

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

SCOULER, James

Edinburgh 1741 – London 1812

His father, also called James Scouler or Scoular (–1782), was a harpsichord maker; his cousin John Brown (1749–1787) was a miniaturist. Both cousins are likely to have studied in Edinburgh, under William Delacour (*q.v.*), and both had moved to London by 1769. Scouler exhibited at every Royal Academy from 1769 to 1784; the address, Great Newport Street, was that of his father. Among the works shown, mostly miniatures, were portraits in “chalks” (1773) and crayons from 1775. A copy that year after a Frans Hals painting then at Althorp is in effect a pastel miniature; it highlights this first known example of an informal pose that was imitated by pastellists in the eighteenth century (notably La Tour, *Laidégueive*). Scouler produced some competent pastels including the fine portrait of the precocious astronomer John Goodricke, an ambitious composition inspired by the work of Hamilton. A number of pastels and miniatures by Carriera, together with five crayons by Hamilton, appeared in his sale (London, Hutchins, Wells, Fisher, 10–11.IV.1797). The date of his death, given incorrectly in many sources, is established by a probate document in the V&A.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Foskett 1987; Sée 1911; Wright 2006

Pastels

SELF-PORTRAIT; & pendant: ?wife, pstl, 72x54 (Donnington, Dreweatt Neate, 8.X.2008, Lot 17 repr., est. £3–4000; Nottingham, Dreweatt Neate, 27.XI.2008, Lot 1 repr., est. £800–1200) φ



John GOODRICKE (1764–1786), astronomer, ¾ length, with a sphere etc., pstl, 63x49, 1785 (London, Royal Astronomical Society. The sitter's grandfather, Sir John Goodricke, 5th Bt (1708–1789), ambassador in Stockholm; his grandson, Sir Henry Goodricke, 6th Bt (1765–1802); his son, Sir Harry James Goodricke, 7th Bt (1797–1833); Sir Francis Lyttleton Holyoake, Bt; John Dent 1836; George Wilson of Gilling Castle; acqu. Charles Alfred Goodricke (1847–1915) 1898; don 1912). Lit.: *Monthly notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, 73, .XI.1912; *The observatory*, 35, .XII.1912, pp. 419, 435; Charles Alfred Goodricke, *Incidents in the lives of some of the Goodrickes of Yorkshire*, unpublished MS, 1913, n.r.; Ormond & Rogers 1979, n.r. φ



Edward LONG (1734–1813), planter in Jamaica; & pendant: spouse, née Mary Ballard Beckford (1736–1797), pstl, 1774 (Rodsall Manor). Lit.: Robert Mowbray Howard, *Records and letters of the family of the Longs of Longville, Jamaica, and Hampton Lodge, Surrey*, 1925, I, pp. 122, 124 n.r.

[Isaac Abrahamsz. MASSA (1586–1643)], seated on a wooden chair, in 17th century costume, pstl, 21.6x19, sd → “Scouler/1775” (London, Bonhams Knightsbridge, 25.XI.2009, Lot 152 repr., est. £500–700. Oxford, Bonhams, 17.III.2010, Lot 74 repr., est. £400–500). [A/r Frans Hals pnt., 1626 (Toronto, Art Gallery of Ontario; *olim* Althorp)] φ



Admiral SMITH; & pendant: Mrs [William] Rush, née [Mary] Smith, mother of Sir William Rush, pstl, 30x22.5 ov. (London, Phillips, 11.XI.1997, Lot 8 repr., est. £1000–1500, £1050) Φ



General Joseph SMITH (1733–1790), in red coat with blue facings, gold epaulette, white waistcoat with gold lace and buttons, white stock, black hair ribbons, crayon, 58x48 ov., sd √ 1779 (London, National Army Museum, inv. 1960-10-52). Lit. *Journal of the Society for army historical research*, XXXIX, 1961, p. 65, repr. opp. p. 61 φ



Gentleman, chalks, Royal Academy 1773, no. 269

Gentleman, chalks, Royal Academy 1773, no. 270

Young gentleman, crayons, Royal Academy 1775, no. 287

Gentleman in a red coat, pstl/ppr, 30.5x25.4, sd √ “Scouler 1780” (Abbott & Holder, exh. cat., *Heads*, 22.I.–26.II.2011, no. 26, £2250) φ



Gentleman, m/u, Royal Academy 1781, no. 128

Young gentleman and dog, crayons, Royal Academy 1782, no. 45

Gentleman, crayons, Royal Academy 1782, no. 194

Boy, crayons, Royal Academy 1784, no. 10

Gentleman in brown coat, pstl, 32x25 ov., sd √ “Scouler 1796” (Abbott & Holder 2011) φ



Photo courtesy Abbott & Holder

Young lady, crayons, Royal Academy 1775, no. 286

Elegant lady in white dress in a classical interior, cr. clr/ppr, 83x61, sd 1780 (London, Phillips, 30.I.1995, Lot 30, est. £1000–1500, £700)

Lady, crayons, Royal Academy 1781, no. 89

Girl, crayons, Royal Academy 1784, no. 12

Lady, pstl, 30x23.5 ov., sd → “J. Scouler 1788” (Fernhurst, Haslemere, John Nicholson, 19.V.1999, Lot 209 repr., est. £750–1000,

£750. London, Sotheby's, 28.XI.2002, Lot 215 repr., est. £800–1200, b/i. London, Sotheby's Olympia, 2.VII.2003, Lot 158 repr., est. £800–1200, £800 [=£980]. London, Christie's South Kensington, 21.III.2007, Lot 706 repr., est. £400–600, £600) Φ



Photo courtesy Sotheby's

Officer in a blue coat with white facings; & pendant: lady in a blue dress, pstl, 37x31 ov., sd 1776 (Mrs Alec Tweedie (1860–1940); desc.: Mackworth, Hansons, 10.VI.2009, Lot 500 repr./n.r., ?James Scouler, est. £500–600) φ

