SCOULER, James

Edinburgh 1741—London bnd 28.II.1812

His father, also called James Scouler or Scolar (1741–1782), was a harpsichord maker; his cousin John Brown (1749–1787) was a miniaturist. Both cousins are likely to have studied in Edinburgh, under William Delacour (q.v.), and both had moved to London by 1769. Scouler exhibited at every Royal Academy from 1769 to 1784; the address, Great Newport Street, was that of his father. Among the works shown, mostly miniatures, were portraits in “chalks” (1773) and crayons from 1775. A copy that year after a Frans Hals painting then at Althorp is in effect a pastel miniature; it highlights this first known example of an informal pose that was imitated by pastellists in the eighteenth century (notably La Tour, Laideguive). Scouler produced some competent pastels including the fine portrait of the precocious astronomer John Goodricke, an ambitious composition inspired by the work of Hamilton. A number of pastels and miniatures by Carriera, together with five crayons by Hamilton, appeared in his sale (London, Hutchins, Wells, Fisher, 10–11.IV.1797).

The date of his death, given incorrectly in many sources, is established by his will proved 10.III.1812 (PROB 11/1531, 1812; will made 1808). It shows that for the last years of his life he lived with a Mrs Katton Tregose Smith of Great Russell Street; he is presumably the James Scouler recorded there (opposite the British Museum) from 1781 in the rent books (London Metropolitan Archives; until 1776 he lived in Great Newport Street). An annuity to Mrs Smith of £100 p.a. and several other legacies, including to one Alexander Hemmings, illegitimate son of his brother Alexander Scouler, indicate that the artist was financially comfortable: but litigation ensued between his creditors and his executors (Steell v fly, Chancery, 1817; the Rev. Dr Henry Fly, one of his trustees, was confessor to the royal household), and an 1850 annotation to his will records the death of the trustees before administration was complete.

Bibliography
Bénézit; Foskett 1987; Sée 1911; Wright 2006

Critiques
Anon., “Royal Academy Exhibition”, London current, Westminster chronicle & daily advertiser, 1–10.V.1782:
45. Portrait of a young gentleman and his dog. – Crayons. J. Scouler. – Good, but in an affected-stile.

Pastels
1669.081 [SELF-PORTRAIT], at work, pstl, 25.5x21 ov., a “J. Scouler…” (Derby, Bamfords, 27.X.2020, Lot 2066 repr., anon., unknown, est. £3) [new attr.; new identification, ?] φαδν
1669.101 SELF-PORTRAIT; & pendant: 1669.102 Pwfe, pstl, 72x54 (Donnington, Drewett Neate, 8.X.2008, Lot 17 repr., est. £3–4000; Nottingham, Drewett Neate, 27.XI.2008, Lot 1 repr., est. £800–1200) φδ

~pseudo-pendant, Mrs Cosnan, v. Hamilton

1669.105 Colonel Coswen [Lieutenant-Colonel John Cosnan (1723–1773) of the 45th Foot], pstl/ppr, 28x21.5 ov., sd Scouler 1775 (PC 2015) φδ

~pseudo-pendant, Mrs Cosnan, v. Hamilton


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Long, v.q. Dawkins; Pocock


1669.117 Lady Pocock, née Charlotte Mary Long (1765–1846), ∞ 1791 Sir George Pocock, Bt, MP, pstl, 1774 (Rodsall Manor 1925). Lit.: Robert Mowbray Howard, Records and letters of the family of the Longs of Langville, Jamaica, and Hampton Lodge, Surrey, 1925, t. p. 280 repr. φ


Six members of the Taylor family: J.669.124 Lady in blue, facing right; J.669.124.1 lady facing left; J.669.124.2 officer in uniform; J.669.124.3 lady, bed inclined; & J.669.124.4 two boys, 5 pstls, 29x24 ov., two sd 1773 or 1778 (Nottingham, Mellors & Kirk, 20.x.2018, Lot 594 repr., est. £600–800) φ

1669.116 Sir Hugh Munro, 8th Bt, 28th Laird of Foulis (1763–1848), when a boy; & pendant: J.669.116.1 Lady Munro, née Anne Rose (1728–1810), daughter of Hugh Rose of Kilmorack and widow of Sir Harry Munro, 7th Bt, in a landscape with a bullfinch, pstl, 23.5x19.5 ov. (P 2011; Cyril & Shirley Fry; sale p.m., London, Sotheby’s, 8.viii.2021, Lot 176 repr., est. £200–1800, £1764 [new atrr., ?] φσ

1669.111 Lady Menzies, pstl/ppr, 23.5x19.7, sd ∘ “J Scouler 1770” (New Haven, Yale Center for British Art, inv. B1979.30)

1669.118 Lady Taylor, née Charlotte Mary Long (1765–1846), ∞ 1791 Sir George Pocock, Bt, MP, pstl, 1774 (Rodsall Manor 1925). Lit.: Robert Mowbray Howard, Records and letters of the family of the Longs of Langville, Jamaica, and Hampton Lodge, Surrey, 1925, t. p. 280 repr. φ


Six members of the Taylor family: J.669.124 Lady in blue, facing right; J.669.124.1 lady facing left; J.669.124.2 officer in uniform; J.669.124.3 lady, bed inclined; & J.669.124.4 two boys, 5 pstls, 29x24 ov., two sd 1773 or 1778 (Nottingham, Mellors & Kirk, 20.x.2018, Lot 594 repr., est. £600–800) φ
Dictionary of pastellists before 1800

J.669.125 Gentleman, chalks, Royal Academy 1773, no. 269
J.669.126 Gentleman, chalks, Royal Academy 1773, no. 270
J.669.127 Young gentleman, crayons, Royal Academy 1775, no. 287
J.669.128 Gentleman in a red coat, pstl/ppr, 30.5x25.5, sd ∨ “Scouler 1780” (Abbott & Holder, exh. cat., Heads, 22.1.–26.11.2011, no. 26, £2250) ϕ
J.669.13 Gentleman, m/u, Royal Academy 1781, no. 128
J.669.131 Young gentleman and dog, crayons, Royal Academy 1782, no. 43
J.669.132 Gentleman, crayons, Royal Academy 1782, no. 194
J.669.133 Boy, crayons, Royal Academy 1784, no. 10
J.669.134 Gentleman in brown coat, pstl, 32x25 ov., sd ∨ “Scouler 1790” (Abbott & Holder 2011) ϕ
J.669.137 Young lady, crayons, Royal Academy 1775, no. 286
J.669.139 Lady in a white dress holding book and quill, column in background, 54x44 ov., sd ∨ 1780 (Stansted Mountfitchet, Sworders, 8.XII.2015, Lot 185 repr., est. £200–300, £200) ϕ
J.669.141 Lady, crayons, Royal Academy 1781, no. 89
J.669.142 Girl, crayons, Royal Academy 1784, no. 12
J.669.146 Officer in a blue coat with white facings; & [?]pendant: J.669.147 lady in a blue dress, pstl, 37x31 ov., sd 1776 (Mrs Alec Tweedie (1860–1940); desc.: Mackworth, Hansons, 10.VI.2009, Lot 500 repr./n.r., James Scouler, est. £500–600) ϕ/ϕπ

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