

Isaiah Thomas (1749-1831), c. 1840

Anonymous

after William M. S. Doyle (1769-1828)

watercolor on ivory

2 1/2 x 2 (7.7788 x 5.0800)

partial inscription l. l.: "...MONT"

Gift of Margaret D. Sloane, 1945

Weis 120

Hewes Number: 128

Ex. Coll.: early provenance unknown, owned by the sitter's granddaughters Clara Elizabeth and Mary Thomas Randall, purchased from them by the Boston antique dealer Otto Wiecker, sold to William Sloane around 1914, to his daughter the donor.¹

Publications:

Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society, 30(October 1920): opp. 258.²

This miniature of Isaiah Thomas is a copy made after the 1805 portrait of Thomas by William M. S. Doyle (cat. #127). Early ownership is unknown, but the miniature was once owned by Thomas' grandchild, indicating a family member may have commissioned the copy after Thomas' death. The signature, partially obscured by the domed case in which the miniature is mounted, suggests the likeness may have been made by the Scottish artist Daniel Lamont (fl. 1837-1850), an itinerant miniature painter working in New England in the late 1830s.³ He placed an advertisement in a Concord, New Hampshire, newspaper in the summer of 1839 which stated: "D. G. LAMONT, MINIATURE PAINTER. The same Artist from Edinburgh who met with such success here about two years ago, will remain for about two or three weeks, and positively no longer, as he is preparing to go south. MINIATURES on ivory from \$5 to \$30 and upwards, and in all cases warranted strikingly correct." Little is known about Lamont's accomplishments

¹ Charles L. Nichols, Portraits of Isaiah Thomas, (Worcester: American Antiquarian Society, 1921), 13; and Clarence S. Brigham, "Notes on the Thomas Family Portraits," Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society 56 (April 1946): 50-51. Former owner William Sloane had the miniature mounted in a new case.

² Nichols, 13. The author incorrectly believed that this portrait was the image engraved by William R. Jones in the November 1811 Freemason's Magazine. That engraving was based on the Thomas miniature signed by Doyle (cat. #127).

³ New Hampshire Patriot and State Gazette (Concord), August 19, 1839, p. 3.

as a miniaturist. In the 1840s he exhibited two miniatures at the Pennsylvania Academy of Art in Philadelphia and, after 1846, he lived in New York City.⁴

⁴ George C. Groce & David H. Wallace, The New-York Historical Society's Dictionary of Artists in America (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1957), 382.