

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

SLAUGHTER, Stephen

London bpt 13.I.1697–15.V.1765

English portrait painter. He was the son of another Stephen Slaughter, also a painter (as revealed in the allegation of marriage of his sister Judith, who bore the same forename as their mother: *v. s.n.* Lewis).

Slaughter trained in Kneller's academy in 1712. He then travelled to the Continent, spending some 17 years in Paris and Flanders. Returning to London in 1733, he was also active in Dublin in 1734 and in the 1740s. In 1745 he succeeded Parry Walton as keeper of the king's pictures. The Spencer family were among a number of noble patrons for whom he produced numerous oils, but only one pastel is recorded.

Slaughter lived in Church Street, Kensington with his widowed sister, Mrs Lewis, and their two unmarried sisters. His will, made 30.VI.1764, was proved 20.V.1765. A sale took place in London, 3–4.III.1766.

Bibliography

Alexander 2021; Crookshank & Glin 2002; Elizabeth Einberg, 'The Betts family': a lost Hogarth that never was, and a candidate for Slaughter', *Burlington magazine*, CXXV/964, .VII.1983, pp. 414–16; Figgis 2014; Oxford DNB; Strickland 1913

Pastels

J.6826.101 Hon. John SPENCER (1708–1746), bust, full face, pstl/ppr, 52x39.3, sd "Stepⁿ Slaughter/Fecit 1736" (Althorp). Lit.: Garlick 1976, no. 608 n.r.