

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

TOWNLEY, Charles

London 1746 – p.1800

Engraver, not to be confused with the homonymous collector (1737–1805; his preferred spelling was also Townley, although most of his family preferred the form Towneley). The engraver's grandfather was Sir Charles Townley of Clapham, from a younger branch of the same family; an uncle was Sir Charles Townley, Garter herald, while his father was Rev. James Townley, headmaster of the Merchant Taylors' School and a friend of Garrick.

The engraver studied in Rome and in Florence, where he was made a member of the Accademia del Disegno in 1776. Although best known as a mezzotint engraver, he also made portraits in oil and pastel. He was in Berlin in 1789 where he was appointed engraver to the court, and produced several plates after Cunningham (*q.v.*).

Bibliography

Bryan 1905; Mark Noble, *A history of the College of Arms...*, London, 1804, p. 414; Wynne 1990

GENEALOGIES [Townley](#)