

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

BOULTON, Matthew Robinson

Soho, Birmingham 8.VIII.1770 – West
Bromwich 16.V.1842

Matthew Robinson Boulton was the son of the eminent scientist and engineer, Matthew Boulton, who was very familiar with the medium of pastel: as early as 1771, he was engaged by Erasmus Darwin (*q.n.*) to provide him with crayons; several years later he commissioned a portrait of his son from Liotard, and the boy's education in France included drawing lessons with "large heads in Crayons" (letter to his father, 20.III.1787). In 1800 he became a partner of James Watt, Jr (who had been similarly educated, and made ornamental drawings) taking over the Soho foundry established by their fathers. Said to be "an example of how a great talent, judiciously directed, can amass a great fortune", he left some £1.5 million at his death.

Bibliography

A. E. Musson & Eric Robinson, *Science and technology in the industrial revolution*, Manchester, 1969, p. 208, citing letter