

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

SMITH, Emma, Mrs Robert Pauncefote

London 1783 – Stourfield, Hampshire
28.VI.1853

Daughter of John Raphael Smith (*q.v.*) by his “common law” wife, Emma Johnston. She worked in oil, watercolour and miniature, specialising in portraits as well as mythological, religious and theatrical scenes; she also made engravings after artists such as Maria Cosway. She exhibited at the Royal Academy between 1799 and 1808. Her talents extended to music (she played the piano and harp), and she was fluent in French. She gave up art when, in London on 10.VIII.1808, she married Robert Smith, who later adopted the name Pauncefote; her dislike of his house, Preston Court, is said to have inspired frequent travels to France, Switzerland and Germany. Their third son, born in Munich in 1828, became British ambassador to the USA.

Emma Smith is referred to in a letter by the novelist Charlotte Smith of 27.VII.1805 (and again 18.VIII.1805) to her publisher discussing illustrations:

If any new plates are intended, I think that, *if* the drawings I saw a few days ago *are* done by the young Lady who shew'd them to me of the name of Smith, the daughter of an artist, she is capable of seizing my idea's & would make beautiful designs, but I know nothing of her price—or indeed any thing more of her than meeting her at Mr Townsends where her father is taking the portraits of some family in Crayons. I was extremely struck with two little designs from the Vicar of Wakefield & think them almost too masterly for so young an Artist.

Bibliography

Alexander 2021; Bénézit; D'Oench 1999; Oxford DNB; *The collected letters of Charlotte Smith*, ed. Judith Phillips Stanton, Bloomington, 2003, pp. 696, 705

Pastels

J.684.101 William John CHUTE (1757–1824), pstl, half-length; wearing a pink coat, 24x19 ov. (The Vyne, National Trust NT/VYN/D/11, inv. 718710. Sir John Chute) Φσ



Photo courtesy National Trust