

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

SMITH, Anker

London 1759–1819

Engraver and miniaturist, who according to Foskett also made pastel portraits. He was the son of a silk merchant in Cheapside and articulated to his uncle, an attorney, at the age of 18. He soon turned to engraving, which he learned from Taylor and Heath. He produced numerous engravings for Bell and Boydell, working on Bell's *Poets* and the *Shakespeare Gallery* from 1787. He became an ARA in 1797. In 1803 he was one of the founding governors of the Society of Engravers. Three sons of his marriage to Charlotte Susannah Snape became artists.

One pastel published in 1925 is evidently a confusion with the work of John Raphael Smith (*q.v.*). The basis of the attribution to him of another sold in 2010 is not known; the technique is reminiscent of the work of J. H. Benwell (*q.v.*), but it seems safest to treat it as anonymous English sch. (*q.v.*)

Bibliography

Bénézit; Foskett 1987; Oxford DNB, *s.v.* Boydell engravers

Pastels

John HUTCHINSON of Stonmarket, pstl (Thomas Girtin 1925) [*v.* J. R. Smith]

Young woman with a large hat holding an infant (Watlington, Jones & Jacob, 20.X.2010, Lot 430 repr., attr.) [*?v.* English sch.]