

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

STOKER, Bartholomew

Queen's County 1763 – Dublin 12.VI.1788

Stoker was the son of an upholsterer, also named Bartholomew Stoker, of Maryborough (Port Laoise), who had married Sarah McFarland in Carlow, Church of Ireland, 25.XII.1758 (sources to 2023 confused the father with his brother, the artist's uncle, William; the family related to the novelist Bram Stoker, great-grandson of a third brother). The birth of an elder brother, Peter, is recorded in 1759, but the artist's birth is inferred only from his age at death as recorded in Stoker family papers at Trinity College, Dublin. He initially worked in his father's business while studying (in the mid-1770s) in the Dublin school with F. R. West. It is unclear if he then worked with H. D. Hamilton, but his work is close in style. Sir Martin Archer Shee mentioned, in a letter of 1786, that "Stoker has done some pieces for Latouche's family, two of which are extremely well"; these may well have been confused with Hamilton's work. An advertisement appeared in *Finn's Leinster journal*, 14.IX.1781:

LIKENESSES painted in Oil, Crayons and Miniature, at one Guinea each, by B. Stoker – To be heard of at Mrs. Finn's, Kilkenny.

He had evidently settled in Dublin when this advertisement appeared in *Saunders's news letter* on 15.VII.1786 and following days:

B. Stoker, Crayon Painter, has removed from his former Lodgings, No. 11 in Suffolk Street, to No.8, in said Street

According to a deed of 25.VI.1787 "Barthw Stoker of City of Dublin. Limner" leased this house, for a rent of £60, from 29.IX.1786. At an unknown date, he married his first cousin, Mary Stoker (1768–), daughter of his uncle William and Elizabeth Luttrell.

He was successful both in miniatures and pastels, and the records of particular portraits do not make clear which medium is used. A number were engraved. However the *Dublin chronicle* reported, on 21.VI.1788, "Died.... In Suffolk street, Mr Stoker, miniature painter; an artist, whose abilities were highly eminent." Apparently he died of a "decline brought on by intense study". His widow was remarried seven years later, to a Thomas Gardiner, another inn-keeper in Queen's County; the marriage settlement deed of 7.II.1795 (Irish register of deeds, 312138) is the source of the revised biographical information.

Bibliography

Crookshank & Glin 1978; McGuire 1939, p. 15; David Norris, *Autobiography*, 2013; Pasquin 1796c; Strickland 1913; John Warburton & al., *History of the City of Dublin*, London, 1818, II, p. 1183; Waterhouse 1981; Douglas Appleyard, pr. comm. 2023

Pastels

J.6974.101 Richard Hely Hely-Hutchinson, Earl of DONOUGHMORE (1756–1825), m/u

~grav. Henry Brocas

J.6974.103 Robert JEPHSON (1736–1803), playwright, m/u

~grav. J. Singleton, *Roman portraits*, 1794

J.6974.104 J.6974.105 Two portraits of LA TOUCHE family, m/u, a.1786. Lit.: *Life of Sir Martin Archer Shee*

J.6974.106 [Garret Wellesley, 1st] Earl of MORNINGTON [(1735–1781)], m/u (Lord Fitzgerald and Vesci; sale, Dublin, .VI.1843)

J.6974.107 Duchess of RUTLAND, née Lady Mary Isabella Somerset (1756–1831), pstl, 27.4x21.5 ov. (the sitter; left at Cork Abbey, Bray. Mrs Jefferies, Blarney Castle, 1836. PC 1975. Timothy Langston Fine Art c.2023). Lit.: James Dowling Herbert, *Irish varieties, for the last fifty years*, London, 1836, p. 172 n.r. φ



J.6974.108 An officer, pstl/ppr, 28x23 ov., sd verso "Drawn in 1787 by B. Stoker, Suffolk St., Dublin" (Dublin, NGI, inv. 7486. Mr J. Young, Dublin; acqu. 1972). Lit.: Le Harivel 1983, repr. φ

