

# Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

## Online edition

### LAWRANSON, William

London 1742–c.1783

Son of the portrait painter Thomas Lawranson (*q.v.*, also Lawrenson, Laurenson), he won prizes at the Society of Arts in 1760 and 1761. He exhibited pastels at the Society of Artists from 1765 to 1770 and at the Royal Academy (where he was admitted as a student on 14.II.1769) from 1774. His address is usually given as Great Russell Street, presumably the same as his father's. He also worked in oil and made engravings, and a number of his portraits were engraved by Jones, Pether, Dixon and Dunkarton. A print engraved surreptitiously by Dunkarton after Lawranson elicited the objections of the sitter, the actress Miss Catley, who sought half the profit from its sale for her permission (notices in *Morning chronicle*, 2.IV.1777). His subjects are often drawn from the world of art or the theatre, and his clientèle overlapped with that of Hamilton (he may have worked in Ireland in the mid 1780s).

“William Lawranson, Great Russell Street, Limner” appears in the Bank of England archives as the holder of 3% consols: he purchased £100 nominal of the stock in 1764, but seems to have disposed of it in three amounts between 1766 and 1767.

Lawranson (or his father?) was evidently considered to be among “the most eminent” pastellists when he was consulted (along with Liotard, Russell, Milbourn and Bartolozzi) by the Society of Arts in 1772 in connection with Charles Pache's pastels (minutes, 4.XII.1772, repr. in TREATISES).

#### Bibliography

Crookshank & Glin 1978; McGuire 1939, p. 15; Oxford DNB; Saumarez Smith 2012, p. 130; Sée 1911; Strickland 1913; Waterhouse 1981

#### Pastels

- J.4652.101 SELF-PORTRAIT, m/u, Society of Artists 1760, no. 32. Lit.: Hargraves 2006, p. 24, as in crayons
- J.4652.102 Mrs BADDELEY [née Sophia Snow (1745–1786), actress and singer], crayons, Society of Artists 1769, no. 83
- J.4652.103 Sarah GILLES, sister-in-law of John Hall, crayons. Lit.: Ingamells 2004, p. 225 n.r.
- J.4652.104 John HALL (1740–1797), engraver to the king, pstl/ppr gr., 59x46.5, c.1775–80 (London, NPG 3992. Sitter's son, Dr G. W. Hall, Master of Pembroke College, Oxford; desc.: sitter's great-great-granddaughter, Mrs Kenneth G. Hubbard (∞ 1976), née Margaret J. M. Grubbe (–1997) of Blythburgh; don 1956). Lit.: Ingamells 2004, p. 225, attr. based on Hall family history manuscript by W. J. Grubbe, 1900 Φ



Photo courtesy National Portrait Gallery, London

J.4652.107 Mrs HARTLEY [née Elizabeth White (1751–1824), actress], crayons, Royal Academy 1774, no. 154

J.4652.11 Mr Smith [William SMITH (1730–1819), actor] as Iachimo, in *Cymbeline*, m/u, Society of Artists 1771, no. 78

J.4652.111 Benjamin WEST (1738–1820), painter, crayons. Lit.: Ingamells 2004, p. 225 n.r. ~grav. William Pether c.1760

J.4652.113 William WOOLLETT (1735–1785), engraver, crayons. Lit.: Ingamells 2004, p. 225 n.r.

J.4652.114 Gentleman, pstl, Society of Artists 1769, nos. 84–87; 1771, no. 76; 1772, nos. 185, 186; Royal Academy 1774, nos. 155; 1775, nos. 184, 185; 1777, no. 208

J.4652.115 Head of a gentleman, crayons, Society of Artists 1766, no. 88; 1770, nos. 69–70

J.4652.116 Lady playing on the guitar, crayons, Society of Artists 1771, no. 75

J.4652.117 Lady, crayons, Society of Artists 1771, nos. 75\*, 77; 1773, no. 163

J.4652.118 Young lady, pstl/2 sheets superimposed, 25x18.5 ov. (Ernest Renton 1911; Émile Gross; Xavier Haas; New York, Anderson, 13–14.I.1927, Lot 152 repr.). Exh.: Paris 1911, no. 166 n.r., anonyme [attr.] φ



J.4652.12 Young lady, 28x25 ov. (Ernest Renton 1911; Émile Gross; Xavier Haas; New York, Anderson, 13–14.I.1927, Lot 153 repr.). Exh.: Paris 1911, no. 75. Lit.: Sée 1911, repr. p. 337 Φ



J.4652.122 Head, crayons, Society of Artists 1765, no. 72; Free Society 1764, no. 100

J.4652.123 Portrait, crayons, Society of Artists 1767, no. 89; 1768b, nos. 64, 65

J.4652.124 Child with a dog, m/u, Society of Artists 1772, no. 187