

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

BEDFORD, Duchess of, née Lady Gertrude Leveson-Gower

Staffordshire 1715 – Chenies 1794

The Knole pastel copy of Chardin's *Jeune dessinateur taillant son crayon* (v. Chardin) was traditionally attributed to a Duchess of Bedford, presumably Gertrude, second wife of the 4th Duke and Duchess of Bedford from 1737 on. Carritt (1974) argued that this is a confusion between the pastellist John Russell and his homonym, but in a letter to her husband in Paris in 1748, Lady Anson (*q.v.*) asks him to buy crayons for the Duchess of Bedford. Walpole noted a “bad” pastel by Gertrude, Duchess of Bedford during one of his visits to country seats. She was described as “extremely stingy and avaricious”.

Bibliography

Cockayne 1959; Walpole 1928, p. 37

Pastels

J.1378.101 A bad drawing in crayons (Lord Essex, Cassiobury, 1761)