

# Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastelists before 1800*

## Online edition

### HEALY, Robert

Dublin 1743–.VII.1771

Also Haly or Hayley. The family background is uncertain, but his father may have been an architect specialising in garden buildings and theatres. He was a pupil of West at the Dublin Society school, where on 26.X.1758 he was placed in the third class in the annual premiums for drawings by under-16-year-olds; on 8.XI.1759 he came first. He appears to have worked almost exclusively in grisaille, a medium popular in the Society school and used also by both Hamilton and Hickey. Healy's small whole-length or conversation pieces look "like fine proof prints of the most capital mezzotint engravings" (Pasquin 1796c, p. 18); his heads also show the influence of Frye with their delicate handling of light and texture. Whether these works are technically in pastel, in charcoal or in black and white chalk is difficult to determine; the Dublin exhibition catalogues have them as in chalk rather than crayon, but many later sources describe them as pastel. Those we have examined appear to use black chalk and stump together with some form of preparation or wash of grey, brown or pinkish hue, with white chalk highlights. Abrupt shadows, for example at the tips of noses, appear to be characteristic.

Healy's working career was short, lasting only from c.1765, when he was a student, to his early death supposedly caused by a cold caught while sketching in Lord Mornington's park (the *Dublin chronicle* for 8–10.VIII.1771 reported the death of "Robert Healy, Limner; a young gentleman of such uncommon taste and abilities in his profession, that the loss cannot be too much lamented by all the lovers of painting"). At that point his brother William (*q.v.*) appears to have taken over, producing copies and further works in monochrome pastel which it is very difficult to distinguish from Robert's (they are also similar to Forrest, *q.v.*). The nine pastels commissioned by the Conolly family for Castletown represent nearly half the artist's known œuvre. Lady Louisa Conolly described the commission in a letter of 29.II.1768 to her sister, Lady Sarah Napier: "there is a man in the house, who draws very good likenesses in black and white chalk, we have made him draw some of the company which is good entertainment this bad day." Five payments totalling £171/11/9 were made between 6.II.1768 and 16.XI.1769.

#### Bibliography

Breeze 1985; Crookshank 1969; Crookshank & Glin 1978; Crookshank & Glin 1994; *Dictionary of Irish biography*; Dublin 1969; Figgis 2014; Grove 1996; Guinness 1982; McGuire 1939, p. 15; O'Keeffe 1826; Pasquin 1796c; Strickland 1913

#### Pastels and chalk drawings

J.3824.101 SELF-PORTRAIT leaning on a bust of Venus, black, white chl/p, 58x44.5, sd "R. Healy Delin. 1766" (Dublin, NGI, inv. 2146. Rev. M. Healey, Clontarf; don 1878). Exh.: Dublin 1969, no. 74 repr. Lit.: Le Harivel 1983, repr. φ



J.3824.103 SELF-PORTRAIT, black, white chl/p, 57.5x42, sd "R. Healy 1765" (Dublin, NGI, inv. 2438. P. Walsh & Son, Dublin; acqu. 1901). Lit.: Le Harivel 1983, repr. φ



J.3824.105 Countess of CLANCARTY, née Anne Gardiner (1746–1829), standing in a landscape, chl/p, 58x42 (sitter's daughter, Lady Elizabeth Trench; desc. McClintock family of Fellows Hall, Co. Armagh; desc.: Irwin family; Dublin, HOK, 8.XI.1999, Lot 114 repr., est. Ir£15–20,000, Ir£32,000) φ



~cop., v. William Healy

Members of the CONOLLY family at Castletown, nine scenes, grisaille pstl (Castletown, desc.: Lord Carew; Desmond Fitzgerald; London, Christie's, 15.VII.1983, Lots 10–18). Exh.: Dublin 1969, no. 76. Lit.: Strickland 1913, I, p. 466; Crookshank & Glin 1978, p. 73; Crookshank 1979, p. 21, pl. 15; Guinness 1982, pp. 80–85, no. 240, pl. 9–11:

J.3824.109 ~Duke of Leinster with William, Marquess of Kildare and his tutor Mr A. Bolle,

skating, grisaille pstl (London, 15.VII.1983, Lot 18 repr., £51,840). Lit.: Crookshank 1969, p. 241, fig. 10; Crookshank & Glin 1978, p. 73, fig. 60; Guinness 1982, pp. 84f φ



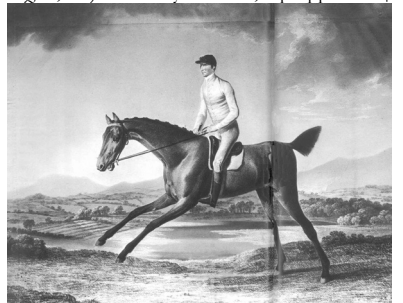
J.3824.111 ~Lady Louisa Conolly with her gamekeeper, grisaille pstl, sd ✓ "R. Healy delin. 1768" (London, 15.VII.1983, Lot 17 repr., £41,040). Lit.: Guinness 1982, pl. 6; Tillyard 1999, repr. pp. 154f φ



J.3824.113 ~Lady Louisa Conolly with groom, horse and dog Hibou, grisaille pstl (London, 15.VII.1983, Lot 15 repr., £25,920). Lit.: Crookshank & Glin 1994, fig. 71; Tillyard 1999, repr. pp. 158f; Pakenham 2000, p. 131 repr. φ



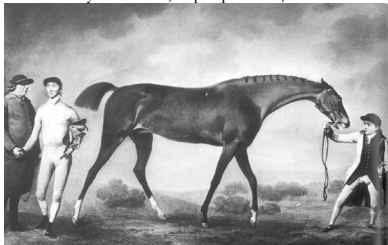
J.3824.115 ~Tom Conolly riding, grisaille pstl, 54x74.3 (London, 15.VII.1983, Lot 12 repr., £17,280). Lit.: Tillyard 1999, repr. pp. 160f φ



J.3824.117 ~Tom Conolly riding, grisaille pstl, 54x74.3 (London, 15.VII.1983, Lot 11 repr., £15,120). Lit.: Tillyard 1999, repr. pp. 166f; Pakenham 2000, p. 131 repr. (reverse) φ



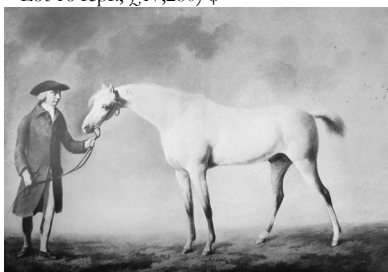
J.3824.119 ~Tom Conolly with trainer, horse and groom, grisaille pstl, 54x74.3, sd 1768 (London, 15.VII.1983, Lot 14 repr., £25,920). Lit.: Tillyard 1999, repr. p. 162 φ



J.3824.121 ~Groom, Grimy Patterson, bridling a horse, grisaille pstl, 54x74.3 (London, 15.VII.1983, Lot 13 repr., £32,400). Lit.: Tillyard 1999, repr. p. 163 φ



J.3824.123 ~Grey stallion held by a trainer, grisaille pstl, 54x74.3, sd 1768 (London, 15.VII.1983, Lot 16 repr., £17,280) φ



J.3824.125 ~The Castletown Hunt, grisaille pstl, 50.8x134.6, sd "R. Healy Delin 1768" (New Haven, Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection, inv. B2001.2.880. Castletown; Desmond Fitzgerald; London, Christie's, 15.VII.1983, Lot 10; John Baskett; acqu. Paul Mellon 1983). Exh.: Dublin 1969, no. 76 repr.; New Haven 2007, no. 50 repr.; Chicago 2015, no. 56, repr. p. 149. Lit.: Crookshank & Glin 1978, p. 73, fig. 59; Crookshank & Glin 1994, fig. 72; Tillyard 1999, repr. p. 164f; Pakenham 2000, p. 130 repr. φ



J.3824.127 [J.3824.133] Mrs John CRADOCK, née Mary Blaydwin (c.1730–1819), wife of the Archbishop of Dublin, bl., white chlk/ppr, 61x43.2, s. 4, inscr. verso "Mrs Cradock mother of Sir John Cradock afterwaeds Lord Howden, who died 1839. Mrs Cradock died about 1810", "drawn by Healy" (Major John H. de Burgh 1969. PC Oldtown, Naas; Castlecomer, Fonsie Mealy, 27–28.IX.2022, Lot 681 repr., est. €8–10,000). Exh.: Dublin 1969, no. 77 repr., as of Mrs Cradock. Lit.: Dublin 1969, p. 57 n.r.; Crookshank & Glin 1994, fig. 70, as of Mrs Gardner φ

who died 1839. Mrs Cradock died about 1810", "drawn by Healy" (Major John H. de Burgh 1969. PC Oldtown, Naas; Castlecomer, Fonsie Mealy, 27–28.IX.2022, Lot 681 repr., est. €8–10,000). Exh.: Dublin 1969, no. 77 repr., as of Mrs Cradock. Lit.: Dublin 1969, p. 57 n.r.; Crookshank & Glin 1994, fig. 70, as of Mrs Gardner φ



~pendant, Mrs Gardiner, q.v.

J.3824.128 Miss CUNNINGHAM, holding her King Charles spaniel, monochrome pstl or bl. chlk, gch., 58.4x42.5, sd 1770 "R. Healy.1770" (Chicago, Art Institute, inv. 2009.682. Glin Castle; London, Christie's, 7.V.2009, Lot 118 repr., est. £12–18,000, £18,750; Lowell Libson). Exh.: London 1972, no. 95, pl. XXXV; Chicago 2015, no. 57, repr. p. 146. Lit.: Crookshank & Glin 1978, p. 76, pl. 61; Crookshank & Glin 1994, pp. 62f φ



J.3824.131 Mary DONKIN, charcoal, chlk/ppr, 45.7x38.1, sd 1767 (London, Sotheby's, 21.XI.1984, Lot 54, £5500)

J.3824.1315 Mrs FRAMPTON, charcoal, chlk/ppr, 45.7x38.1, sd 1766 (London, Sotheby's, 21.XI.1984, Lot 53, £9500)

J.3824.127 Mrs John CRADOCK, née Mary Blaydwin (c.1730–1819), wife of the Archbishop of Dublin, bl., white chlk/ppr, 61x43.2, s. 4, inscr. verso "Mrs Cradock mother of Sir John Cradock afterwaeds Lord Howden, who died 1839. Mrs Cradock died about 1810", "drawn by Healy" (Major John H. de Burgh 1969. PC Oldtown, Naas; Castlecomer, Fonsie Mealy, 27–28.IX.2022, Lot 681 repr., est. €8–10,000). Exh.: Dublin 1969, no. 77 repr., as of Mrs Cradock. Lit.: Dublin 1969, p. 57 n.r.; Crookshank & Glin 1994, fig. 70, as of Mrs Gardner φ



~pendant: Mrs Cradock

J.3824.136 Florinda GARDINER and her nurse, pstl (PC 2001). Lit.: Paul Caffrey, note in Dublin, 30.V.2001 sale catalogue

J.3824.137 William HEALY, the artist's brother, black, white chlk/ppr, 49x43.3 ov., sd "R. Healy 1767" (Dublin, NGI, inv. 2147. Don Rev. M. Healy 1878). Lit.: Le Harivel 1983, repr. φ



J.3824.139 Sir Carlton LEIGHTON, 4<sup>th</sup> Bt (1715–1784), of Loton Park, Shropshire, black, white, cr. clr, 48.9x40.6 ov., sd 1766 "Rt Healy.1766" (Desc.; London, Sotheby's, 15.VII.1999, Lot 123 repr., est. £3–4000, £5000; London, Christie's, 15.V.2003, Lot 19 repr., est. £3–5000; London, Christie's, 14.V.2004, Lot 115 repr., est. £2–3000, b/i; London, Christie's South Kensington, 23.III.2005, Lot 86 repr., est. £400–600, £2800; Gorry Gallery, exh. 1–15.III.2006, no. 23 repr.) φ



Photo courtesy Sotheby's

J.3824.142 Countess of MORNINGTON, née Anne Hill (1742–1831), feeding her peacocks in Dangan Park, grisaille pstl or bl., white chlk, 58.5x44.4 ov., sd "R. Healy pinxit 1760" (Stratfield Saye, Duke of Wellington. The sitter's daughter, Lady Anne Culling-Smith; the Duchess of Beaufort; Lord Ormsthwaite; Lord Gerald Wellesley). Exh.: Dublin 1969, no. 73 repr. Lit.: Elizabeth Longford, *Wellington: the years of the sword*, London, 1969, pl. 1 detail; Ingamells 2004, p. 349 n.r. φ





J.3824.144 Countess of MORNINGTON, née Anne Hill, half-length, black, white chlk, c.1760 (Stratfield Saye). Lit.: Ingamells 2004, p. 349 n.r.



J.3824.145 Richard Boyle TOWNSEND (1756–1827), of Castle Townshend, High Sheriff of Co. Cork 1785, MP, bl., white chlk/ppr, 63.5x48.3 ov., sd “R. Healy delint 1770” (Brigadier D. H. S. Somerville 1969; London, Christie’s, 16.III.1984, Lot 29, £7000). Exh.: Dublin 1969, no. 75 n.r.

J.3824.146 A lady, black, white chlk/ppr, 52.3x43.3, sd “R. Healy 1767” (Dublin, NGI, inv. 3293. Acqu. Mr G. L. McCormack 1955). Lit.: Le Harivel 1983, repr. ø



J.3824.148 Lady, seated in a drawing room, with embroidery, chlk, gch., sd 1769 (Col. the Lord Langford, Bodrhyddan). Lit.: Steegman 1957, p. 147 n.r.

J.3824.149 Lady, seated in a drawing room, with book, chlk, gch., sd 1769 (Col. the Lord Langford, Bodrhyddan). Lit.: Steegman 1957, p. 147 n.r.

J.3824.15 A lady, black, white chlk/ppr, 52x43 (Dublin, NGI, inv. 3294. Acqu. Mr G. L. McCormack 1955). Lit.: Le Harivel 1983, repr. ø



J.3824.152 A lady, black, white chlk/ppr, 29.3x19.8 (London, Christie’s, 10.V.2007, Lot 7 repr., est. £6–10,000, b/i). Lit.: Crookshank & Glin 1994, fig. 69 øσ