

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

COWDEN, William

fl. England a.1762; – London 1784

William Cowden was steward to the Earl Harcourt. A sea-piece by Cowden was to be found, together with a small landscape by Lord Harcourt, in the drawing room at Frogmore; when Harcourt was the Queen's Master of the Horse, Cowden was clerk of the stables from at least 1770. If the sitter is correctly identified, the profile is posthumous. It appears that William Cowden Sr and his son of the same name held the same position; the father died in 1784, leaving a widow, née Elizabeth Redfern, who died in 1803 intestate. The son, who was born in 1763, succeeded his father as clerk of the stables, a position he held until at least 1819. Pictures from his collection were sold at Christie's, 9–10.V.1834.

Pastels

J.245.101 Countess HARCOURT, née Rebecca [Le Bass (–1765)], pstl/ppr, 28x21.5 ov., sd → “W. Cowden, delint 1779” (Ernest Renton; Émile Gross; Xavier Haas, New York, Anderson, 13–14.I.1927, Lot 51 repr., \$30). Exh.: British drawings, 1920 [location n/k], no. 14 φ

