

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

COOK, Henry

c.1642 – London 1700

The “Mr Cook” in the Graham sale catalogue must be the decorative painter and restorer Henry Cook or Cooke who, at the introduction of Luttrell, decorated the house of Sir Godfrey Copley (*q.v.*). Following a brawl in which he killed a man, he spent some seven years in Italy. On his return he was engaged by William III (c.1697) to restore the Raphael cartoons, which he did with Parry Walton, surveyor of the paintings. He is known to have made copies of the cartoons in a technique (perhaps confused with crayons in the Graham catalogue) described by Buckeridge, according to whom Cook–

WAS an *English* gentleman, and History-Painter, who had his Education here, and some part of it in the University of *Cambridge*. He was a Person of good Reading, Judgement and Experience; and after he had Travelled some years in Italy, and been an assiduous Copyer of the best Masters, became not only a great Critick in Painting, but also a good Performer, as appears by many Publick Pieces of his, viz. the Altar-Piece at *New-College Chapel* in *Oxford*; what he has done at *Chelsea-College*, at *Hampton-Court*, and on many Cielings and Stair-Cases of this Town and Kingdom. His excellent Collection of pictures, sold at his death, speak his Relish, wherein were many fine copies of the *Cartoons* of *Raphael*, and after most of the best Masters, perform'd by himself. His Copies after the *Cartoons* are particularly remarkable, being drawn in *Turpentine Oil*, after the manner of *Distemper*, of which he is said to have been the Inventor. He died in London the 18th of November 1700, Aged near 58, and lies buried in *St Giles's* church.

Bibliography

Buckridge 1704, pp. 408f; Oxford DNB

Pastels

J.2366.101 An excellent copy after Raphael's Boys, crayons (Richard Graham; London, Thomas Pelletier, 6.III.1712, Lot 49, £2/6/-; Wharton)