

# Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

## **HIRD, William**

Leeds 1724–1782

In 1772, Walpole saw at Dr Hurd's, a physician at Leeds, a few fine pictures, among them a head of Rosalba, in crayons by herself, and "The Doctor's own head d<sup>o</sup> by himself". The ditto implies that this too was a pastel. Hird was a Quaker, the son of William Hird of Woodhouse and his wife, née Sarah Horner, daughter of a prominent wool merchant in Leeds. He graduated from Edinburgh in 1751. He married the widow of Abraham Tilley in 1773. He was senior physician at Leeds Infirmary, where, in 1777, he faced an examination by the Weekly Board for an accusation of neglecting his patients. On the death of his uncle, the celebrated botanist and physician Dr John Fothergill (1712–1780), he moved to London to take up his practice, but he returned to Leeds almost immediately. According to Nichols, he was "very successful as an Amateur Artist".

### **Bibliography**

John Nichols, *Illustrations of the literary history...*, London, 1818, III, p. 352; Walpole 1928, p. 74; *London medical journal*, 1783, III/1, p. 325

### **Pastels**

J.3932.101 SELF-PORTRAIT, pstl (Hird 1772)