30.5, sd "London December 1731" (Donnington Priory, Dreweatts, 30.V.2012, Lot 71 repr., with pendant, est. £300–500). A/r grav. Nanteuil (FD 1657–59) ◊



~pendant, v. Rembrandt

??[?]Captain Edward BOLLING (1687–1720), pstl, 36x28 (Colonial Williamsburg, Desc.; Mrs Richard Bolling, Richmond, Virginia, by 1922; dep.: Virginia Historical Society; acqu. Mrs Robert Malcolm Littlejohn, New York; don). British sch. [new attr.] ◊



??Mrs George BRINCKERHOFF, née Catharine Herring (1728–1807), of Fishkill, New York, pstl/ppr, 53.5x41, s \ [on spandrel] "Saunders", number erased, [c.1750], Jean Villedary watermark (Winterthur DE, Museum, inv. 1957.1142. Legs Henry Francis du Pont 1969). Lit.: Schmiegel 1975, fig. 1, anon. Traditionally attr. Nathaniel Smibert [new attr.] ◊



Courtesy, Winterthur Museum

William BROMLEY (1664–1732), speaker of the House of Commons, secretary of state, bust, ¾ to r.; grey hair to neck, clean-shaven face; bands; black gown, sd ^ "SAUNDERS PINXIT LONDON ANNO DOM. 1732", pstl/ppr, 38x28 (don: Dean of Christ Church, Oxford). Exh.: Oxford 1905, no. 211. Lit.: Poole 1912, ed., 1926, p. 41, no. 101. ?A/r Kneller

~grav. J. Smith, "G. Kneller Eques pinx. 1696" CHARLES Edward Stuart, Prince of Wales (1720–1788), wearing the Thistle and Garter both on blue ribbons, pstl, sd "Saunders pinx. Gloucester, July 7<sup>th</sup> 1752" (Stonyhurst College, cat. 267. John Chadwick (–1755)). Lit.: Thorpe 2003, fig. 20, as by Matthew Saunders. A/r Tocqué pnt., grav. Wille 1748 ◊



Mrs James FORTRYE, née Ursula Chadwick (1719–1740), of Wombwell Hall, in pink dress and black choker, pstl, 40x29, sd ^ "Saunders Pinxit, No:1711 London Sept. Anno Dom 1742" inscr. *verso* (London, Christie's, 8.VII.1986, Lot 92 n.r., as of Mrs Forbyre of Wornburgh Hall, est. £150–200, b/i)

?John FRENCH of Sudbury, of St Catharine's College, Cambridge, 1727, MA 1735, ordained 1733, rector of Creting All Saints', Suffolk, head and shoulders, slightly to r., facing, light blue coat, yellow embroidered waistcoat, lace cravat, inscr. ^ "Saunders pinxit. No. 1479" (Cambridge, Emmanuel College. ?Henry Hubbard; inv., as portrait of Mr French in crayons, 2 gns, with pstl of Hubbard). Lit.: Waterhouse 1981, p. 331 n.r.

Edward HUBBARD (1694–1741), DD, prebend of Canterbury, Master of St Catharine's College, Cambridge 1736–41, half-length, crayons, inscr. ^ "Saunders pinxit. No. 1438" (Cambridge, St Catherine's College. Henry Hubbard (1708–1778), fellow of St Catharine's 1730, Emmanuel 1732, the sitter's brother; inv., as portrait of Dr E.H. in crayons, 2 gns; with pstl of French). Lit.: Charles Henry Hartshorne, *The book rarities in the university of Cambridge*, London, 1829, p. 511 n.r., as English sch.; J. H. Hutton, *Pictures in*

the possession of St Catharine's College, Cambridge, 1950, p. 26

Abigail Catherine LISTER (1745–), dau. of John Pate and Dorothy Lister, pstl/ppr, 37.3x27.1, 1750 (Dudmaston, National Trust, inv. 813677) [new attr.] ♀



John Pate LISTER [(c.1706–1782)], in a grey coat with orange embroidered waistcoat; & pendant: spouse (∞ a.1733), née Dorothy Robinson, pstl/ppr, 40x29, 1750 (Dudmaston, National Trust, inv. 813675–76) [new attr.] ♀



MARIA KLEMENTYNA Sobieska (1702–1735), pstl, sd “Saunders pinx. Coventry April 1756” (Stonyhurst College, cat. 266)

William PATTISON (1706–1727), poet, m/u  
~grav. P.[Pierre] Fourdrinier [fl. 1720–60] a/r “J. Saunders” [attr.], for Pattison, *Cupid's metamorphoses* 1728, frontispiece

Members of the ?Palmer family [Peregrine PALMER (1688–1762) of Fairfield, Stogursey, MP for Oxford], in a brown coat, gold waistcoat; & pendant: ?spouse [?née Elizabeth Longman], in blue dress edged with lace, pstl, 40.5x30.5, s ∞ “Saunders Pinxit/N<sup>o</sup> 1601/1605” (PC 2011) ♀



Matthew POSTLETHWAYT (1679–1745), rector of Denton, archdeacon of Norwich; his son John Postlethwayt (1711–1750), as a handsome dark boy in a white wig, grey coat and steinkirk, aged 9, sd “Saunders Pinxit/No. 408”; his daughter Barbara (1706–1762), Mrs Samuel Kerrich, Samuel Kerrich (1698–1768); [his second wife, ∞ 1730, née Matilda Gooch (1677–1760), sister of the Bishop of Norfolk]; and four other pstls of

her family, 11 pstls, c.38x28, executed 1719–30 (desc.: Albert Hartshorne 1871, in original narrow black molded frames; reframed; 11 pstls, (9): London, Christie's South Kensington, 14.VI.1982, Lot 127). Lit.: Albert Hartshorne, *Notes and queries*, 2.II.1889, p. 96f; Edmund Pyle, *Memoirs of a royal chaplain, 1729–1763*, 1905, p. 59; Dilmond D. Postlethwayte, *The Postlethwait family*, 1998; Nigel Surry, *Your affectionate and loving sister: the correspondence of Barbara Kerrich*, 2000, p. 126 n., n.r.

Orbell RAY (1679–1753) of Bury St Edmunds; & pendant: spouse (∞ 1701), née Rebecca Garnham (1679–1750), pstl (Colonel Orbell Henry Oakes, Nowton Court, 1906)

~cop. Miss G. Cruickshank, min. Lit.: Gery Milner Gibson Cullum, *Pedigree of Ray of Denston...*, 1903, p. 26 repr.; Farrer 1908, p. 276, no. 30/31 n.r.

REMBRANDT van Rijn (1606–1669), pstl/ppr, c.40x30, sd “Norwich 1722” (Donnington Priory, Dreweatts, 30.V.2012, Lot 71 repr., as unknown gentleman, with pendant, est. £300–500). A/r Rembrandt, *autoprotrait*, etching, 1639 (Hind 168) [new identification] ♀



~pendant, v. *Barberini*

Rev. Peter ROBINSON, pstl/ppr, 37x37.5, 1750 (Dudmaston, National Trust, inv. 813678) [new attr.] ♀



Edward SOUTHWELL (1662– )/or his son Edward (1694–1748); & pendant: spouse/mother, née Frances Norcliffe (1671–1726), pstl/ppr (Peckover House, National Trust, inv. 781330.2/1)



Henry SOUTHWELL (1695–1762), pstl/ppr (Peckover House, National Trust, inv. 781330.3)



Master Richard TAYLOR, aged 4 years, pstl, 39x28, sd ∞ “Saunders Pinxit, Bridgnorth January the 24th 1758” (sitter; desc. Dr Catherine Cooke, Cambridge; Cambridge, Cheffins, 27–28.IV.2005, Lot 587 repr., as by George Saunders, est. £300–400). Lit.: Jeffares 2006, p. 480Aii, as by Sanders [new attr.] ♂



Photo courtesy Cheffins

Clementina Maria Sophia WALKINSHAW, “Countess of Alberstroff” (c.1722–1802), half-length, viewed full, face to left, pink décolleté bodice edged with lace, fastened in front with clasp of three pearls, light blue mantle on shoulders, embroidered flower ornament at bosom, short brown curly hair in lace cap, rosebud over brow, pstl/ppr, 49.5x41, sd Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>, 1747 (Francis Wellesley, Woking; cat. no. 762; London, Sotheby's, 28.VI.1920, Lot 700 n.r.)

Mrs Thomas WHITE (∞ 1755), née Lucy Hunter (1729–1813), pstl, 50.8x39.4, sd ∞ “Saunders pinxit No. 1921, Lichfield, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 1752” (desc.: Sir Robert White-Thomson 1909). Lit.: Aleya Lyell Reade, *Johnsonian gleanings*, part I, London, 1909, p. 41, pl. VI ♀



John WILMER (–1761), of York, brother of Randall Wilmer, in a blue coat and red turban, pstl, 39x29 (PC 2012) [new attr., ?] ♀  
Randall WILMER (1691–1761), of Staple Inn, London, in a brown coat and red turban, pstl, 39x29 (PC 2012) [new attr., ?] ♀  
Unknown man, pstl, sd “Saunders pinxit/1726” (unlocated). Lit.: Waterhouse 1981, p. 332 repr. ♂



Man in white coat, pstl, c.1730–40, s verso “Jno Saunders. pinxit.” (Lord de Saumarez, Livermere Park, 1905). Lit.: Farrer 1908, p. 248, no. 38 n.r.

Man with full wig, pstl/ppr, 36x27, inscr. verso [?]“M. Saunders Pinxit N 67” (Mr Waterhouse’s Mansion, Cambridge, 1863. Dr George C. Shattuck, Boston). Attr. M. Saunders, as 1767 [?]; John Saunders, c.1730] φ



Gentleman in a green coat, pstl, chlk, 41x31 (London, Bonhams, New Bond Street, 28.IV.2010, Lot 326A, anon., est. £200–300, £240) [new attr.] φ



Lady [member of the Stuart court in exile] in a blue dress, red mantle, pearls and jewels in hair, pstl, sd “Saunders Pinxit/N<sup>o</sup> 1987. London/April 15<sup>th</sup> 1758.” (PC 2009) φ



Two old ladies, pstl, 46x33, n.s. Lit.: *Notes & queries*, 1888, p. 462, attr.

Lady, pstl, 38x30.5, s “Saunders, Pinxit” (C. H. Naylor 1929). Lit.: *Connoisseur*, LXXXIII, 1929, p. 296 repr., no. 729, as by Mathew Saunders, “friend of Shakespeare” φ



Lady in blue dress, pstl, 42x32 (Cora & Benjamin Ginsburg; Portsmouth, New Hampshire, Northeast Auctions, 3.VIII.2003, Lot 2136 repr., anon.) [new attr.] φ



Lady in yellow dress; & pendant: lady in blue dress, pstl, 48x41 (Samuel Herrup Antiques, Sheffield, Massachusetts, 2012) [new attr.] φ



Father, mother, two sons, each, pstl, 49.5x39, sd “Saunders 1750”, Stourbridge, Worcestershire. Lit.: *Notes & queries*, 1888, p. 462

Man in a grey coat; & pendant: lady in a blue dress, pstl, 41x30.5, n.s./s ^ “Saunders pinxit/No 1524” (Downington, Pennsylvania, Pook & Pook, 15.I.2010, Lot 691 repr., est. \$1500–2500, \$1755) φ



Man in a blue coat; & pendant: lady in a blue dress, pstl/ppr, 41x31, sd ^ “Saunders pinxit/N<sup>o</sup> 1642/1643”, ^ “June: Anno Dom: /1741:” (PC 2011; Oxford, Bonhams, 15.II.2012, Lot 167 repr., est. £400–600) φ



Abraham and Isaac, pstl, 48x32, sd “Sanders Pinxit/Vinton Aug. 1735” (St Louis, Ivey-

Selkirk, 14–16.VI.2008, Lot 457 repr., est. \$500–700, \$450) [new attr., ?] φ

