

**CASTELLINI, Sig.ra, née Caterina
Amigoni**

f.l. Madrid 1773

The Venetian painter Jacopo Amigoni or Amiconi (1685–1752) worked in Rome, Munich, London (1729–39), Paris (1736). In London in 1738 he married the mezzosoprano Maria Antonia Marchesini, known as la Lucchesina. Amigoni was appointed court painter in Madrid where he settled in 1747. In 1773 the traveller Richard Twiss encountered Amigoni's two daughters still living in Madrid: Caterina, Sig.ra Castellini, and Sig.ra Belluomini, who owned many pictures painted by her father. According to Twiss, Castellini “paints portraits in Crayons extremely well”. Both sisters were “perfectly skilled in vocal and instrumental music”, and Twiss spent the evenings with them or at the house of the countess of Benevento (*v.g.* Osuna). The reference was picked up by Walpole and by Dodd, who provides an erroneous first name, Charlotte, which is in fact that of Jacopo's sister Carlotta, who had accompanied the painter to London and was the “C. Amiconna” after whom a mezzotint was published by Sayer of the dancer Mlle Auretti in 1752.

Caterina may have married a son or relative of the famous singer Teresa Castellini, the subject of Amigoni's celebrated portrait with Farinelli and Metastasio (National Gallery of Victoria).

Bibliography

Thomas Dodd, *The connoisseur's repertorium*, Manchester, 1825, I; Martina Manfredi, “Per una riqualificazione di Carlotta Amigoni, pittrice e incisora Veneziana a Londra”, *Donne a Venezia. Spazi di libertà e forme di potere (sec. XVI- XVIII)*, 2008; Twiss 1775, p. 167; Walpole 1828