

# Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

## PEALE, Charles Willson

St Paul, Maryland 1741 – Philadelphia 1827

Prolific portraitist in oil and miniature (as well as saddler, jeweller and cabinet maker); he is recorded in Annapolis studying with the portraitist Johan Hesselius, and is also said to have been a pupil of Copley from 1765. In 1766 he travelled to London to study with Benjamin West; here one of his purchases was a set of crayons. He was back in America by 1769, dividing the next seven years between Annapolis and Williamsburg. He served as a soldier under Washington (of whom he made numerous portraits) in the revolution. He was based in Philadelphia after 1776, devoting himself after 1782 to his museum. His brother St George Peale and son Rembrandt (*qq.v.*) were also pastellists.

### Bibliography

Bénézit; Bolton 1923; Jules David Prown, *Art as evidence*, 2001, p. 138; Sellers 1952; Washington 1987

### Pastels

- J.5776.101 Mrs Robert EDEN and child, pstl, 1775. Lit.: Sellers 1952, no. 242 n.r.
- J.5776.1015 Colonel John GIBSON, crayons, p.m. (4 gns, according to letters of 14, 17.XI.1782, artist to Joseph Stamper, executor of Gibson's will). Lit.: Sellers 1952, no. 294 n.r.
- J.5776.102 Mr WALLER, pstl, 1775. Lit.: Sellers 1952, no. 891 n.r.
- J.5776.103 George WASHINGTON (1732–1799), 1787 (Philadelphia, Historical Society of Pennsylvania). Lit.: Bolton 1923, p. 55 n.r.
- J.5776.104 Miss WRENCH, pstl, 1776. Lit.: Sellers 1952, no. 1004 n.r.
- J.5776.105 French gentleman at Jamaica, pstl, 1776. Lit.: Sellers 1952, no. 1041 n.r.
- J.5776.106 Boy with flute, pstl (Philadelphia, American Philosophical Society. Charles Coleman Sellars collection)
- J.5776.10 “a Negro man from the corpse”, crayons, c.1782 (4 gns, according to letter of 17.XI.1782, artist to Joseph Stamper, executor of Gibson's will). Lit.: Sellers 1952, p. 87 n.r.