

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

FARINGTON, Joseph

Leigh 21.XI.1747 – Manchester 30.XII.1821

Farington, who was the son of a clergyman, was trained by Richard Wilson. After winning premiums at the Society of Artists for landscape drawings, he was admitted to the Royal Academy schools on 17.III.1769 (his name appears as Farrington in the register, but as Farington in the council minutes). He was an indifferent landscape painter and meticulous topographical draughtsman whose interest to art historians lies in his extensive diaries. It would seem however that he may have made some pastels at the beginning of his career, since an annotation by Horace Walpole in the Lewis Walpole Library copy of his 1774 *Description of the villa...at Strawberry-hill* (repr. New Haven 2009, p. 19) notes the addition of “these two heads in crayons...copied by Mr Farrington in 1774 from the originals by Sir Peter Lely at Narford in Norfolk the seat of the late Sir Andrew Fountaine”. What appear to be names of the two sitters and the observation “accounts of them in the Memoires de Grammont” are crossed out. In the 1784 edition, Walpole describes them as in chalks rather than crayons, and they appear in 1842 sale catalogue as drawings. Harding engraved Lady Chesterfield for Walpole’s translation of Gramont’s memoirs.

Bibliography

Alexander 2021; Bénézit; Oxford DNB; Saumarez Smith 2012, p. 133

Pastels

- J.3076.101 Countess of CHESTERFIELD, née Lady Elizabeth Butler (1640–1665), m/u, a/r Lely (Horace Walpole, 4th Earl of Orford, p.1774; desc.: Earl Waldgrave; Strawberry Hill, George Robins, 25.IV.1842 & seq., 19.V.1842, no. 124 n.r.). Lit.: Walpole 1784, p. 420 n.r.
- J.3076.102 Lady SOUTHESK, née Lady Anne Hamilton (–1695), m/u, a/r Lely (Horace Walpole, 4th Earl of Orford, p.1774; desc.: Earl Waldgrave; Strawberry Hill, George Robins, 25.IV.1842 & seq., 19.V.1842, no. 123 n.r.). Lit.: Walpole 1784, p. 420 n.r.