

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

BARRET, George

Dublin 1728/32 – London 1784

Landscape artist who worked in various media, including occasionally pastel. The son of a clothier, he was apprenticed to a stay-maker before becoming a pupil of Robert West by 1747, when he won a prize and (according to Crookshank & Glin 1994) was, among West's pupils, "by far the finest draughtsman in both black and white, in watercolour and in gouache", although they thought he did not use pastel. Records of his landscapes in gouache are apt to have been misdescribed, although a couple of surviving examples do seem to be in pastel. He was taken up by Edmund Burke, who encouraged him to draw from nature. He moved to London in 1762. His landscapes were made popular through engravings. They were not received with unanimous praise: Walpole's annotations of various exhibits include "some merit" (1767), "well" (1768) and "this whole set of pictures was the Worst that had been exhibited" (1764). In contrast, in a letter from London by Jean-Claude Pingeron in the *Journal d'agriculture* for .iv.1768, p. 84, he and Wilson (*q.v.*) were named as the two best landscape painters.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Crookshank & Glin 1978; Crookshank & Glin 1994; Edwards 1808; Figgis 2014; Strickland 1913

Pastels

J.1282.101 Cattle in a wooded landscape, ?Powerscourt, pstl/ppr, 40.4x58.5 (London, Sotheby's, 1.iv.1993; London, Christie's, 20.v.1999, Lot 143 repr., est. £3–5000, £3000 [=£3450]) φ



J.1282.103 River landscape with three fawns, pstl/ppr, 35.5x52 (Dublin, De Veres, 22.vi.1999, Lot 92 repr., est. Ir£1500–2500, Ir£2700) φ

