

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

DUNKARTON, Robert

London 1744–1815

The important mezzotint engraver was a pupil of Pether (*q.n.*). He won the Society of Arts's third prize (three guineas) for "drawings of human figures in groupes" in 1763 and then worked for a short period as a portraitist in pastel before he commenced his career as an engraver. He exhibited some twenty pastels at the Society of Artists from 1768 to 1771 and the Royal Academy between 1774 and 1779 from the Strand. Among his engravings was one piece after a pastel by Russell (Joss, 1770).

Although his biographical details and date of death are omitted from the standard reference works, his will (leaving everything to his wife, Mary, with the wish that she in turn left his fortune to their son William Robert Dunkarton (c.1775–1845)), made in 1801, was given probate on 2.II.1815 (parish of St Martin, London Metropolitan Archives). Mary Dunkarton was recorded at 452 Strand as a milliner or haberdasher between 1781 and 1809, taking numerous apprentices. Dunkarton himself had applied for letters of administration for the estate of his father (valued under £100), also Robert Dunkarton, in 1798; he was no doubt the Robert Dunkarton (1724–1797), a watchmaker admitted to the Brethren of the Charterhouse in 1780. (We know his profession from the theft of twelve newly made watches from his apartment in 1785: Sutton's Hospital, Charterhouse, G/2/8, p. 216.)

Bibliography

Bénézit; Exeter working papers in book history, online; Oxford DNB; Saur; Sée 1911; Waterhouse 1981

Pastels

J.2888.101 John HENDERSON (1747–1785), actor, as Hamlet, pstl, 45x41 ov., sd ✓ "R. Dunkarton/pinx 1776", Royal Academy 1776, no. 91, "a gentleman in the character of Hamlet" (London, NPG 1919. Glyn family; Christie's, 17.III.1877, Lot 4; John Heugh; London, Christie's, 10.V.1878, Lot 72, 9½ gns; Edmond Robert Wodehouse (1835–1914), 1893; Mrs Wodehouse, [née Adela Harriet Sophia Bagot (1854–1921)] of 56 Chester Square, London; sale p.m., London, Christie's, 14.X.1921, Lot 224, 8 gns; Taylor. Ernest E. Leggatt; don p.1923). Exh.: London 1975, no. 38. Lit.: Ingamells 2004, p. 253 repr., as don 1919 ☐



Photo courtesy National Portrait Gallery, London

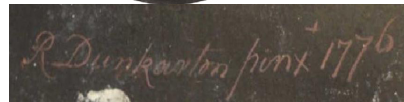
J.2888.104 ?John HENDERSON, in a grey coat, pstl, pencil/ppr, 26.5x21.5 ov. sd "R. Dunkarton/pinx 1773" (London, Sotheby's, 10.VII.1986, Lot 44 repr., est. £1200–1800; London, Sotheby's, 16.XI.1989, Lot 30 n.r.) ☐



J.2888.106 ?Mr MCCARTHY, in a red waistcoat, pstl, 21x17.5 ov., inscr. *verso* "R. Dunkarton/pinx/Au Hon/Mr McCarthy/bought in Dublin/1892/L. Loo/z 1225" (Mme Carven. Paris, Tajan, 19.XII.2001, Lot 143 n.r., vers 1790, est. fr6–8000)

J.2888.107 Gentleman, crayons, Royal Academy 1776, no. 92

J.2888.1071 Man in a red fur-trimmed mantle, pstl/ppr, 25.4x20 ov., sd → "R. Dunkarton pinx' 1776" (Larchmont, New York, Clarke Auction Gallery, 9.VII.2017, Lot 0013 repr., est. \$400–600) ☐



J.2888.108 Three portraits of gentlemen, crayons, Royal Academy 1778, no. 94

J.2888.109 Lady, pstl, Society of Artists 1768, no. 53

J.2888.11 Lady in the character of Comedy, crayons, Royal Academy 1776, no. 90

J.2888.111 Young lady, crayons, Royal Academy 1776, no. 93

J.2888.112 Lady, crayons, Royal Academy 1779, no. 80

J.2888.113 Lady in a blue dress with a child playing with a dog in a landscape, pstl, 68.5x46 ([Mrs Bowring-Hanbury] London, Puttick & Simpson, 31.V.1932, Lot 7 n.r.) ☐



J.2888.115 Gentleman; & pendant: J.2888.116 lady, pstl/ppr, 25.5x19.5 (London, Bonhams Chelsea, 20.III.2001, Lot 380 n.r./repr., est. £600–800, b/i; London, Bonhams Chelsea, 22.V.2001, Lot 526 n.r./repr., est. £300–400, £280) ☐



J.2888.118 Seven portraits, crayons, Royal Academy 1774, no. 69

J.2888.119 Four small portraits, crayons, Royal Academy 1775, no. 105

J.2888.12 Small whole length, crayons, Royal Academy 1775, no. 106