

# Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

## Online edition

### WESSEL, Jakob

Gdańsk 1707–1780

Portraitist in oil and pastel; he studied with Jan Benedykt Hoffmann before travelling to Berlin around 1736 to work with Pesne, whose influence is apparent. He may also have been aware of Meytens and perhaps Liotard's work. On his return to Gdańsk he made numerous portraits still found in domestic houses in the city or known from engravings by Beringeroth, Haid, Houbracken and Kraft. He also painted the mythological scenes in the Artus Mansion in Gdańsk.

Pastels of Tomasz Czapski and his wife were traditionally attributed to Mengs, but (as suggested in Warsaw 2015) are likely to have been made by Wessel given the sitter's association with Gdańsk.

Among homonyms should be noted the Danish painter who accompanied Bernoulli on his travels.

### Bibliography

Bénézit; Füllbi 1826; Nagler 1835–52

### Pastels

1.787.101 Tomasz CZAPSKI (1711–1784), starosta knyszyński, bratjański i radzyński; & pendant: 1.787.102 spouse (∞ 1742), née Maria Czapska (1723–1774), pstl/ppr, 87x62.5 [c.1750] (Warsaw, Muzeum Narodowe, inv. 183846). Exh.: Warsaw 2015, no. I.100/99 repr., anon., ?cf. Wessel, as c.1760. Lit.: Konrad Ajewski, *Zbiory artystyczne biblioteki i muzeum ordynacji krasieńskich w Warszawie*, p. 430 n.r., anon.; Guze & Kozak 2005, fig. 9, attr. Mengs; Jeffares 2006, p. 376aiv, ?attr. [new attr., ?] Φα



Photo courtesy Muzeum Narodowe w Warszawie

1.787.106 Friedrich MUHL (1742–1797), pstl, 81.5x61.6, sd 1766 (Gdańsk, Muzeum

Narodowe, inv. MNG/SD/68/M). Exh.: Gdańsk 1997, no. VI.16 repr. Φ



1.787.108 Johanna Florentina MUHL (1745–1813), pstl, 81.5x61.6, 1766 (Gdańsk, Muzeum Narodowe, inv. MNG/SD/68/M). Exh.: Gdańsk 1997, no. VI.17 repr. Φ



1.787.11 Gottlieb Gabriel WEICKHMANN (1708–1776), Präsidierende Bürgermeister für Danzig 1763, 1775, pstl, 81.5x61.6, sd “J. Wessel pinx. A.1763” (Gdańsk, Muzeum Narodowe, inv. MNG/SD/340/M). Exh.: Gdańsk 1997, no. V.41 repr. Φ

