

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

MANCHESTER, Duchess of, née Lady Isabella Montagu

c.1705 – London 1786

Daughter of the 2nd Duke of Montagu, Lady Isabella married William Montagu, 2nd Duke of Manchester (1700–1739) in 1723; four years after his death, she married Edward Hussey, although, as a strange exception to normal rules, she retained the style from her first marriage. Despite her petition for a title for her second husband, he was not immediately elevated (to Baron, then Earl of Beaulieu; Cockayne 1959 adds more than normal colour to his account). Walpole recorded (*Anecdotes*, 1937, v, p. 230) that “Isabella duchess dowager of Manchester, and wife of sir Edward Hussey Montagu” ... “painted remarkably well in crayons”. Her sister, Lady Mary Montagu, Countess of Cardigan, Duchess of Montagu (*q.v.*), was also a pastellist.