

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

HOSKINS, John, Sr

Wells c.1590 – London 22.II.1665

There appear to have been two miniaturists of this name; the elder was Samuel Cooper's uncle. De Piles (*The art of painting*, 1706) refers to Hoskins as "a very eminent limner in the reign of King Charles I, whom he drew with his Queen, and most of the court. He was bred a face painter in oil but afterwards taking to miniature he far exceeded what he did before." A pastel ("in cryons") of him by Cooper was noted by Vertue. Whether Hoskins himself worked in pastel or coloured chalk is less clear, and the basis on which the drawing of a woman is assigned to him is uncertain.

A passage in John Aubrey's life of Robert Hooke (1635–1703) describes the scientist, as a boy, grinding up chalk, red ochre and coal to imitate "John Hoskyns, the painter"; but the passage might describe an attempt to make watercolours as well as pastels.

Hoskins's son, also John, was also an artist (*q.v.*).

Bibliography

Foskett 1987; Hofstetter 2008; Oxford DNB

Drawings

J.4046.101 ?HENRIETTA MARIA, plumbago, crayons/ppr, 21.5x18 (Francis Wellesley, cat. no. 349; London, Sotheby's, 28.VI.1920, Lot 458 repr.) φ

