STANLEY, Robert

fl. London 1763–69

A Standley exhibited crayon portraits at the Free Society 1764 (from Oxendon Street, Haymarket); probably the same as the Stanley or Stanly who exhibited crayon portraits at the Society of Artists 1768–69 (from Mr Nesbit's, Coventry Street, Haymarket), and the subject of the Society's memoranda "Regarding Mr Stanley's crayons", 25.I.1766 and 20.VI.1766. An extract of the Society's minutes of 25.VI.1766 was printed in the *Public advertiser*, 6.IX.1766:

> READ Mr Stanley's memorial, setting forth, that there are no Crayons to be purchased in any degree of Perfection, but those made by Mr Stoupan of Switzerland.
> Also read a Letter from Miss Read, recommending Mr Stanley's Crayons.
> Mr Moreland attended according to the Request of the Committee, and acquainted them, that he thought Mr Stanley's Crayons superior in Goodness to those from Switzerland.
> Resolved that Mr Stanley is deserving of the Approbation and Encouragement of the Society…&c.
> A large Assortment of these Crayons is now ready for public Sale, and will be advertised in a few Days.

Mr Robert Stanley was awarded a bounty of 20 guineas "for a new method of preparing crayons" by the Society of Arts in 1767. Dossie, who gives a different sum in a later passage, explained the contribution:

> The Society were, also, induced, in the year 1767, to give a bounty for the *improvement of* CRAYONS. The art of making of pastils, or crayons, was by no means brought to the degree of perfection here, of which it admits; and those commonly to be obtained were faulty or defective. On the producing specimens by the candidate for this bounty, to the Society, he informed them, that there were no crayons to be purchased, which could be esteemed perfect, except of Mr. Stoopan, of Lausanne in Switzerland: but that he could furnish them with equally good, much cheaper; and would sell a single crayon to any artist who desired it: whereas the others were not to be bought but in sets. His specimens were given to be tried by some able crayon painters; and were reported to be equal, if not superior, to the best foreign. The Society, therefore, gave him a bounty of ten guineas.

"Robert Stanley, formerly of Little Lumber-court Seven Dials, late of Mercers-street Long-acre …, Painter" was declared bankrupt according to a succession of notices in the *London gazette* in 1772, and imprisoned in the King's Bench prison.

Bibliography

Robert Dossie, *Memoirs of agriculture and other oeconomical arts*, London, 1768, I. p. 19; pp. 228ff; Lowengard 2008, citing [R]SA Minutes of the Committee on Polite Arts, [R]SA Minutes of various premium committees 1765–66 [R]SA PR.GE/112/12/7; Waterhouse 1981

Pastels

J.6926.051 William CHAWORTH (1726–1765), cousin of William, Lord Byron, who killed him in a brawl, pstl, 57x43, inscr. *verso* "Mr Chaworth/Killed in a Duel by Lord Byron/Painted by Stanley/in Crayons, 1763" (desc.: Mrs [Charles] Tennant, née Gertrude Collier (1820–1918), of Richmond Terrace, 1889; [Dorothy Tennant (1855–1926), ∞ 1890] Henry Morton Stanley, né John Parry Rowlands (1841–1904); desc.: Dorchester, Duke's, 24.IV.2024, Lot 557 repr., est. £1000–2000). Exh.: London 1889b, no. 207 n.r., as by "Stanley") [new attr.] φαν

J.6926.101 Young gentleman, crayons, Free Society 1764, no. 168

J.6926.102 Gentleman, crayons, Society of Artists 1769, no. 163

J.6926.103 Lady, crayons, kit cat [91.5x71], Free Society 1764, no. 167

J.6926.104 Lady, crayons, Society of Artists 1768, no. 161

J.6926.105 Lady, crayons, Society of Artists 1769, no. 162