TONELLI, Sig.ra Luigi, née Anna Nistri
Florence c.1763–1846
Portraitist in miniature and pastel, and watercolourist. At some stage before 1785 she married the violinist Luigi Tonelli (a noted virtuoso, he published a * Metodo completo pel violino con Ricordi in Milan c.1800*). She seems to have received her early training in Florence, possibly from Giuseppe Piattioli (a possible conversation piece of the family of Granduca Pietro Leopoldo, executed in collaboration with Piattioli and Giuseppe Fabbrini, is known from an engraving where her name is recorded as “Torelli”, perhaps a confusion with Sig.ra Torelli, née Lucia Casalini, painter and mother of the artist Stefano Torelli), dated 1785, by Giovanni Battista Cecchi and Benedetto Eredi.

Works such as the portrait of the collector Henry Blundell, who was in Rome in 1790 collecting marbles, are evidently closely connected with Hamilton, as is the portrait of Henry Blundell, who was in Rome in 1790 collecting marbles, are evidently closely connected with Hamilton, as is the portrait of the artist Stefano Torelli), dated 1785, by Giovanni Battista Cecchi and Benedetto Eredi.

With a view to their emigrating to the USA, praising the father, a violinist “the peer of any other”, the two children (born c.1789–90), and the mother who “sings and plays the piano like an expert; knows very well her own language, French, and English; draws and paints with excellent taste; is accomplished in embroidery and all needlework; and knows geography quite well.” Jefferson’s response highlighted the expense of living in a major city, which may have deterred the family; by 2.XI.1807 they were in Pisa with Mazzari, while in 1809 they seem to have settled in Florence. Mario Prac saw a pastel by Anna, dated 1812, in Florence. It is uncertain if she was the Signora Tonelli to whom Shelley tried to repay a debt in Florence in 1819, only to be told by a servant that the family had gone to England.

Bibliography

Anson, *World*, 23.III.1794
Signora Anna Tonelli, the Florentine, and Pupil to the Crayon Hamilton of Rome, as many of our Readers may remember, has four Crayons in the Anti-Chamber, which, for an Impression, promise much.

Anon., *Royal Academy*, 1794
*Memoirs of the Royal Academicians*, London, 1796: No. 348. *Anna Tonelli*. This is the portrait of the Duchess of Caserta, an Italian lady of high rank, who being said to resemble this bust, assumed the character at a masquerade in Italy. The head-dress is eminently graceful; but, though coloured, it retains something of the marble.

Anon., *World*, 20.XII.1794
Lord Algernon Percy, 1st Earl of BEVERLY, in a red coat and blue coat, pstl, 48x39 (London, Christie’s, 7.VI.1916, Lot 37, anon., 34 gns; E. Wertheimer)


Anonymous
*World*, 28.III.1794
*Royal Academy*, London, 1796: No. 348. *Helvetia*. Signor Anna Tonelli. This is the portrait of the Duchess of Caserta, an Italian lady of high rank, who being said to resemble this bust, assumed the character at a masquerade in Italy. The head-dress is eminently graceful, but, though coloured, it retains something of the marble.

Bibliography

**Pastels**

1722.101 Lewis Bagot (1740–1802), bishop of Bristol, Norwich and St Asaph; & pendant: 1722.103 spouse, née Mary Hay (1754–1799), pstl, 24x20.8 cm, sd *"Anna Tonelli fece in Londra 1797*" (Bath, Holburne Museum, inv. 2014.4.5, Leg Joseph Ken Mundy 2014). Exh.: Bath 2016 p69

1722.104 n.r. (?Bishop) crayons (desc.: Mrs Hankins, née Mary Anne Hay, Wyelund House, near Hereford 1856). Lit.: Canon Raines, “The vicars of Rochdale”, in *Rochdale historical and literary connected with the Palatine counties of Lancaster and Chester*, xi, 1883, p. 302 n.r.

1722.105 Mr BALDWIN, m/u, Royal Academy 1794, no. 338

1722.106 The Misses BARRY, portraits, m/u, Royal Academy 1795, no. 435

1722.107 n.r. The Misses Elizabeth, ?Lady and 1722.108 Lucy and 1722.109 Mary BARRY, in white, pink and yellow dresses, 3 pstl, 48x39 (London, Christie’s, 7.VI.1916, Lot 37, anon., 34 gns; E. Wertheimer)

1722.111 Charles BIDULPH, 2 portraits; & pendant: 1722.112 Thomas Bidulph, pstl, 25.5x20 (Bidulph; London, Sotheby’s, 9.XII.1931, Lot 58; Box)
Dictionary of pastellists before 1800

1722.115 John BIDDULPH, in blue coat, pstl, 24x20
(Biddulph; London, Sotheby’s, 9. XII.1931, Lot 57; Box)


1722.128 Duchess of CASERTA as Ariadne, m/u, Royal Academy 1794, no. 348. Lit.: Pasquin 1796a

1722.129 Duke of CASERTA as Ariadne, m/u, Royal Academy 1794, no. 348. Lit.: Pasquin 1796a


Clive, e.g. Northumberland; Williams Wyne

1722.137 Countess COWPER, née Hannah Anne Gore (1758–1826), and her sister, Emily Gore (1755–1832), pstl, a/r “Monsieur Amilton” [Hamilton] (George, 3rd Earl Cowper, inv. p.m. for export license from Florence to England, 9.III.1790, no. 53; Countess Cowper; her sister, Emily Gore; shipped to England, . IX.1827). Lit.: letter, Rev. Thomas Brand to Earl of Ailesbury, 8.VI.1793, “[Lady Cowper] has just sent for the copy Anna Tonelli made of her beautiful picture by Hamilton. I carry it this morning to the Quercia to show Lady Bruce, who has some curiosity to see her”; Ingamells 1997, p. 411; Ellis 2005, pp. 49, 61 n.59, 70f n.r.

1722.1375 Lady HARRIS, née Anne Carterter Dickson (1759–1833), m/u (mentioned in a letter to her husband of 12.II.1799, 12 gns)

1722.138 John David LA TOUCHE (1772–1838), collector, before the amphitheatre at Taormina, with Mount Etna in the background, pstl, 96.5x68.5, a/r Hamilton, s “ANNA NISTRI TONELLI COPIO” (David La Touche of Marley; desc. his granddaughter Elizabeth Frances Hatton; London, Boothams Knightsbridge, 28.III.1990, Lot 45, £5500; London, Christie’s, 10.VII.1990, Lot 90 repr., est. £8–12,000, £8000 £8800). Raphael Valls Gallery, London). Lit.: Crookshank & Glin 1977, fig. 2; Ingamells 1997, p. 589 φ


1722.149 Hon. Robert Henry CLIVE (1789–1854), of Oakley Park, in a dark blue coat, pstl, 24.5x19.7 ov., sd verso 1794 (Powis Castle, c.1780) (Col. A. E. Jelf-Reveley, Bronygader, Updated 8 October 2020
Dictionary of pastellists before 1800


www.pastellists.com – all rights reserved 3 Updated 8 October 2020
1722.157 Mr R. WESTMORELAND, m/u, Royal Academy 1795, no. 495, as a young gentleman.


1722.16 Gentleman, m/u, Royal Academy 1794, no. 347.

1722.161 Gentleman, m/u, Royal Academy 1794, no. 398.

1722.162 Young lady, m/u, Royal Academy 1795, no. 472.

1722.163 Young man, m/u, Royal Academy 1795, no. 473.


1722.167 Lady in white dress with white headdress, pastel, 24x20.5 ov., inscr. verso “Anna Tonelli fecit in Londra 1796” (Nottingham, Mellors & Kirk, 9–10 VI 2011, Lot 713 repr., as of Tonelli by Hugh Douglas Hamilton, est. £1000–2000, £1200).

Nottingham, Mellors & Kirk, 9–10 VI 2011, Lot 713 repr., as of Tonelli by Hugh Douglas Hamilton, est. £1000–2000, £1200.

1722.17 Two young ladies, m/u (Horace Walpole; desc.: Earl Waldgrave; Strawberry Hill, George Robins, 25 IV 1842 & seq., p. 118, no. 69 n.r.)