

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

ISABEL de Farnesio [Elisabetta], Reina de España, née Isabella Farnese

Parma 1692 – Aranjuez 1766

The Spanish queen, herself the subject of a pastel by Carriera, was an important patron and collector, as well as being an amateur painter and draughtsman. She practised pastel portraiture to a modest level of competence. A portrait of her husband was executed in 1721, the year in which two pastels were made by her step-son Luis (*q.v.*); the similarity in technique suggests they may have worked under the same teacher, but Isabella was more persistent. Twiss noted of her works that “their chief merit consists in being painted by a queen”, while Gabburri more sympathetically notes that she made pastels “per suo virtuoso diporto e per sollievo delle cure del regno nel 1739”. She was admitted to the Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando in Madrid.

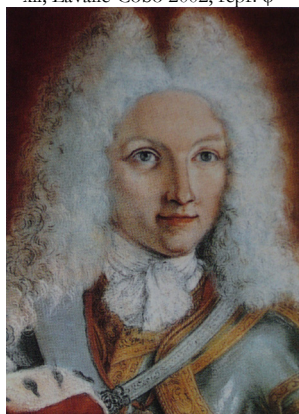


Bibliography

Elizabeth Armstrong, *Elizabeth Farnese, the termagant of Spain*, London, 1892; Fernández 1977; Gabburri, *Vite di pittori*, p. 809-II-C156R; Greer 2001; Lavallo-Cobo 2002; Saur, *s.v.* Isabella von Parma; Twiss 1775, p. 91

Pastels

- J.4146.101 CARLOS de Borbón, pstl (Riofrio, Palacio Real). Lit.: Marqués de Lozoya, *Guía de los palacios de La Granja y Riofrio*, Madrid, 1967, p. 107 attr.; Urrea Fernández 1977, n.r.
- J.4146.102 FELIPE V, rey de España (1683–1746), pstl, sd “Elisabeth fecit 1721” (La Granja, Palacio Real). Lit.: Urrea Fernández 1977, pl. xii; Lavallo-Cobo 2002, repr. ϕ



- J.4146.104 Testa di S. Caterina, pstl, 30x24 (Cardinale Silvio Valenti Gonzaga, Rome, inv. 1756, no. 130). Lit.: Pietrangeli 1961
- J.4146.105 Dix têtes de saintes, pstl (Segovia, Palacio de Riofrio). Lit.: Urrea Fernández 1977, n.r.
- J.4146.106 Huit têtes de femmes, pstl, 37x29, 1723 (La Granja, Palacio Real). Lit.: Urrea Fernández 1977, one repr. pl. xii ϕ