

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

CASTLE, John

fl. Russia 1734–38

John Castle appears in Russian sources as Я or Иоганн Кассель, and is said to have been born in Hamburg. He was in fact an English adventurer, an officer in the German army, and he worked in Russia under contract with the Academy of Sciences. He was enlisted as draughtsman to an expedition to the Urals and the Kazakh steppes in 1734 led by I. K. Kirilov, chief secretary of the Senate, inspired by Peter I's interests in mapping his empire. Castle made topographical drawings as well as the first known pastel portrait in Bashkortostan. Castle's "Journal von der A°. 1736 aus Orenburg zu dem Abul Geier..." recording his journey was published in *Materialien zu der Russischen Geschichte seit dem Tode Kaisers Peter des Grossen*, Riga, 1784, II, pp. 611ff, where he appears on the title page as "John Castle einem Engländer und gewesenen Kunstmahler bei der Orenburgschen Expedition". One of the plates reproduces his pastel portrait of the Tartar chief.

Bibliography

Alton S. Donnelly, *The Russian conquest of Bashkiria 1552–1740*, New Haven, 1968

Pastels

Abul Geier [ABULKHAIR, or Әбілқайыр хан (1693–1748), Khan of the Little Horde], Chan der Kirgis-Caysack, Tartarischen Horda, pstl (St Petersburg, GTG) φ



~grav.: Castle 1784, Tab. XIII

Молодого башкира (young bashkir), pstl/pchm, 41x32, sd "J. Cassel Fe", 1735 (St Petersburg, GRM, inv. Ж-163. *Olim Gatchina*) φ

