

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

OPIE, John

St Agnes, Cornwall 1761 – London 1807

Son of a carpenter in Devon, Opie was discovered by John Wolcot, English satirist, poet and critic (known under the pseudonym of Peter Pindar), who brought “the Cornish wonder” to London in 1781, where he exhibited at the Royal Academy and became an associate in 1787 and member the following year. He was a prolific portraitist and history painter, but normally worked in oil. The pastel shown in London in 1906 (where it is stated that it was executed before 1781) and Paris in 1911 no doubt relates to the oil painting discussed in MacLeod 2010, but there does not seem to be any independent verification of the attribution.

Bibliography

McIntyre 2003, p. 398f; Roderick A. MacLeod, “Peter Pindar by John Opie”, *British art journal*, x/3, 2010, pp. 104–07; Waterhouse 1981; Wright 2006

Pastels

J.5648.09 Lieutenant LAWRENCE, pstl/ppr. Lit.: London 1906, p. 19 n.r.

J.5648.101 John WOLCOT (1738–1819), known as “Peter Pindar”, English satirist and poet, pstl/ppr, 34x25 (desc.: sitter’s nephew, Charles Collins Giddy. Edward Trewbody Carlyon; Rev. J. H. de Courcelles 1906–11). Exh.: London 1906, lower gallery, no. 135; Paris 1911, no. 88. Lit.: Ada Earland, *John Opie and his circle*, 1911, p. 323, repr. opp. p. 10 φ

