BUCK, Adam

Cork 1759 – London .VIII.1833

Irish portraitist in oil, watercolour, miniature and coloured chalk. He was the son of a silversmith in Cork; Adam and his brother Frederick both became portrait miniaturists. Adam moved to London in 1795 and exhibited a large number of works (medium unspecified) at the Royal Academy, from 174 Piccadilly (1795–97) and 49 Frith Street thereafter.

One of his subjects (engraved by Ridley in 1802) was the actress Jane Pope (1742–1818) who described the artist in a letter to Lord Harcout of 6.VI.1795, shortly after his arrival in London: he was the nephew of a Dr Buck whom she knew in Ireland, and "supposing England the emporium of the arts, is come over to paint in wax-crayons & to make his fortune at one coup – he sits surrounded by his own drawings like a ballad-monger at London Wall & almost as melancholy."

Most of his drawings (mainly nineteenth century) seem to be in a mixture of media including chalks and watercolour, which confuses classification (the presence of touches of blue chalk often leads to these drawings being described as pastels). Pasquin, reviewing his submission to the 1796 Royal Academy, praised a "spirited drawing of figures skating. It is executed on a new principle, with crayons consolidated by wax: among the group we could easily recognize the features of Mr. Pack", no doubt referring to the artist Faithful Christopher Pack (*q.v.*). In his *Authentic history*, 1796 (p. 41), Pasquin amplified on Buck's wax crayons, "an admirable invention of his own; they work with more freedom than chalks, and with more force than the commonly used crayons; this gentleman is a native of Cork, and self-taught; he practiced in Dublin for several years, and is now in London."

Monographic exhibitions

Buck 2015: *An elegant society: Adam Buck, artist in the age of Jane Austen*, Oxford, Ashmolean Museum, 16.VII.–4.X.2015; Cork, Crawford Art Gallery, 4.II.–9.IV.2016. Cat. Peter Darvall

Bibliography

Bénézit; Crystal Bennes, *Apollo*, .VII.2015, pp. 67–70; Crookshank & Glin 1994; Dublin 1969; Edinburgh 2008; Figgis 2014; Foskett 1987; McGuire 1939, p. 15; Myrone 2017; New Haven 1979; Oxford DNB; Pasquin 1796c; Saur; Wright 2006; Harcourt correspondence, Bodleian Library, MS.Eng.d.3849, signalled Catriona Seth, pr. comm., 2021

Salon critiques

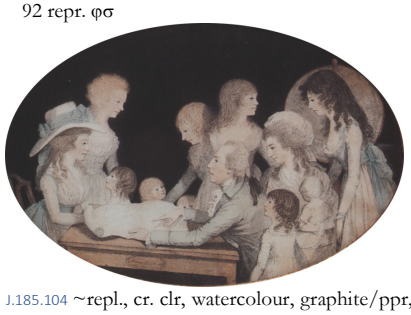
Anthony PASQUIN [John Williams], *A critical guide to the Royal Academy, for* ***1796***, London, 1796:

773 — *A Drawing.* A. BUCK. This is a spirited drawing of figures skating. It is executed on a new principle, with crayons consolidated by wax: among the group we could easily recognize the features of Mr. PACK.

Pastels

J.185.101 Harriet BUTLER (1801–1880), pstl/ppr, 24x21 (London, Sotheby's, 16.XII.1989, Lot 5 n.r., £1984)

J.185.102 Richard Lovell EDGEWORTH (1744–1817), writer and inventor; his 3rd wife, née Elizabeth Sneyd (1759–1797); their sons, Lovell (1775–1842), Henry (1782–1813), William (1788–1790), and daughters Maria (1768–1849), novelist; Anna Maria, Mrs Beddoes (1773–1824), Honora (1774–1790), Charlotte (1783–1807), Elizabeth and Emmeline, Mrs John King (1770–1817), with Charles Sneyd (1786–1864), brother of Mrs Edgeworth, chlk, watercolour, pstl/ppr, 27.1x40.3 ov., sd 1787 (Michael Butler; dep.: London, NPG, inv. L236, 2005–15). Exh.: London 2008a, repr.; displayed in *Face of Britain* exh., 2015, Room 13. Lit.: Pakenham 2000, p. 92 repr. φσ



J.185.104 ~repl., cr. clr, watercolour, graphite/ppr, 25.1x30.4, sd "Adam Buck 1787" (Dublin, NGI, inv. 2006.14. Desc.; Mrs H. E. Butler 1969; acqu. 2006). Exh.: Dublin 1969, no. 90, repr. cvr φ

J.185.106 Richard Lovell EDGEWORTH in middle age, pstl, ov. (Mrs C. F. Montagu 1935). Lit.: Samuel Haslam Scott, *The exemplary Mr Day, 1748–1789*, 1935, repr. opp. p. 30 φ

J.185.108 Mrs Richard Lovell EDGEWORTH, née Elizabeth Sneyd, pstl, ov. (Mrs C. F. Montagu 1935). Lit.: Samuel Haslam Scott, *The exemplary Mr Day, 1748–1789*, 1935, repr. opp. p. 30 φ

J.185.11 Mrs Richard Lovell EDGEWORTH, 4th wife, née Frances Anne Beaufort (1769–1865), pstl, ov., 1798 (PC 1979). Lit.: Christina Colvin, ed., *Maria Edgeworth in France and Switzerland*, 1979, repr. opp. p. 1 φ

J.185.111 Mrs George EVELYN, née Mary Jane Massy-Dawson (1801–1896) and her six boys, pstl, c.1830 (Stonor Park). Lit.: Henderson 1952, p. 83 repr.

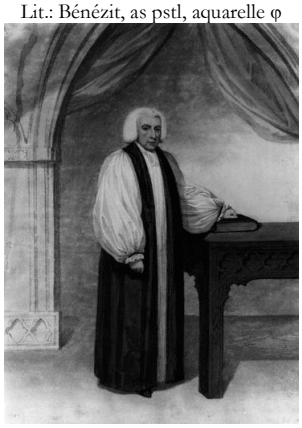
J.185.112 Miss FOSTE[R], cr. clr (New York, 15–16.I.1932, $35)

J.185.113 Henry Lascelles, 3rd Earl of HAREWOOD (1797–1857), in blue coat and grey trousers, seated with an open book, cr. clr, 24x21.5, 19th century (Harewood House). Lit.: Borenius 1936, no. 223 n.r.

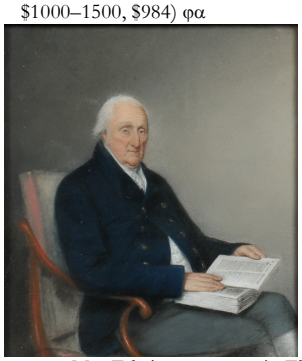
J.185.114 Judith Riddall MONOUX (1774–1813), ∞ 1807 Richard Francklin, cr. clr, watercolour, 38x28, sd base plinth "Adam Buck 1803" (PC 2026) φ

J.185.115 Mrs MOUNTAIN, with a guitar, m/u, sd 1802 (Mrs Eliott Wood). Lit.: *Connoisseur*, XLVIII, 1917, p. 143 repr. φ

J.185.117 Beilby PORTEUS (1731–1809), DD, bishop of Chester and of London, chlk, watercolour, 40.6x30.5 (London, NPG 735). Lit.: Bénézit, as pstl, aquarelle φ



J.185.118 Claude RUSSELL of Bingidd, pstl, 26x23, inscr. *verso* (Marlborough, Massachusetts, Skinner, 13.VIII.2017, Lot 376 repr., attr.„ est. $1000–1500, $984) φα



J.185.119 Mrs Edwin SIDNEY, née Eliza Vaughan, ∞ 1823 Rev. Edwin Sidney, pstl, 25x20 ov., c.1800–10 [??; p.1823] (Vaughan, Nannau, Dolgelley, 1957). Lit.: Steegman 1957, p. 233 n.r., anon.

J.185.12 =?pencil, pstl. 27.4x21.6 (London, Christie's, 12.IV.1994, Lot 30 attr., £690, Stansted Mountfitchet, Sworders, 27.IX.2022, Lot 119 repr., est. £800–1200) φ

J.185.121 Rev. William Stewart [STUART] (1755–1822), DD, archbishop of Armagh, seated, holding a book, with the badge of the prelate of the order of St Patrick, cr. clr, pencil, 24x21.5, p.1800 (London, Sotheby's, 16.V.1996, Lot 391 repr., attr., est. £800–1200) Φασ

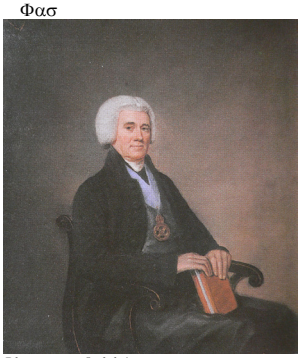
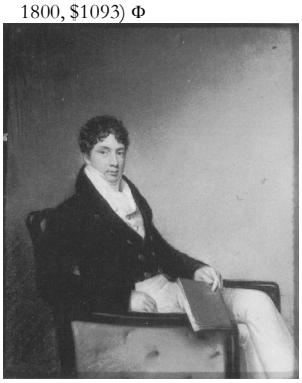


Photo courtesy Sotheby's

J.185.124 Mme VESTRIS, cr. clr (New York, 15–16.I.1932, $80)

J.185.125 A master's mate, RN, pstl, 24x19 [p.1800] (Greenwich, National Maritime Museum, inv. PAJ 3150) [new attr.] φσ

J.185.127 J.185.129 Gentleman in a blue coat, seated, with a book, pstl, 24x20 [c.1810] (New York, Christie's, 11.I.1994, Lot 401 repr., est. $1200–1800, $1093) Φ



J.185.132 Lady in white muslin dress, with red scarf, seated; & pendant: J.185.1322 Lady in white muslin dress, with vari-coloured scarf, pstl, 23x20 (London, Christie's, 22.II.1929, Lot 61 n.r., 12 gns; Croal-Thomson)

J.185.133 Lady, half-length, seated, wearing a blue dress and white hat and shawl, cr. clr, pencil, 18.5x16 (London, Sotheby's, 16.V.1996, Lot 392 n.r., attr., est. £600–800)

J.185.134 Lady in a white dress, standing, full length, pstl/ppr, 46x35.5 (London, Sotheby's, 16.VII.1998, Lot 19 repr., est. £2–3000, £3400) φσ

J.185.141 Gentleman, in blue coat, seated, holding a book, seated; & pendant: J.185.152 Lady in white muslin dress, by a table, pstl, 23x20 (Mary, Lady Carbery, Castle Freke, Co. Cork; London, Christe's, 5.III.1921, Lot 2 n.r., 11 gns; Smith)

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