

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

JOHNSTON, John

Boston 1753–1818

Portraitist of American Revolutionary figures; worked in oil and pastel. Born into a family of artists, his father was Thomas Johnston (*q.v.*). John Johnston's career as a painter was interrupted during the American revolution: he joined an artillery regiment in .IV.1775, and the following year was commissioned as a captain-lieutenant under General Knox. He was wounded and captured by the British in .VIII.1776, but released and discharged the following year, when he returned to Boston and resumed painting. He was a founding member of the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Bolton 1923; Bettina A. Norton, private communication, 2015

Pastels

J.4202.101 SELF-PORTRAIT, pstl, sd "J Johnston P. Aeta. 30" [1783] (Boston, Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati. Desc.: Parker Soren; don). Exh.: Washington 1997, p. 26 repr. Lit.: Dunlap, *History*, 1918, repr.; Bolton 1923, p. 42 n.r. φ



J.4202.103 Col. Samuel FLAGG, pstl, 49.5x40, c.1775 (Mrs Richard Ward Greene, Worcester, Massachusetts, 1923; dep.: Worcester Art Museum 1995). Lit.: Bolton 1923, p. 42, repr. opp. p. 2; Norton 1995, as by Blyth φ



J.4202.105 Caleb PRENTISS (1745–1803), minister in Reading; & pendant: J.4202.106 spouse, née Pamela Mellen (1750–1823), pstl/ppr, 56.5x47 (desc.: PC New York) φ



J.4202.109 Jerusha Minot ROBINSON (1734–?1817), pstl/ppr, 59x43.8, c.1780 (Sturbridge, Old Sturbridge Village, 20.9.3. Acqu. 1952)