

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

LISLE, Harriet

Crux Easton, Hampshire 1717–1794

The youngest of nine sisters born, with 11 brothers, to the agricultural writer Edward Lisle of Crux Easton (c.1665–1722) and his wife, Mary Phillipps (1676–c.1750), daughter of Sir Ambrose Phillipps, Kt, of Garendon and aunt of the Ambrose Phillipps of whom Carriera made a portrait. Harriet, or Margaret as Brayley & Britton erroneously name her,

possessed great talents for painting; three of her pieces in crayons are preserved by Lord Carnarvon; two of them at High-clere House, are copies of ancient portraits of Sir Richard and Lady Kingsmill. On the trees of the grove surrounding the Grott, she painted the portraits of several of her acquaintance, in a manner which produced a singular effect, as they appeared to form parts of the trees themselves. This lady is said to have died two or three years ago, between ninety and a hundred years of age.

In fact Harriet died aged 77. The shell grotto at Crux Easton made by the nine sisters was celebrated in verses by Pope, Nicholas Herbert and Dr Thomas Lisle, rector of Burghclere, the artist's brother, and is reflected in the extraordinary shell frames that enhance the remarkable portraits of Richard Kingsmill and his wife (he was not in fact knighted). Evidently she was close to the Herbert family: in addition to the verses by Nicholas Herbert, a portrait of his nephew, the 10th Earl of Pembroke as a child, is recorded at Wilton. It is possible that she was influenced by Hoare.

Bibliography

Edward Wedlake Brayley & John Britton, *The beauties of England and Wales*, 1805, VI, p. 237; Burke, *Landed gentry*, London, 1863, II, p. 1192

Pastels

J.4926.101 Richard KINGSMILL [(c.1528–1600), of Highclere, surveyor of the Court of Wards]; & pendant: J.4926.102 spouse [?2^o 1574, née Elizabeth Woodruff (1535–1606)], pstl (Highclere House 1805). A/r ancient pnt. ø



Photos courtesy owner

J.4926.106 The late Lord Pembroke [?Henry Herbert, 10th Earl of PEMBROKE (1734–1794)], when a child in a frock, m/u (Wilton House 1795). Lit.: *Ædes Pembrochiana*, 1795, p. 120, as by Miss Lisle

