

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

ANSON, Lady, née Lady Elizabeth Yorke

London 1725–1.VI.1760

One of the many sisters of Lord Royston, later Lord Hardwicke; she married Admiral Lord Anson in 1748. Anson was in Paris in June that year, and his new wife wrote to him with lists of souvenirs to buy for their friends, including crayons for the Duchess of Bedford (*q.v.*). According to Mrs Delany, Lady Anson “is a little coxcombical, and affects to be learned, which may sometimes put him out of countenance; but Lord A. is a most generous goodnatured amiable man, and he deserved a wife of more dignity.” She was probably a pupil of Arthur Pond (*q.v.*; no doubt the “Miss Yorke” to whom he supplied crayon papers for 3s. on 11.IV.1748, a fortnight before her marriage to the admiral whose engraved portrait brought wide recognition to Pond), although she may also have been inspired by the “French painter, lately here” (perhaps Perronneau, *q.v.*) whose pastel of her was in her brother’s collection in 1761 – too late to be the source of the enamel of her by Rouquet, although perhaps copied by Penelope Carwardine in a lost miniature. Lady Anson died of a very sudden illness; a letter from Lord Anson of 31.V.1760 implies that she was at the Admiralty in London; she died the following day, and was buried at Colwich three weeks later.

Walpole also mentions that “Lady Anson, eldest daughter of Philip earl of Hardwicke, painted remarkably well in crayons.” According to the description of Wimpole given by Harris 1847, amongst the extensive collections of old master paintings, “in one of the apartments is a collection of exquisite drawings in crayon by Lady Anson, from different pictures by the old masters.” There are several versions of her portrait by Thomas Hudson, two showing her holding drawings: one (location unknown) is a chalk drawing after Poussin’s *Shepherds*, while the other (at Shugborough) has a coloured chalk copy of Carlo Dolci’s *Dante*, also partly rolled, presumably her own work.

Bibliography

Cockayne 1959; George Harris, *The life of Lord Chancellor Hardwicke*, 1847, p. 468; Walpole 1928; Walpole, *Anecdotes*, 1937, v, p. 230; Philip C. Yorke, *The life and correspondence of Philip Yorke, Earl of Hardwicke*, 1913, II, p. 593ff; Lucas papers, Bedfordshire Record Office

Pastels

J.1078.101 Rubens’s daughter [?Clara Serena RUBENS (1611–1623)], crayons (Lord Royston, St James’s Square, London, 1761). Lit.: Walpole 1928, p. 40 n.r. [?A/r pnt., c.1616 (Vaduz, Fürst von Liechtenstein)]

J.1078.102 Various copies a/r old masters (Wimpole 1847)

J.1078.103 Drawing in crayons (desc.: Reginald Pole Carew, drawing room in New Cavendish Street; legs 1833: his daughter Mrs Thomas Somers Cocks, née Agneta Pole Carew (1791–1836))