

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

WEST, Francis Robert

Dublin 1749–24.I.1809

“Franciscus Robertus West” was baptised at the Catholic church of St Andrew’s, Dublin, in 1749, the son of Robert West (*q.v.*) and Maria, family name unknown; his godmother was Maria Hanbury, probably the wife of the engraver Michael Hanbury. There seems to be no evidence for the suggestion that he studied in Paris (a confusion with speculation about his father). He succeeded his father as director of the Dublin Society school and exhibited there between 1770 and 1801, including pastels of religious subjects and conversation pieces. Several works, medium unspecified, were sent to the Royal Academy in London in 1779, as an honorary exhibitor, 1781, from Newman Street; and 1790, from Charles Street, Westminster. An important series of nine oval “portraits in conversation” showed members of the Brooke and Vesey families. His characteristic use of charcoal and pastel has been described in various ways, but seems to be more drawing with coloured chalks than pastels per se. However his 1771 submissions include some works in crayons and others in chalk, while in 1770 he showed portraits “in Pastelle, &c.”

West was married twice, first to Angelica Wolverston on 14.X.1777, at St Peter’s (Protestant), Dublin (the apparently fictional circumstances are related in J. D. Herbert’s *Irish varieties*, but the marriage licence is real); and secondly, at an unknown date, to Ellen Walsh. He had four sons, the artist Robert Lucius West (*q.v.*), Michael, another artist; William, a naval surgeon; and Lucius Francis, baptised at St Andrew’s (Catholic) in 1798 (his eldest brother Robert Lucius was sponsor at the baptism, removing any possibility of confusion).

Bibliography

Bénézit; Crookshank 1969; Crookshank & Glin 1994; Crookshank & Glin 2002; Figgis 2014; Graves 1905, *s.m.* F. R. and R. L. West; Oxford DNB; Stewart & Cutten 1997; Strickland 1913; Waterhouse 1981

Pastels

Members of the BROOKE and Vesey families, nine crayons, ov., late 1770s (PC). Lit.: Crookshank & Glin 1994; Crookshank & Glin 2002:

1.79.101 ~Lady Knapton and Miss Piggott playing cards, crayon, ov. (PC). Lit.: Crookshank & Glin 1994, fig. 75; Crookshank & Glin 2002, fig. 118, in reverse ϕ



1.79.102 ~Viscountess Northland [née Anne Vesey (-1803)] with the Hon. Lady Staples [née Jane Vesey (-1822)] taking tea, crayon, ov. (PC). Lit.: Crookshank & Glin 2002, fig. 118 ϕ



1.79.103 ~Volunteer officers studying a map, crayon, ov. (PC). Lit.: Crookshank & Glin 1994, fig. 74 ϕ



1.79.104 ~Two boys playing a game of goose, sd 1779[?]. Lit.: Crookshank & Glin 1994, fig. 76 ϕ



1.79.105 ~A game of billiards

1.79.106 ~Sewing

1.79.107 ~Reading

1.79.108 ~Coming in from picking flowers in the garden

1.79.109 ~Group of three in fancy dress assembled for a party

1.79.114 Master CHALMERS, m/u, Royal Academy 1790, no. 153

1.79.115 William DEANE [(–1793), LL.D., solicitor and officer in the court of Chancery, glass manufacturer and member of the Royal Irish Academy], and his wife (∞ 1745), née Jane Campbell, seated in a library, pstl, cr. clr, 36.5x41.5 ov., inscr. *verso* [c.1775] (Shrewsbury, Halls, 18.III.2015, Lot 311 repr., attr. H. D. Hamilton, est. £400–500) [new attr.] ϕ



1.79.117 C. JENNINGS, artist, m/u, Royal Academy 1790, no. 142

1.79.12 A man in a library, 1771 (New York, Morgan Library). Lit.: Crookshank & Glin 1978, p. 81 ϕ



1.79.122 Gentleman in a grey coat, charcoal, pstl/ppr, 47.4x38 ov., sd “F. R. West fecit 1772” (Dublin, NGI, inv. 3834. Frank T. Sabin, London; acqu. 1966). Lit.: Crookshank 1969 p. 237, fig. 5; Bourke & Bhreathnach-Lynch 1999, p. 47 repr.; Le Harivel 1983, repr. ϕ



1.79.124 Young lady in a yellow dress, pstl, charcoal/ppr, 47.4x38.2 ov., sd “F. R. West 1772” (Dublin, NGI, inv. 3832. Acqu. Frank T. Sabin, London, 1966). Lit.: Le Harivel 1983, repr. ϕ



1.79.126 Young lady in a grey dress, pstl, charcoal/ppr, 47.6x38 ov., c.1772 (Dublin, NGI, inv. 3833. Acqu. Frank T. Sabin, London, 1966). Lit.: Le Harivel 1983, repr. ϕ



J.79.128 Young lady in a blue dress, pstl, charcoal/pper, 47.3x38.4 ov., c.1772 (Dublin, NGI, inv. 3835. Acqu. Frank T. Sabin, London, 1966). Lit.: Le Harivel 1983, repr. φ



J.79.13 Young lady with a blue ribbon in her hair, pstl, charcoal/pper, 48x39.5 ov. (Dublin, NGI, inv. 3836. Acqu. Frank T. Sabin, London, 1966). Lit.: Le Harivel 1983, repr. φ



J.79.132 Portraits, pstl, Dublin 1770, no. 56

J.79.133 St John, crayons, Dublin 1771, no. 55

J.79.134 Satyr and Clown blowing hot and cold, crayons, Dublin 1771, no. 56

J.79.135 Soldier pushing a man in a sleigh (Malahide Castle sale; Christie's, 10.V.1976, Lot 628 repr.)

J.79.136 Figures going to a costume ball (Malahide Castle sale; Christie's, 10.V.1976, Lot 629 repr.)

J.79.137 Figures sewing in an interior, cr. clr, 37.5x43, inscr. *verso* "...shooling" [sic] ... West [?] (London, Christie's, 14.V.2004, Lot 113 repr., est. £7–10,000, £7500) Φ

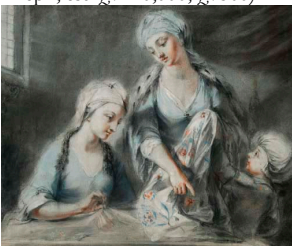


Photo courtesy Christie's