

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

SAMUEL, Richard

fl. 1768 – London 1787

History painter and portraitist, best known for a painting of nine “Portraits in the character of the Muses in the temple of Apollo” (London, NPG). He exhibited at the Society of Artists in 1768 and 1775 (from 10, Corner of Martlet’s Court, Bow Street), and he entered the Royal Academy drawing schools in 1770. He exhibited at the Royal Academy between 1772 and 1785, from various addresses, including in 1780 a pastel sent from 10 Bow Street. He was appointed assistant secretary of the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufacture and Commerce in 1779 (not of the Royal Academy, an error repeated in most sources), from whom he received the gold palette for historical drawings in 1777 and 1779. In 1786 he published a short pamphlet, *Remarks on the utility of drawing and painting*, dedicated to the society. He invented a tool for laying mezzotint grounds, for which he received a premium of 15 gns in 1773, and submitted several other inventions on topics from surveying to weaving. He died at his home, Beaufort Buildings, 26.VII.1787, and was buried at St George the Martyr.

Samuel’s origins have hitherto remained completely obscure, but a clue is found from the address given in the 1772–73 catalogues, 12 Clements Inn. The lists of admission to Clements Inn records, in 1772, “Richard Samuel, gentleman”, together with one “John Samuel, Lawrence Poultry [sic] Lane, merchant”, evidently the John Samuel Schutze (Schutz or Shutz also appear; perhaps Schütz or Schütze), merchant, of Lawrence Poultney Lane whose bankruptcy occurred in 1768. Richard was probably the younger brother of John, and that their German family name was dropped following the bankruptcy. John had been naturalised in 1766 under the “Act for naturalising Lewis Agassiz and John Samuel Schutze”, and was the son of John Samuel Schutze and Anna Magdalena his wife, born at Old Geysing (*recte* Geising) in Saxony. In 1767 John Samuel Schutze was listed as a merchant at 16 Burr Street, East Smithfield; a number of children were born to him and his wife Margaret Burbidge following their marriage in 1759 in Bermondsey, aged 29 and 21 respectively according to the prenuptial allegation.

After Richard’s death from a “tedious illness”, his brother John applied (letter, 31.X.1787) to succeed him in his position at the Society of Arts. John Samuel was appointed in .XI.1787 and was listed in this position up to his death in early 1798, when he was living at the Adelphi. John is also mentioned in Richard Samuel’s will of 9.VI.1787. The estate, which mainly consisted in a number of leasehold properties, was left to Richard’s widow Mary, with Joseph Jacob, a coachmaker, appointed as trustee. Richard’s daughter Sarah Frances, his nephew George and his niece Elizabeth are also mentioned, Elizabeth to receive his painting equipment. Joseph Jacob had been proposed as a member of the Society of Artsts by Benjamin Franklin in 1769; in 1778 he too had been made

bankrupt, despite patenting a process for ornamenting carriages in 1774.

Bibliography

Bénézit; *London magazine*, .VII.1768, p. 388; London 2008; Oxford DNB; *Pension Book of Clements Inn* (Selden Society, 1960, LXXVIII, p. 287; Waterhouse 1981; Wright 2006; National Archives, will of Richard Samuel, PROB 11/1156; *Transactions of the Society of Arts...*, 1783–87; letters in RSA archives

Pastels

J.6526.101 Lady, crayons, Royal Academy 1780, no. 357