

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

SCOTT, Edmund

London 1758 – Brighton 1815

Exhibited drawings and portraits “in chalks” at the Free Society in 1774 and 1775 as Master Edmund Scott (so that Bénézit’s date of birth, c.1746, cannot be close), from 74, Gray’s Inn Lane. He turned to engraving, becoming a pupil of Bartolozzi and entering the Royal Academy Schools on 5.XI.1781 (aged “23 28 last Mar”). The date confirms that he was the Edmund son of Henry and Ann Scott of Gray’s Inn Lane baptised 20.IV.1758 at St Andrew, Holborn. He married Mary Ann Rigg on 6.X.1781 in the same church. On 17.III.1788 he was appointed Engraver to the Duke of York (he was then living at Brunswick Row, Queen’s Square), and a few years later he was engraver to Prince Edward. By 1804 he was at 447 Strand.

The date of his death normally given, 1810, is incorrect. According to John Harrison, grandson of the clockmaker,

Mr Edmund Scott was an engraver of respectable abilities, well known as such formerly in the metropolis, but subsequently a crayon painter, resident at Guildford in Surry. He was a man of strict sobriety and regular habits, but having a large family, and not being remunerated in proportion to his labours, he got into pecuniary difficulties, was arrested and in confinement:— when the Prince of Wales heard of his situation, and through the intervention of a military gentleman his royal highness discharged the debt.

Apparently this led to the production of a whole length portrait of Princess Caroline, by Scott and Stothard jointly, from which a print was made (that would appear to the print engraved by John Murphy, the lettering on which credits only Stothard). The author adds in a footnote that the Scott family reside chiefly at Brighton, and Scott’s son is a watercolour landscape painter. Harrison’s story is evidently borne out by the baptism of Charles James Scott (listed in Bénézit) on 20.IX.1792 at St Nicholas, Guildford to Edmund and Mary Anne Scott. Maria (born 21.VI.1794) and Emily (6.I.1798) were both baptised at St Nicholas on 21.XII.1798, suggesting that records may be incomplete. Edmund Scott was buried at St Nicholas, Brighthelmston 25.I.1815.

Among numerous prints was a reproduction of Russell’s *Age of Bliss* (1790).

Bibliography

Bénézit; Fiorillo 1808, v, p. 843f; Johan Horrius [John Harrison], *Memoirs of a trait in the character of George III...*, London, 1835, pp. 239f; Waterhouse 1981

Pastels

J.668.101 Gentleman, chalks, Free Society 1775, no. 242

J.668.102 Young gentleman, chalks, Free Society 1775, no. 244

J.668.103 Lady, chalks, Free Society 1775, no. 243

J.668.104 Academy, chalks, Free Society 1775, no. 245