

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

Volkonskaya, Princess, née Princess Alexandra Nikolaevna REPNINA

St Petersburg 25.IV./6.V.1757–
23.XII.1834/4.I.1835

Александра Николаевна Волконская, née княжна Репнина. Amateur pastellist, the daughter of the Russian ambassador, statesman and general Prince Nikolai Vasilevich Repnin (1734–1801). Repnin was educated in Germany and became Russian ambassador in Berlin in 1763, moving later that year to Warsaw (where he had an affair with Victoire Clavareau, *q.v.*, who it is natural to assume encouraged the princess's interest in pastel); in 1775 he was named ambassador to the Porte. One of three daughters with no brother, the princess married Grigori Semenovich Volkonsky; their son was permitted to use the title of prince Repnin. This work is likely to have been made before her marriage. It was formerly identified as of her uncle, Nikita Ivanovich Panin (1718–1783), statesman, but recent research has identified the pastel as a copy of the head in a painting by Grooth of her maternal grandfather.

Bibliography

Горбачева 2002

GENEALOGIES [Repnin](#)

Pastels

J.616.101 Alexander Borisovich KURAKIN (1697–1749), Russian ambassador to France, pstl./pshm, 44x35, c.1770 (Orlov Museum of Fine Arts, inv. Г-24. Desc.: A. B. Kurakin 1919; acqu. a.1957). Lit.: Горбачева 2002, repr.; Перова 2006, p. 48 repr., both as of N. I. Panin. A/r Georg Christoph Grooth (1716–1749) pnt. (GRM, inv. Ж-5339) p

