

WATSON, William

Dublin ?1730–7.XI.1765

William Watson was the brother of the London-based engraver James Watson (a.1735–1790); James married Mary Judkin in London, being “21 years and upwards” in the allegation on 17.I.1757 (their marriage was witnessed by Lawrence William Walsh, a carver, and his wife, née Anne Rougier). Based on Irish church records (which may be incomplete), it is most likely that they were the William and James Watson baptised respectively on 20.IV.1730 and 18.IX.1734 at St John’s, Dublin, the sons of William and Sarah Watson or Wattson.

Said by some sources to have been a pupil of West at the Dublin Society school (possibly a confusion with a William Watson who attended in 1772), Watson exhibited a pastel at the Society of Artists in Ireland in 1765, from College Green. He was also an “eminent performer on the German flute” according to Pasquin. His wife (*q.v.*) was a flower painter, exhibiting at the Free Society in 1771 after his death in his house in College Green on 7.XI.1765 (he may be the William Wattson whose burial is recorded at St Catherine’s, Dublin, 31.XII.1765).

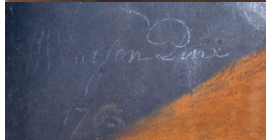
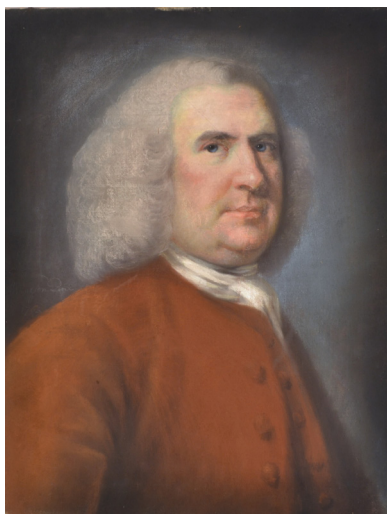
An unsigned pastel of Lady Molyneux given to him in Crookshank & Glin 1994 seems earlier than the rest of his œuvre (and would probably require a revision of his year of birth), and is very close to Pond (*q.v.*) with whom there may be confusions. At least one work is a direct copy of a pastel by Katherine Read, and the artist seems freely to have followed the compositions of other portraitists: this perhaps explains some of the apparent anachronisms in his oeuvre. His later work has some similarity to early pieces by Cotes (*q.v.*), and again he may be the author of several misattributed works, but generally lack Cotes’s finish and remain provincial and wooden by comparison. Drapery is often flat, with unmodulated shadows. His signature when present distinctively intertwines the initial Ws.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Crookshank 1969; Crookshank & Glin 1994; Crookshank & Glin 2002; Dublin 1969; Figgis 2014; Sée 1911; Strickland 1913; Waterhouse 1981; Wright 2006

Pastels

- J.7824.101 Mrs John BATEMAN, née Elizabeth Sadlier, pstl (Glin Castle). Attr.
- J.7824.102 Dr George CLEGHORN (1716–1798), author of *Observations on diseases epidemic in Minorca*, 1751, lecturer in anatomy at Trinity College Dublin, uncle of Dr William Cleghorn, pstl, 57x43.5, inscr. ← “W Watson Pinx/1763” (Claremont, Western Australia, McKenzies’, 10–11.VI.2014, Lot 458 repr., anon., est. A\$900–1400) [new attr.] φν



J.7824.105 Lady Anne DAWSON, née Fermor (1733–1769), wife of Thomas Dawson, later 1st Viscount Cremorne, pstl. Lit.: Crookshank & Glin 1978, p. 81 repr., attr. φα



J.7824.107 Lady Caroline HAMILTON, ?pstl, sd → “WWatson/1762” (Earl of Roden 1969; PC 2002). Lit.: Dublin 1969, p. 18, fig. 9; Crookshank & Glin 2002, fig. 119, ?pnt. φ



J.7824.109 Miss JONES, pstl, 55.5x43 (London, Sotheby’s, 16.V.1996, Lot 397A, est. £1000–1500, £1600 [=£1840])

J.7824.11 Dr Daniel LETABLÈRE (1709–1775), Dean of Tuam, m/u, 1762 (letter from Lady Kildare to her husband, 7.XII.1762, “Dean Letablère...is going to sit for his picture to Mr Watson; is not that delightful?”). Lit.: Dublin 1969, p. 18 n.r.

J.7824.111 Five ladies of the McDONNELL family (n/k). Lit.: Crookshank & Glin 1994, p. 74 n.r.

J.7824.112 [= J.395.1422] Lady MOLYNEUX, née Elizabeth Adlercron (–1800), dau. of Lieut.-Gen. John Adlercron, ∞ 1766 Sir Capel Molyneux, in white dress with mauve cloak, pearl ornaments, pstl, 59.7x49.5 (Mrs Talbot of Dublin. Mrs Henry Oppenheim; sale p.m., London, Christie’s, 26.V.1933, Lot 121 n.r., as Cotes, 32 gns; Daniell. London, Christie’s, 20.VI.1978, Lot 79 n.r., as Hoare, £620). Lit.: Crookshank & Glin 1994, fig. 88, as by William Watson, of “Lady Capel Molyneux” [?attr.; cf. Pond] φαδ



J.7824.114 [?]Viscountess SUDLEY, née Catherine Annesley (c.1740–1770), ∞ Arthur Saunders Gore, 2nd Earl of Arran, pstl/ppr, 72.3x54.5, sd “WW[monogram]atson 1764” (Dublin, NGL, inv. 7934. Acqu. Miss R. Black, Dublin, 1981). Exh.: Dublin 2023. Lit.: Le Harivel 1983, repr.; Crookshank & Glin 2002, n.r.; *Letters from Georgian Ireland: the correspondence of Mary Delany*,

1731–68, ed. Angélique Day, 1991, p. 55 repr.

φδ



~a/r or related to Katherine Read, Lady Sarah Napier in Congreve's *The Mourning Bride*, q.v.

J.7824.117 Gentleman, crayons, Dublin 1765, no. 56

J.7824.118 Lady in an antique blue dress, with crossed pearl strings fastening bodice, ruff and pearl-edged cap, pstl, 60x49, sd ← “W. Watson/1762” (PC) φ

