

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

WALKER, George

fl. Edinburgh –1815

Scottish landscape painter and teacher. a pupil of Alexander Runciman, he started to take pupils in 1781 and from 1782 he advertised drawing classes, with emphasis on landscape and watercolour, in Edinburgh. His illustrations to Crie's *Scottish scenery* (London, 1803) were engraved by W. Byrne from crayon sketches which "may be seen at Mr Walker's Drawing and Painting Academy, Edinburgh" according to the preface. Gibson (1816) dismisses him: "He painted most usually in crayons, but his pictures are of little value considered as works of art"; of the designs for Crie, "neither in point of accuracy, of delineation, nor beauty of effect, are they entitled to our consideration." Walker was nevertheless appointed Landscape Painter in Crayons in Ordinary to George III in 1806. From 1810 until his death in 1815, his drawing academy at 1 Hunter Square appeared in Edinburgh directories. He exhibited three topographical pieces (medium unspecified) at the Royal Academy in London in 1800; but he may be the same as the homonymous honorary exhibitor at the Royal Academy between 1792 and 1815. Walker also had a large collection of landscapes, including work by Jacob More (*q.v.*).

Bibliography

Robert Brydal, *Art in Scotland*, Edinburgh, 1889, p. 294f; [Patrick Gibson], "View of the arts of design in Britain", *The Edinburgh review*, IX, 1816, p. ccclxxix; Joe Rock, hughwilliamwilliams website, accessed 30.v.2011