

# Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

## **YORKE, Mrs Charles, née Agneta Johnson**

London 1740 – Bath 1821

Agneta Johnson, or Johnston, 2<sup>nd</sup> daughter and co-heiress of Henry Johnson of Great Berkhemstead; an FSA, he had interests in South America and was gamekeeper to Frederick, Prince of Wales. In 1762 she married the 2<sup>nd</sup> son of Lord Hardwicke, Charles Yorke (1722–1770); he later reluctantly accepted the office of Lord Chancellor, but died, perhaps by suicide, three days later. His widow was an amateur exhibitor of crayons at the Society of Artists 1771, 1773 and 1775; she also made drawings and etchings in the style of Gilpin. Apparently absent from the 1774 exhibition, she may have used the disguise of “Miss Agnetta, from York” (*q.v.*). Said to have been a most beautiful woman, she sat for both Francis Cotes (in oil) and Katherine Read, who may have taught her. Flaxman’s memorial is at St Andrew’s, Wimpole.

### **Bibliography**

Baptismal records, St Anne’s, Soho; Sloane 1982, p. 140f; Waterhouse 1981; Basil Williams, “The eclipse of the Yorkes”, *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society*, II, 1908, pp. 129–51; *London magazine*, III, 1821, p. 236, as Agnesa Yorke

### **Pastels**

Hermit, crayons, Society of Artists 1771, no. 328  
Landscape and cattle, crayons, Society of Artists 1771, no. 329  
Landscape with cattle, crayons, Society of Artists 1773, no. 443  
Painting, crayons, Society of Artists 1775, no. 384