

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

QUEENSBERRY, Duchess of, née Lady Catherine Hyde

London 1701–1777

Legally the second daughter of the 4th Earl of Clarendon (although reputedly the illegitimate daughter of Lord Carleton, who left her a substantial legacy), she married the 3rd Duke of Queensbury in 1720. Her literary interests included Gay, Swift, Congreve and Pope, and as Mrs Delany noted that her “wit, beauty and oddities made her from her early years when she was ‘Kitty beautiful and young’ to the end of a long life, a general object of animadversion, censure and admiration”. She was also an amateur artist, recorded by Vertue (III, 115): “I have heard the Duchess of Queensborough honours the art with her pencil-& paints in Crayons, with great affection”. According to the evidence of a witness in the lawsuit against Joseph Goupy (*q.v.*) by Charles Hedges, heir to one of his amateur pupils, Goupy “might if he had pleased taught her Grace the Duchess of Queensbury to draw and paint for she applied to him for that purpose but he declined his time being taken up with teaching Hedges” [the Prince of Wales’s treasurer]. She was portrayed by Hamilton, Jervas, Read and by Mrs Delany (*qq.v.*), as well as by Kneller and by Zincke, an enamel carried always by her husband according to Walpole (letter, 14.VII.1779).

Bibliography

Violet Biddulph, *Kitty, Duchess of Queensberry*, London, 1935; Cockayne 1959; Grundy 1920, p. 82; Kerslake 1977; Waterhouse 1981