

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

SPICER, Henry

Reepham, Norfolk c.1742 – London 8.VI.1804
Engraver and miniaturist; pupil of Gervase Spencer; portrait painter in enamel to the Prince of Wales. No record of his birth survives, but he was no doubt related to the Spicer family recorded in Foulsham since Charles Spicer alias Helder (–1713), was appointed rector there in 1681.

He exhibited at the Society of Artists (of which he was secretary 1772–73) and at the Royal Academy, and was a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. He was in Dublin for several years c.1780. He made several enamel copies from John Russell's pastel of Gerard de Visme.

Spicer painted the portrait of his friend Ozias Humphry (*q.v.*) and that of his brother, Rev. William Humphry, and made a miniature from Humphry's portrait of Edmund Burke. Spicer resided at various numbers in Great Newport Street from 1784 until his death (rate books and RA catalogues), dying, aged "61", on 8.VI.1804. From 1809 Humphry lodged with his widow Margaret at 39 Lower Thornhaugh Street (the address given in his final 1804 submission; her first name is from the Sun Fire Office insurance records, 10.XII.1807) until Humphry's own death the following year.

At least two daughters became artists, exhibiting at the Royal Academy 1799–1803 (the initials given for the exhibitors were J., M. A. and M. C.). Two daughters of Henry and Margaret Spicer are recorded: Mary Charlotte was baptised 24.VII.1785 at St Martin in the Fields, while Margaret Jane was born 22.VIII.1787 and baptised at St Anne Soho 14.XI.1788. Details of his marriage remain obscure: Margaret may not have been his first wife, and it is possible that he was the Henry Spicer married to Susanna Payne, at Yarmouth, 28.XI.1762. In a letter to Humphry of 9.I.1774, Spicer (explaining why he cannot repay all the money he owed Humphry) mentions that he has had "trouble in separating from a woman", and had given her a £40 allowance.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Foskett 1987; Oxford DNB; RA Archives; Strickland 1913

Pastels

J.6898.101 George ALLAN (1736–1800), of Blackwell Grange, antiquary and topographer, half-length, holding a book, two volumes of Camden's *Britannica* on a shelf behind him, pstl, 1792 (London, Christie's, 9.X.1989, Lot 41). Lit.: Ingamells 2004, p. 10 n.r.

J.6898.102 George ALLAN (1767–1828), son of the antiquary and topographer, pstl, 1792 (London, Motcomb Galleries, 3.IV.1963, Lot 244 with brother; London, Bonhams, 28.II.1980, Lot 47, with brother; London, Phillips, 13.X.1989, Lot 255, without brother). Lit.: Ingamells 2004, p. 11 n.r.

J.6898.103 James ALLAN (1772–1795), son of the antiquary and topographer, pstl, 1792 (London, Motcomb Galleries, 3.IV.1963, Lot 244 with brother; London, Bonhams, 28.II.1980, Lot 47, with brother). Lit.: Ingamells 2004, p. 11 n.r.