

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

WRIGHT, John Michael

London 25.V.1617–1.VIII.1694

Trained in Edinburgh before travelling to Rome where he worked from 1641. He also assembled a substantial collection of drawings, prints and books while in Rome, where he remained for more than 10 years. He was court painter in London from 1656. Only oil paintings are known. John Michael Wright's nephew, Michael Wright, was educated in Rome and settled in Dublin at the end of the 17th century, "and had so much success, that he gained £900 the first year, and was always paid £10 a head" according to Vertue, who also says that Wright's son died in Rome. He may be referring to the only known son, Thomas Wright: in John Michael Wright's will, made in .III.1694, his collection was left to his nephew, the painter Michael Wright, while the books were to be sold for the benefit of his son Thomas, then abroad. The pastellist Thomas Wright (*q.v.*), who may have been this son, was active in 1688 but is also known as a painter in London until 1737.

Edmund Ashfield is thought to have been a pupil.

Monographic exhibitions

Wright 1982: *John Michael Wright: the King's painter*, Edinburgh, SNPG, 1982. Cat.: Sara Stevenson & Duncan Thomson

Bibliography

Crookshank & Glin 2002; Figgis 2014; Oxford DNB

Anon. related pastels

CHARLES II (1630–1685), in Garter robes, pnt., c.1660–65 (London, NPG 531)

~full length version, pnt. (Halswell Park 1908).

Lit.: *Country life*, 21.XI.1908, as by Greenhill

J.8054.101 ~cop., cr. clr (Belœil, prince de Ligne).
Exh.: London 1932b. Lit.: "Charles II: a pastel portrait by an unknown artist, given by that king to the prince de Ligne, and shown in the *Age of Charles II* exhibition", *Illustrated London news*, 12.III.1932, repr.; Bronne 1979, repr., as by Greenhill; Jeffares 2006, p. 213Aiii, as by Greenhill [??] Φκσ



Photo courtesy Fondation Ligne

J.8054.104 ~cop., pstl/ppr, 25.8x19.6 (Oxford, Ashmolean, inv. WA.B.1.165.142. Alexander Hendras Sutherland (1753–1820); his widow, don: Bodleian Library 1837, Sutherland collection; transferred 1951). Lit.: Bell 1915,

pl. IIB, English sch., c.1660; Brown 1982, no. 36, anon., ?Charles II [new attr.] φκσ



J.8054.106 ~cop., pstl/ppr, 27x20 (H. Samuels 1873. William Sharp Ogden FSA; desc. Goffey, Stafford families; Dorchester, Duke's, 29.IX.2011, Lot 54 repr., attr. Lely, with pendant Duchess of Portsmouth, anon.) φκ



Sir Matthew HALE (1609–1676), Lord Chief Justice 1671, bust, nearly facing, close-fitting black cap over white coif, grey hair, grey tuft on chin, moustache, white bands, scarlet and miniver robe of Chief Baron of the Exchequer, with SS collar, in painted oval, pnt., 73.7x61 (London, NPG 465. Don Society of Judges and Serjeants-at-Law 1877)

J.8054.109 ~cop., pstl/ppr, 25x20 (Oxford, Bodleian Library. Legs Dr Rawlinson 1755).
Lit.: Lane Poole, no. 148 n.r., anon.

~cop. Luttrell, *q.v.*