

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

WESSELL, Isaac van

fl. Arnhem, London 1669–79

Van Wessell, or Wessel, enrolled as a member of the Sint Lucas-gild in Delft on 8.XI.1670; he did so having paid his citizenship dues as a foreigner. He was evidently active in Arnhem in 1669/70, when he executed a series of portraits of members of the Everwijn family, including four children of Johanna Everwijn and her husband, Frederik Cojet. He was recorded in London as having arrived from Delft on 1.II.1672 (another entry in the Delft guild register shows him as “vertrocken”), and he seems to have worked in England at least until 1679.

The group of five pastels of the Palmer family (into which Barbara Villiers married) date from 1675. Van Wessell's connection with this family may have extended to the portrait of the daughter of the Master of the nearby Eton College; three portraits associated with the previous owner of Dorney Court do not seem to be correctly identified, but presumably relate to the family. The pastel of Mrs Etherington suggest that the artist may have travelled to Yorkshire.

A number of later oil paintings, signed for example “Wessell F A 1721” (but in a quite different hand to the pastels), have been attributed to him, and presumably account for the date of 1736 which appears in reference sources; this painter may well be a homonym. An elderly man, in chalk and watercolour (Courtauld), is signed and dated 1671; its completely different style suggests that it may be a copy of an oil by another master.

Bibliography

Bénézit; W. & S. Minet, eds., *Livre des témoignages de l'Église de Threadneedle street 1669–1789*, Huguenot Society of London, XXI, 1914, p. 259; Frederik D. O. Obreen, *Archief voor Nederlandsche kunstgeschiedenis*, 1877, I, pp. 46, 77; Thieme & Becker

Pastels

J.788.101 CHARLES II; & pendant: J.788.102 “one of his beauties”, crayons, 41x36, sd “Van Wessell, 1677” (W. Sheardown 1872). Lit.: *Notes & queries*, 9.III.1872, p. 203 n.r.

J.788.103 Two children of the COJET family, chlk, sd “J. van Wessel fecit 1669” (desc.: Johan Brantsen (1768–1826); inv. 1803, no. 71/72). Lit.: rKD, n.r. J.788.104 Two children of the COJET family, chlk, sd “J. van Wessel fecit 1670” (desc.: Johan Brantsen; inv. 1803, no. 69/70). Lit.: rKD, n.r.

J.788.105 Arnold van DANS (–1680), burgemeester en ontvanger generaal te Arnhem, pstl/ppr, 41x34.5, sd → “Van Wessel/delineavit/1670” (Nijmegen, Museum het Valkhof, inv. 1945-15). Lit.: M. Potjer, *De Velperweg in kaart gebracht, 1600–1795*, Utrecht, 2008, repr. opp. p. 114, as pnt.

J.788.106 Mrs Lewis ETHERINGTON (∞ 1658), née Ann Bedell (1640–p.1689) of Woodrising, Norfolk, in a pearl necklace, pstl, 41.6x34.4, sd “iv w / 1675” (PC 2014; London, Bonhams Knightsbridge, 30.IV.2014, Lot 274 repr., est. £500–700, £875) [new attr.] φνσ



J.788.109 Anna Catharina EVERWIJN, chlk, sd “J. van Wessell fecit 1669” (desc.: Johan Brantsen; inv. 1803, no. 68)

J.788.11 Evert EVERWIJN, chlk, sd “J. van Wessell fecit 1669” (desc.: Johan Brantsen; inv. 1803, no. 67)

J.788.111 Gillis EVERWIJN (–1693), burgenmeester van Arnhem, chlk, sd “J. van Wessell fecit 1669” (desc.: Johan Brantsen; inv. 1803, no. 66)

J.788.112 [?]Sir William GARRARD; & pendants: spouse, née Isobel Nethermill & daughter, Martha (∞ Sir James Palmer of Dorney Court), pstl, 38x33, sd 1676 (Crewkerne, Lawrences, 3–4.VII.2008, Lot 1113 n.r./n.r./repr., est. £1000–1500) [unless these portraits are retrospective the sitters cannot be correctly identified. Isobel Nethermill was Martha, Lady Palmer's grandmother; her mother was Elizabeth Roe, daughter of Lord Mayor of London; but she herself died in 1617] φδν



J.788.116 Jane GOAD (1655–), daughter of George Goad, Master of Eton College pstl, 41x34.5, sd 1675 (H. H. Heldring, The Hague, 1962) φ



J.788.118 [?]Charles PALMER (1651–1714), pstl, 38x33, sd ↗ “Van Wessell fecit/1675” (Dorney Court). Lit.: guidebook, repr. φδσ



J.788.12 Henry PALMER (1654– sa), pstl, 38x33, sd ↗ “Van Wessell fecit/1675” (Dorney Court). Lit.: guidebook, repr. φσ



J.788.122 Sir Philip PALMER (1615–1683), cup-bearer to Charles II, pstl, 38x33, sd ↖ “Van Wessell fecit/1675” (Dorney Court). Lit.: guidebook, repr. φσ



J.788.125 Philip PALMER (c.1656–1704), son, pstl, 38x33, sd red chlk → “Van Wessell pint/1675” (Dorney Court). Lit.: guidebook, repr. φσ



J.788.127 Roger PALMER (1655–), pstl, 38x33, sd ↗ “Van Wessell fecit/1675” (Dorney Court). Lit.: guidebook, repr. φσ

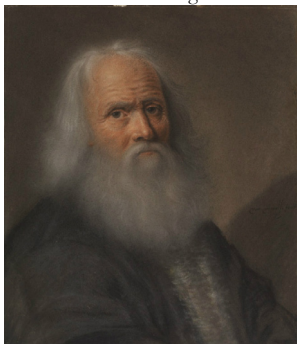


J.788.129 ?Johan de WITT (1625–1672), pstl, 42x35.5, sd → “Van Wessell/1677” (London, Robinson & Fisher, 24.VI.1926, Lot 184, unknown sitter. Dhr. Wiegersma, Utrecht.

Amsterdam, Glerum, 14.XII.2009, Lot 11 repr., est. €800–1200, €600) φδ



J.788.131 Elderly man, chlk, watercolour, 40.2x34.1, sd → “van wessell fecit/1671” (London, Courtauld Gallery, inv. D.1952.RW.4144. Legs Sir Robert Witt) φ



J.788.133 Gentleman, pstl, 40x32.5, sd ↗ “van Wessell/fecit 167[5]” (Oxford, Mallams, 31.V.2000, Lot 167, £550. Nottingham, Mellors & Kirk, 29.XI.2001, Lot 893 repr., est. £500–700. London, Bonhams Knightsbridge, 29.IV.2003, Lot 190, continental sch., 18th century, £352. Paris, Drouot, Daguerre, 1.XII.2020, Lot 6 repr., as by Hesse, est. €1500–2000; Paris, Drouot, Daguerre, 26.III.2021, Lot 29 repr., as by Hesse, est. €1000–1500; Paris, Drouot, Daguerre, 24.V.2022, Lot 15 repr., as by van Wessell, est. €600–800) φv



J.788.135 Gentleman, pstl, 46.4x36.5, sd “Van Wesselly fecit 1678. Aetatis 23” (London, V&A, E.884-1916. Don W. H. Hammond, Sevenoaks). Lit.: Turner & White 2014, 1, no. 424 repr. φσ



J.788.137 Lady in a pearl necklace, pstl, 39x33.8, sd 1679 (London, Sotheby's, 30.IV.1990, Lot 115 repr., est. £600–800) φσ



J.788.139 Four portraits of gentlemen and ladies, pstl/blue-grey ppr, one sd 1674 (Lord Astor of Hever; London, Sotheby's, 30.III.1983, Lot 101 repr./n.r., £480 [=£528]) φ



J.788.141 Gentleman with white stock; & pendant: J.788.142 lady in blue dress, pearl choker, pstl, 39.5x32.5, sd 1677/- (Leyburn, Tennants, 15.XI.1996, Lot 453 n.r., £2000. Newmarket, Rowley's, 2.VI.2015, Lot 917 repr./n.r., est. £1000–1500) φ



