

# Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

## **TOWNLEY, Charles**

London bpt 21.i.1744 – ?Hertford 12.xii.1802  
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 1785–92 where he was appointed engraver to the court, and produced several plates after Cunningham (*q.v.*).

Townley was married twice: he had several children by his first wife Catherine; in 1801 he married Margaret Durham, from whose will, proved 1809 but made 1803, we learn that he was already dead. This makes it likely that (as suggested by Alexander 2021) he was the “Cha. Townley, Esq.” whose death aged 57 was reported in the *Gentleman's magazine* and elsewhere; he was buried four days later at All Saints, Hertford.

### **Bibliography**

Alexander 2021; Bryan 1905; Ingamells 1997; Mark Noble, *A history of the College of Arms...*, London, 1804, p. 414; Wynne 1990

GENEALOGIES [Townley](#)