

# Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

## WEST, Benjamin

Springfield 1738 – London 1820

Important painter in all genres; came to Europe in 1760 and settled in London three years later. He exhibited numerous paintings at the Royal Academy from 1769 to 1819, becoming President in 1815. Several drawings with coloured chalks have been attributed to him by mistake or imagination, but some rare pastels are known. Benjamin Franklin attempted to persuade him to take on Miss Moresby (*q.v.*) as a pupil.

### Bibliography

Bénézit; Bolton 1923; Washington 1987

### Pastels

??SELF-PORTRAIT, *v. Blyth, West*

Elizabeth and John S. COPLEY, Jr, m/u (Lord Aberdare). Lit.: *Pelham Copley papers*, Massachusetts historical collections, LXXI, 1914, p. 270; Bolton 1923, p. 96 n.r.

GEORGE IV (1762–1830), as Prince of Wales; & pendant: Frederick, Duke of York (1763–1827), pstl, pencil/ppr, 21.5x16 ov., sd “B. West/1778” (West family; desc.: London, Sotheby’s, 10.IV.1997, Lot 27 repr., est. £4–6000, £16,000 [=£18,400]) φ



Woman suckling infant, cr. clr, pen, grey ink/ppr, 28.5x18.5 ov. (British Museum 1887.0613.8. Ehrenfest; acqu. 1887) φ

A rope-ferry at Bath, cr. clr/grey ppr, 20.3x36.4, inscr. “West Bath” (British Museum 1887.0613.5. Ehrenfest; acqu. 1887) φ



Hand, pstl, 17.5x15.9 (Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania). Lit.: *Catalogue of works of art belonging to the Benjamin West society and to Swarthmore college*, Swarthmore, 1933