KECK, Susan Tracy-, Lady Elcho

Twickenham 1746 – London 1835

Susan Keck is not to be confused with her mother, Lady Susan Keck, daughter of the 4th Duke of Hamilton and a noted Whig political activist. Lady Susan married Anthony Tracy, a racehorse breeder and owner of Richmond House in Twickenham; he adopted the name Keck on inheriting the manor of Great Tew, Oxfordshire. Probably as a result of the influence at court of her aunt Lady Charlotte Edwin, Susan Keck was appointed Maid of Honour to the Princess Dowager of Wales. She sent a crayon portrait to the Royal Academy in 1771 as an honorary exhibitor; she also exhibited anonymously in 1769; the artist and her subjects (both cousins of the artist, once removed) were identified by Walpole. She seems to have given up art on her marriage in 1771 to Francis Charteris, Lord Elcho, whose portrait, and that of his son, were made in pastel by Archibald Skirving (*q.v.*). Lord Elcho was heir to the attainted title of Earl of Wemyss by which the son styled himself after the death of his grandfather. A mythologised portrait, said to be after a picture by Vanderbank, is identified as hers by an inscription on the back.

Bibliography

Gentleman's magazine, .VI.1835, p. 666; Graves 1905; Greer 2001; Sée 1911; Waterhouse 1981

GENEALOGY Keck

Pastels

J.4272.101 Lady Elizabeth Hamilton, later Countess of DERBY (1753–1797), crayons, Royal Academy 1769, no. 130

J.4272.102 Douglas, 8th Duke of HAMILTON (1756–1799), crayons, Royal Academy 1771, no. 243

J.4272.103 Lady as Berenice, pstl, 61x49.5, inscr. *verso* "painted by Susan, wife of Lord Elcho" (PC 2012). A/r Vanderbank [?] φ