

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

WOLCOT, John

Dodbrooke, Devon 1738 – London 1819

The Rev. John Wolcot, MD, was a satirist, poet and critic, known under the name Peter Pindar. He was born near Kingsbridge, Devon, and educated there and in France before being apprenticed to his uncle, a surgeon. In 1768 he travelled with Sir William Trelawney to Jamaica where he was appointed physician-general and ordained in the same year. He returned to England in 1773, practising as a physician in Cornwall where he discovered the Cornish artist John Opie (*q.v.*). Wolcot took his protégé to London. He was also portrayed in pastel by Humphry (*q.v.*) in 1783 and by J. R. Smith (*q.v.*) in 1801. Wolcot himself was an amateur landscape artist, occasionally working in pastel, and his lessons were given chiefly in this medium. A portrait of Dr Monsey has more curiosity than aesthetic value. In a codicil to his will of .VIII.1812 (Cornwall Record Office, TF/3504), Wolcot left to Wm Shield of Berners Street “any three of my crayons which are framed”, and the same to Wm Snosswell.



Bibliography

Bénézit; Ada Earland, *John Opie and his circle*, 1911; Oxford DNB

Pastels

J.803.101 Dr Messenger MONSEY (1693–1788), physician to Chelsea Hospital, crayons (London, Sir John Soane’s Museum, inv. P101. John Taylor, editor of *The Sun*, don: Soane 1832). Lit.: R. W. Ketton-Cramer, “Monsey”, *Norfolk portraits*, 1944, repr. φσ



J.803.103 Landscape with a tower, cr. clr/ppr, 18x21.5 (British Museum 1936.0604.12. Miss M. Nicklin; acqu. 1936) φ



J.803.105 Landscape at night; & another, *verso*, cr. clr/ppr, 16.4x25.5 (British Museum 1936.0604.13. Miss M. Nicklin; acqu. 1936) φ