

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

COLLINS, William

Shenstone bpt 17.IV.1750 – Greenwich
27.IV.1819

The W. Collins who exhibited pastel portraits at the Society of Artists as an amateur is presumably to be identified with the “William Collins” whose self-portrait, with that of his wife, appeared at auction in 2009. According to his obituary in the *Gentleman's magazine*, he was an artist “of no mean skill, and although he merely pursued the art as a recreation, his crayon portraits are striking specimens of bold outline, rich colouring and strong resemblance”. He had in fact registered as a painter at the Royal Academy schools on 14.x.1785, aged 31 [sic]. He was also an inventor and philanthropist. The son of William Collins (1714–1769) of Shenstone and Mary, née Smith, he owned land at Frolesworth in Leicestershire (inherited through his mother from John Smith, Baron of the Exchequer) and Maze Hill, Greenwich.

Bibliography

Gentleman's magazine, LXXXIX, 1819, pp. 582–83;
Myrone 2022; Waterhouse 1981

Pastels

J.2332.101 SELF-PORTRAIT; & pendant: J.2332.102
spouse (∞ c.1775), née Sarah Astill (1753–
1822), of Birmingham, pstl, 66x53, restored W.
Heath Robinson 1933 (Aylsham, Keys,
9.X.2009, Lot 312 repr., est. £200–300) φ



J.2332.105 Gentleman, pstl, Society of Artists
1791, no. 48

J.2332.106 Lady, pstl, Society of Artists 1791, no.
49