

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

STANHOPE, Charles, 3rd Earl

London 1753 – Chevening 1816

Best known as a statesman and scientist, Stanhope's precocious artistic and scientific talent became evident during his stay in Geneva between 1764 and 1774, where, as Viscount Mahon, he was sent following the death of his brother Philip from tuberculosis under the care of Dr Tronchin. Grosley tells of his enthusiasm for the tomb of Cardinal Richelieu which he has seen at the Sorbonne, and of his liberality with his purse when he met Girardon in Switzerland. His mother's letter of 2.X.1769 to Lady Chatham relates receiving a drawing by his future wife Lady Hester Pitt which Charles recognises as of Chevening Church; "Mons. Liotard and Charles' drawing master happened by mere accident to be both here at the instant I received it", and saw merit in the sketch. During a visit to Geneva in that month, Lady Mary Coke noted Mahon's astonishing talent both in painting and in découpage. A grisaille pastel of Dr Tronchin executed two years previously already showed the influence of Liotard. A pastel of Stanhope, as Viscount Mahon, holding a pastel of his mother, traditionally attributed to Liotard (*q.v.*), was identified by Roethlisberger 2001 as a self-portrait executed with the assistance of the master; it must date from around 1769.

After his return to England Stanhope turned to politics, becoming an MP. His unpopular enthusiasm for the French Revolution limited his progress, and he devoted much of his energies to scientific inventions in the fields of ship propulsion (*n. s.v.* Babu), optics, printing and calculating machines.

Stanhope's will, made 22.XI.1805, was published after his death, and includes portraits of the 2nd Earl Stanhope and of Dr Tronchin by Liotard (*q.v.*), of Mme Tronchin, by Stanhope himself; Opie's portrait of Stanhope; and a portrait of Benjamin Franklin (artist and medium unspecified).

Bibliography

Lady Mary Coke, *Letters and journals*, 1889, III, p. 168; Kirsten Ellis, *Star of the morning*, London, 2008; Pierre-Jean Grosley, *Londres*, Neuchâtel, 1771, III, p. 27f; Jeffares 2009; Oxford DNB; Roethlisberger 2001; R&L, p. 680ff; Ghita Stanhope & G. P. Gooch, *The life of Charles Third Earl Stanhope*, London, 1914; Stanhope will, *The Scots magazine and Edinburgh literary miscellany*, LXXIX, 1817, pp. 187f

Pastels

J.6922.101 SELF-PORTRAIT with the portrait of his mother, Countess Stanhope, née Grizel Hamilton (1719–1811), pstl/ppr, 81x96.5, c.1770 (Chevening, Desc.: Duchess of Cleveland, née Lady Wilhelmina Stanhope (1819–1901); legs: James, 7th Earl Stanhope (–1967); 1901). Lit.: *Chevening House picture guide*, 1931, no. 65, attr. Liotard; Roethlisberger 2001, fig. 1, as by Stanhope with assistance of Liotard; Kirsten Ellis, *Star of the morning*, London, 2008, repr., as by Charles Stanhope; R&L 586, fig. 795 φ



J.6922.103 Théodore TRONCHIN (1709–1781), médecin de Genève, grisaille pstl/pchm, 46.5x38, inscr. ↑ "C: s. MAHON./pinxit/1767/N° 2" (Geneva, Bibliothèque publique et universitaire, inv. 230. Desc.: 5th Earl Stanhope, Chevening; don 1860). Lit.: Bouvier 1934, p. 250, no. 230, as pnt.; Roethlisberger 2001, fig. 7; R&L p. 683, fig. 796. A/r bust by J.-B. Boudard for duca di Parme φ



J.6922.105 Mme [Théodore] TRONCHIN [née Hélène de Witt (c.1716–)], m/u (Charles, Earl Stanhope (1753–1816); legs: William Norton, 2nd Baron Grantley of Markenfield (1741–1822), British Minister to the Swiss cantons; not located 2009)

J.6922.106 Enfants jouants avec un bouc: trompe l'œil imitation d'un bas relief de plâtre, pendu à un clou sur une planche de noyer, pstl, 24.3x32.4, 1767 (François Tronchin, cat. 1780, p. 76). Lit.: Geneva 1974, *s.no.* 55 n.r.; Roethlisberger 2001, p. 58 n.r.; R&L pp. 598, 684 n.r. A/r source copied by Liotard, Vallayer-Coster etc.