

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

STAIGER, Johann

1765 – Vienna 1808

Also Steiger; Austrian portraitist and pastelist. An 1802 portrait of him by Ferdinand Robert Kettner was exhibited in 1864. As the name is not uncommon, records may be confused (Nagler's Steiger, said to have died in 1814, is surely the Staiger identified by Patuzzi); it seems that not only did he exhibit pastels of his own, but he was also a collector renowned for his fascination with pastels which achieved the colour saturation of oil paintings. He took a particular interest in the work of Dora Stock (*q.v.*), lending from his collection (for her to copy) pictures with particular contrast between light and shade. According to the correspondent in the *Morgenblatt*, she was more successful in this than Steiger in his own copy after Rembrandt. He also copied Ribera, Correggio, Petrus Van Bloemen etc., as well as making some portraits. One of Eleonora, Fürstin von Windisch-Graetz as a child was engraved by Pfeiffer. Four pastels by him were listed, apparently in an exhibition, in a printed source c.1900 found in an archive without sufficient details to locate.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Nagler 1847, *s.v.* Steiger; Alexander Patuzzi, *Geschichte Österreichs*, Vienna, 1861, II, p. 343; Schidloff 1964, I, p. 425; Thieme & Becker; Constant von Wurzbach, *Biographisches Lexikon des Kaiserthums Österreich*, XXXVII, 1878; *Morgenblatt für gebildete stände*, VIII, 1814, p. 264

Pastels

Fürstin von WINDISCH-GRAETZ [née Marie Eleonore zu Schwarzenberg (1796–1848)] as a child, m/u

~grav.: [Carl Hermann] Pfeiffer

Fille au chapeau de paille, pstl, a/r Rembrandt.

Lit.: *Morgenblatt*, *ibid.*

Dido, pstl. Exh.: n/k, no. 66

Agar, pstl. Exh.: n/k, no. 67

Lautenspieler, pstl. Exh.: n/k, no. 68

Zwey Kinder, pstl. Exh.: n/k, no. 69