

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

WEST, Benjamin

Springfield 10.X.1738 – London 11.III.1820

Important painter in all genres; came to Europe in 1760 and settled in London three years later. He exhibited numerous paintings at the Royal Academy from 1769 to 1819, becoming President in 1815. Apart from a number of pastels attributed to him by mistake or imagination, several drawings in mixed media, including coloured chalks, are known (not catalogued here), as well as a handful of rare, early pastels. Benjamin Franklin attempted to persuade him to take on Miss Moresby (*q.v.*) as a pupil.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Bolton 1923; Helmut von Effra, *The paintings of Benjamin West*, 1986; Oxford DNB; Washington 1987

Pastels

??SELF-PORTRAIT, *v. Blyth, West*

1.789.101 Elizabeth and John S. COPLEY, Jr [Mrs Gardiner Greene, née Elizabeth Copley (1770–1866), and John Singleton Copley, Jr, 1st Baron Lyndhurst (1772–1863), children of the artist], m/u (Lord Aberdare). Lit.: *Pelham Copley papers*, Massachusetts historical collections, LXXI, 1914, p. 270; Bolton 1923, p. 96 n.r.

1.789.102 GEORGE IV (1762–1830), as Prince of Wales; & pendant: 1.789.103 Frederick, Duke of York (1763–1827), pstl, pencil/ppr, 21.5x16 ov., sd “B. West/1778” (West family; desc.: London, Sotheby’s, 10.IV.1997, Lot 27 repr., est. £4–6000, £16,000 [=£18,400]) φ



1.789.106 George Charles MEYER, aged 11, cr. clr, 25.4x17.8, sd 1778 (New York, Christie’s, 14.I.1986, Lot 202, \$11,000)

1.789.107 Woman suckling infant, cr. clr, pen, grey ink/ppr, 28.5x18.5 ov. (British Museum 1887.0613.8. Ehrenfest; acqu. 1887) φ



1.789.109 A rope-ferry at Bath, cr. clr/grey ppr, 20.3x36.4, inscr. “West Bath” (British Museum 1887.0613.5. Ehrenfest; acqu. 1887) φ



1.789.111 Hand, pstl, 17.5x15.9 (Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania). Lit.: *Catalogue of works of art belonging to the Benjamin West society and to Swarthmore college*, Swarthmore, 1933

1.789.15 Three portraits, pstl/ppr (n/k). Lit.: Waterhouse archive, Paul Mellon Centre, letter from Richard Wood, 26.IV.1961