

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

ADAMS, Philip

Ireland c.1760 – Dublin 14.XI.1810

The only example of Adams's work in pastel is a copy after a painting by Robert Hunter (*q.v.*), possibly via the William Sadler engraving. As it is inscribed "Earl Temple" it must have been made before 1784, and shows the subject as Grand Master of the Order of St Patrick which he founded in 1783.

Hitherto unidentified, it seems reasonable to identify the artist with the Philip Adams listed as a sculptor in Strickland. He was the son of a Carlow merchant, Richard Adams. Later references to "Philip Adams, Esq." suggest that the family were landed, but Richard petitioned for bankruptcy c.1772 and was among the insolvent debtors listed in the schedule to the act for their relief (13, 14 Geo. III). Around the same time, on 5.v.1774, Philip entered the Dublin Society's drawing school (from which we may infer that he was probably born c.1760). In 1779 he won a silver medal for geometry. He was taught sculpture by Edward Smyth, and sent a bas-relief of *Minerva conducting Genius to the Temple of Fame* to the Society of Artists in William Street in 1780. He carved marble chimney-pieces from his studio at 41 Townsend Street. At Christmas 1788 he became a freeman of the City of Dublin, listed as a mason. In 1791 he was engaged by the La Touche family to reassemble a cast of the Laocoön which they had had shipped from Rome. On 4.i.1792 he advertised a bust of the Prince of Wales in the *Hibernian journal*.

He decided to abandon art for the law, enrolling as a student at Gray's Inn on 13.vi.1795 (by which date his father was dead). He was called to the English Bar in 1801 and three years later to that in Dublin. Possibly as a result of his father's experiences, his practice specialised in acting for insolvent debtors.

On 24.xii.1809, at St John's, Dublin (Church of Ireland), he married the "amiable and accomplished" (according to newspaper reports) Clementina Justiniani, Countess Davenoge, of Rome, widow of Henry, comte Davenoge of Switzerland (presumably "de Venoge". She appears to have been Clementina Giustiniani, the sister of Giovanni, conte Giustiniani, who married prince Benedetto Giustiniani (1735–1793), son of Girolamo Vincenzo Giustiniani, soon after the death in 1789 of his first wife, Cecilia Mahony (daughter of Lady Anne Clifford); on 17.ii.1795, in Rome, she married marchese Francesco Ceva Bussi or Buzi). Adams died in Mary Street, Dublin, the following year, having long been in a declining state of health.

Bibliography

Strickland 1913; John Turpin, *A school of art in Dublin since the eighteenth century*, 1995, p. 57; *Gentleman's magazine*, .ii.1809, p. 179; .xi.1810, p. 497; *Hibernian magazine*, .iii., .iv.1811; *The genealogist*, 1899, p. 73; Silvia Danesi Squarzina, *La collezione Giustiniani*, 2003, Documenti, pp. 349, 371; Archivio Giustiniani di Roma, inventario 035, ed. Orsetta Baroncelli & al., 2011

Pastels

J.1008.101 George Nugent-Temple-Grenville, 3rd Earl Temple, 1st Marquess of BUCKINGHAM (1753–1813), lord lieutenant of Ireland, pstl/ppr, 49.5x33.7, sd v "P. Adams pinxt", c.1783 (New-York Historical Society, inv. 1956.120. Don Mrs John H. Untiedt). A/r Robert Hunter pnt., c.1783 (Dublin, St Patrick's Cathedral) φ

