

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

JOHNSTON, Thomas

Boston 1708–1767

Also Johnson. A portrait said to be of Dudley Atkins (a Harvard graduate, father of Dudley Atkins Tyng) was described as a watercolour, by “Johnson”, on its presentation to the Society in 1879 (although omitted by Oliver & al. 1988).. The Thomas Johnston to whom it is attributed in the Smithsonian database is credited also with a topographical watercolour of 1826, but it has also been suggested that the author is Thomas Johnston or Johnson recorded in Boston. He was an engraver, decorator and organ builder, responsible for the new organ at St Peter’s, Salem. His shop in Boston supplied artists’ materials. His sons John (*q.v.*) and William Johnston were artists. But the pastel itself appears to be far later (p.1800), and may be by Gerrit Schipper.

Bibliography

Bettina A. Norton, private communications, 2015