

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

SHARPLES, Mrs James, née Ellen Wallace

Birmingham 1769 – Bristol 1849

A student of James Sharples (*q.v.*) in Bath, she married him c.1787 after the death of his second wife, and thereafter copied his portraits in pastel and miniature. After her husband's death in New York in 1811, she returned to Bristol and founded the Bristol Academy for the Promotion of the Arts with a donation of some £3500. The works securely attributed to her belong to the period after her husband's death, and are outside the scope of this Dictionary. The Sharples children also became successful portrait painters in the nineteenth century: James Jr (c.1788–1839) also produced genre scenes and still-lives in pastel; Rolinda (1793–1838) worked mainly in oil, while James's son by an earlier marriage, Felix (1786–p.1830), produced numerous pastels in America.

Bibliography

Bolton 1923; Grove; Kathryn Metz, in *Gaze* 1997; Stoddard 2002; Waterhouse 1981

Pastels

Arthur M. BROWNE, pstl, 23x18, 1803 (Bristol, City Museum & Art Gallery). Lit.: Stoddard 2002, p. 30 repr. ϕ



Lady William CAVENDISH-BENTINCK, née Lady Mary Acheson (c.1783–1843), pstl, 24x20 (London, Bonhams, 8.III.2005, Lot 40 repr., est. £1000–1500) ϕ



Rev. Charles CURTIS, 29x23.9 (Charles Constable Curtis; desc.; London, Sotheby's, 14.IV.2002, Lot 146, £1410 with other item) ϕ



Photo courtesy Sotheby's

Timothy CURTIS, RN, 29x23.9 (Charles Constable Curtis; desc.; London, Sotheby's, 14.IV.2002, Lot 146, £1410 with other item)

Robert FARADAY (1788–1846), brass founder and gas engineer, brother of Michael Faraday, seated wearing a blue coat, white waistcoat and stock, pstl, 22.5x22, inscr. *verso*, [c.1812] (Oxford, Bonhams, 14.IV.2010, Lot 34 n.r., as by James Sharples, est. £300–500) [attr.; ?] ϕ



John Claremont WHITEMAN (1796–1866), commander in the Hon. East India Company's service, pstl, 23x21 (London, Sotheby's, 14.X.2003, Lot 155 repr., est. £800–1200) ϕ



Photo courtesy Sotheby's

Mr WOODLAND; & pendant: spouse, pstl, 17.8x14.6 ov. (London, Christie's South Kensington, 2.IX.2008, Lot 163 n.r./repr., attr., est. £3–5000) [?attr.] ϕ



Boy in black coat, in profile, to left, pstl/ppr, 23.7x18.5 (London, Courtauld Institute, D.1952.RW.3693. Sir Robert Witt; legs 1952) ϕ



Gentleman, pstl, 24x21.5 (London, Sotheby's Olympia, 26.IX.2001, Lot 18 repr.) ϕ



Photo courtesy Sotheby's

Young boy, pstl, 24x19 (London, Bonhams, 9.III.2004, Lot 31 n.r., est. £800–1200) ϕ



Young woman writing a letter, pstl, 23.5x20 (London, Bonhams, 9.III.2004, Lot 30 repr., est. £800–1200) ϕ



Young lady in Regency dress with a red shawl, pstl, 22.5x20; & pendant: Young lady in Regency dress with a blue, red and white shawl, pstl, 22.5x20 (London, Bonhams, 8.III.2005, Lot 41 repr./n.r., with pendant, est. £1000–1500) ϕ



Two children wearing pale yellow dresses standing beside a table, pstl/ppr, 27.8xc.22.9 (London, Bonhams, 23.XI.2005, Lot 120 repr., attr. Ellen or James Sharples, est. £1500–2500) ϕ



A boy and a girl standing in a landscape, pstl/ppr, 27.8x22.9 (London, Bonhams, 23.XI.2005, Lot 121 repr., attr. Ellen or James Sharples, est. £1500–2500) ϕ



Eight pstls of unknown sitters, 24x19 ov. (Major H. J. Lloyd-Johnes, Dolau Cothy, Carmarthenshire, a.1957). Lit.: Steegman 1962, p. 56 n.r.