

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

WOOLLETT, William

Maidstone 15.VIII.1735 – London 23.V.1785

Also Woollet; draughtsman and engraver. Self-taught, he developed his own engraving techniques. He was an active member of the Society of Artists, becoming its director in 1772 and Engraver to His Majesty in 1775. Among the numerous exhibits (sent mainly from Leicester Fields in London) only one pastel is mentioned. A sale by Greenwood, 14.XII.1786, of the “property of an Eminent Artist”, included many prints by Woollet, as well as equipment for painting and engraving; it is here tentatively suggested that the sale was Woollett’s (his will prescribed that all his copper plates, prints, goods etc. be disposed of “with all convenient speed after [his] decease”). Among the collection were two pastels by Liotard.

The pastel of “Miss Robinson” is said to be signed and dated Woollet, and its attribution should be treated with caution.

Bibliography

Alexander 2021; Bénézit

Pastels

J.8038.061 Miss Robinson [Mrs Thomas ROBINSON, née Mary Elisabeth Darby (1758–1800), actress], maîtresse du Régent, en buste, de face, chevelure blonde bouclée, coiffée d’un chapeau de paille orné d’un ruban rose, robe blanche avec fiche négligemment noué laissant voir la naissance de la gorge, pstl, sd (D. de B.; Paris, Drouot, Delestre, 10.II.1891, Lot 60 n.r.; H500)

J.8038.101 A view of Wainford in Suffolk; in crayons, Society of Artists 1772, no. 366

J.8038.102 Two beautiful Views in crayons (London, Ellis & Fletcher, 3.XI.1801). Lit.: *Morning chronicle*, advertisement, 2.XI.1801