

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

POPE, Alexander

London 1688 – Twickenham 1744

The famous poet (not to be confused with the homonymous Irish pastellist, *q.n.*) visited Holme Lacy, where, we are told by Brayley & Britton,–

in the Cabinet is sketch of the head of the great Lord Strafford, copied in crayons from Vandyck, by Pope, who not only amused himself with poetry, when a guest at Holm-Lacey, but also with painting: this, with the exception of the portrait of Betterton, the tragedian, in oil-colours, which he gave to the late Lord Chief Justice Mansfield, and which is now at Caen Wood, is supposed the only proof remaining of the poet's talent as a painter.

According to Joseph Spence,

Mr Pope learned to draw of Jervas for a year and a half. (With what pleasure he stole some strokes, in Tilleman's absence, in the landscape he was drawings at Lord Radnor's.) "Which gives you the most pleasure, sir, poetry or painting?" – "I really can't well say; both of them are extremely pleasing."
– P [Pope].

Bibliography

Edward Wedlake Brayley & John Britton, *The beauties of England and Wales*, London, 1805, VI, pp. 205f; Maynard Mack, *Alexander Pope: a life*, New Haven, 1985; Joseph Spence, *Anecdotes, observations and characters...*, London, 1820, p. 23

Pastels

J.5976.101 Thomas Wentworth, Earl of STRAFFORD (1593–1641), pstl (Holme Lacy 1805). A/r Van Dyck pnt., 1628 (Earl Fitzwilliam)