

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

YORKE, Mrs Charles, née Agneta Johnson

London 1740 – Bath 1820

Agneta Johnson, or Johnston, 2nd daughter and co-heiress of Henry Johnson of Great Berkhemstead; an FSA, he had interests in South America and was gamekeeper to Frederick, Prince of Wales. In 1762 she married the 2nd son of Lord Hardwicke, Charles Yorke (1722–1770); he later reluctantly accepted the office of Lord Chancellor, but died, perhaps by suicide, three days later. His widow was an amateur exhibitor of crayons at the Society of Artists 1771, 1773 and 1775; she also made drawings and etchings in the style of Gilpin. Apparently absent from the 1774 exhibition, she may have used the disguise of “Miss Agnetta, from York” (*q.v.*). Said to have been a most beautiful woman, she sat for George Romney, Francis Cotes (in oil) and Katherine Read, who may have taught her. Flaxman’s memorial is at St Andrew’s, Wimpole.

Bibliography

Baptismal records, St Anne’s, Soho; Sloane 1982, p. 140f; Waterhouse 1981; Basil Williams, “The eclipse of the Yorkes”, *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society*, II, 1908, pp. 129–51; *London magazine*, III, 1821, p. 236, as Agnesa Yorke

Pastels

- J.8096.101 Hermit, crayons, Society of Artists 1771, no. 328
- J.8096.102 Landscape and cattle, crayons, Society of Artists 1771, no. 329
- J.8096.103 Landscape with cattle, crayons, Society of Artists 1773, no. 443
- J.8096.104 Painting, crayons, Society of Artists 1775, no. 384
- J.8096.105 Drawing in crayons (desc.: Reginald Pole Carew, drawing room in New Cavendish Street; legs 1833: his daughter, the artist’s goddaughter, Mrs Thomas Somers Cocks, née Agneta Pole Carew (1791–1836))