

# Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

## **OFFENBERG, Heinrich Freiherr von**

?Kurland 1752 – Mitau 1827

A younger son of Heinrich Christian von Offenbergh, regent in Kurland, he was educated at Königsberg (his personal album, now in the provincial museum in Mitau, contains some verses of Juvenal contributed by Immanuel Kant 23.IX.1773). Of baronial rank, sources differ as to whether he was properly Baron Heinrich or Freiherr von Offenbergh. In accordance with family tradition, he became Oberhofmarschal to the Herzog von Kurland. He was an active freemason and a knight of the orders of St Vladimir, St Anna, the Palatine Lion palatin (1785) and the Johanniter. He was also an amateur artist and supporter of younger artists, in recognition of which he was made an honorary member of the Berlin Akademie in 1786 during a trip there (it continued into Hannover and The Netherlands, and followed one to Rome and Naples with Jakob Philipp Hackert the preceding year). Offenbergh sent a pastel copied after Angelica Kauffman to its first exhibition in 1786. Graff drew him in Dresden in 1780, and he was depicted as a draughtsman, holding a porte-crayon, in a painting by John Francis Rigaud. His archaeological and ethnographic collections (which included 41 pieces he purchased in 1779 from Johann Reinhold Forster) were bequeathed to the Kurland literature and art society. He did not marry.

### **Bibliography**

Börsch-Supan 1994; William L. Pressly, "John Francis Rigaud", *Walpole Society*, L, 1984, pp. 7, 63f; Leopold Zedlitz-Nekirch, *Neues preussisches Adels-Lexikon*, 1837; *Neuer Nekrolog der Deutschen*, V, pp. 941ff; records of the Kurzemes literatūras un mākslas biedrība and Kurzemes provinces muzejs

### **Pastels**

J.5632.101 Vestalin, a/r Angelica Kauffman, pstl, Berlin 1786, no. 114