

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

SPENCER, Countess, née Lavinia Bingham

Castlebar 1762 – London 1831

Daughter of the illustrator and miniaturist Margaret Smith, Lady Lucan; amateur pastellist, to whom Horace Mann drew Walpole's attention. Her work was engraved by Gillray and Bartolozzi. A pastel of "Miss Bingham" by Bartolozzi (*q.v.*) may be of her. She exhibited at the Free Society in 1783 as Mrs Spencer, a crayon painter, the year following her marriage to the politician and bibliophile George John Spencer (1758–1834), then Viscount Althorp. Countess Spencer, known for her erudition and charm, was hostess at both Spencer House and Althorp to the most prominent politicians and intellectuals of the day.

Bibliography

Greer 2001; Sée 1911; Sloan 2000; Waterhouse 1981

Pastels

Head, crayons, Free Society 1783