

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

DIXON, Matthew

– Thwaite, near Bungay brd 2.XII.1710

Miniature and crayon painter, pupil of Lely; recorded by Vertue and followed by most sources as John Dixon, with further confusions with Nicholas Dixon, whose involvement in a failed lottery in 1698 led to his departure from St Martin's Lane. Matthew was established at Thwaite in Norfolk by 22.III.1691/2 (possibly much earlier), when he married a Mary Gostling (born there in 1673/4). He “drew in Crayons from the life...with great excellence”, according to Vertue, who reported crayons “well done in a fine manner” including a self-portrait and some copies after Lely. Some pictures are noted in his will of 5.X.1710.

Bibliography

Bryan 1903; Mary Edmond, “Nicholas Dixon, limner, and Matthew Dixon, painter, died 1710”, *Burlington magazine*, CXXV, 1983, pp. 611–12; Jeffares 2006, as John Dixon; Leslie Stephen, *Dictionary of national biography*, 1888, XV, p. 125, as John Dixon (–1715); Oxford DNB; Vertue, II, p. 59; IV, p. 50; Walpole 1862, II, 585; Waterhouse 1988; Whinney & Millar 1957, p. 181

Pastels

- J.2766.101 SELF-PORTRAIT, crayons (legs: artist's widow)
- J.2766.102 Mrs BUCKHURST, née Dixon, the artist's sister, m/u (legs: artist's daughter, Catherine Dixon)
- J.2766.103 Mrs BUCKHURST, née Dixon, the artist's sister, m/u (legs: artist's daughter, Anne Dixon)
- J.2766.104 Duchess of CLEVELAND, Lady Castlemaine, née Barbara Villiers (1640–1709), courtesan, crayons, a/r Lely (legs: artist's daughter, Alice Dixon)
- J.2766.105 Mrs Matthew DIXON, née Mary Gostling (1674–p.1710), the artist's wife, m/u (legs: artist's daughter, Anne Dixon)
- J.2766.106 Sir Peter LELY (1618–1680), artist, m/u (legs: artist's son, John Gostling Dixon (1696–))
- J.2766.107 Duchess of PORTSMOUTH, née Louise Renée de Penancoët de Kéroualle (1649–1734), mistress of Charles II, crayons, a/r Lely (legs: artist's daughter, Mary Dixon)
- J.2766.108 James SOTHEBY (1667–), with a dog, m/u, 1671 (Ecton Hall, Northampton). Lit.: R. W. Goulding, *Burlington magazine*, 1912, pp. 24–25; *Walpole Society*, IV, 1916, pp. 25–26
- J.2766.121 Head of a lady, in a red dress adorned with pearls, pstl, 25x21.5 (Henry J. Pfungst, FSA, 44 Cleveland Street, London; sale p.m., London, Christie's, 15.VI.1917, Lot 104 n.r., as by N. Dixon, 13 gns; W. Sabin) [new attr., ?]