

# Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

## SMARTT, Samuel Paul

London 11.XIII.1754 – ?brd 18.XI.1817

Evidently the miniaturist recorded by Foskett and identified as the Samuel Smart who entered the RA Schools on 11.VI.1771 (aged “17 12 Dec. next”, and exhibited at the Royal Academy 1774–87 and the Society of Artists 1777–78 from Bethnal Green (1777) and from “Mr Boujonnar’s, 15 Finch Lande, Cornhill” in 1778. The Boujonnar family included an officer of the East India Company.

The age in the RA register confirms that he was the Samuel Smart baptised in Christchurch, Spitalfields 22.XIII.1754 (but born 11 days previously) recorded in the register as the son of John and Sarah of Rose Lane. (Both Smart and Smartt spellings appear with equal frequency in the records.) The mother’s forename is surely an error: a William Paul Smart was born to John and Martha Smart or Smartt of Christ Church, Spitalfields in 1748; siblings Prudence, Sarah, Joseph (baptised 25.IX.1757), John and James followed up to 1764 (by which time the couple had moved to Bow). The other references are all to “John and Martha” of Rose Lane. “John Smart of Christ Church, Spitalfields, Weaver” and Martha Stevens married in the Fleet, 18.VIII.1743. John died in 1783, mentioning most of these children in his will, but singling out Samuel with special provisions should he take action against the trustees (which probably explains why he is not mentioned in this mother’s will of 1803).

An undated trade card in the Heal Collection (Heal,56.15) noted– “Sam<sup>l</sup> Smart/Drawing Master & Miniature Painter/No. 4 Back Lane Bethnal Green” “.attends Schools & teaches privately at Home or Abroad” “He may be spoken with on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the City School, George Yard, Lombard Street.”

Samuel Smartt married Susannah Crumpton at St Paul’s, Covent Garden on 2.I.1792; on 29.IV.1798, “Sarah daughter of Sam<sup>l</sup> Smart of MEOT [Mile End Old Town] Painter and Susanna” was baptised at St Dunstan’s, Stepney.

A Samuel Smart was buried in St Marylebone 18.XI.1817 aged 62.

There are widespread confusions with the celebrated miniaturist John Smart to whom Samuel Paul does not appear to have been related. This includes the story that William Pars ran off with Smart’s first wife Mary Anne, who died in Rome in 1778; she was the wife of John, not Samuel, Smart.

### Bibliography

Foskett 1987; Hutchison 1962

### Pastels

J.6837.201 Lady in a white dress with floral embroidery, pstl, 25x20 ov., inscr. *verso* “S. P. Smartt at Mrs Boujonnar/No. 40 St Mary Axe” (desc. Colchester, Reeman Dansie, 8–9.VIII.2023, Lot 858 repr., anon., est. £150–200) φ

