

ELIZABETH GARDNER CRAIGIE (1715-91), c. 1800

Attr. Archibald Robertson (1765-1835)

watercolor on ivory

3 1/16 x 2 3/8 (7.78 x 6.03)

goldwork on verso of the case includes the letters 'E. C.'

Gift of Elizabeth Pratt Clark, c. 1958

Weis 42

Hewes Number: 35

Ex. Coll.: Possibly owned by Andrew Craigie, Jr. (cat. 34); owned by his niece and ward Elizabeth Craigie Foster (1770-1851); to her daughter Catherine Dexter Haven (1802-88); to her brother Samuel Foster Haven (cat. 65); to his niece, the donor.

Exhibitions:

1957, 'New England Miniatures,' Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, no. 46.

Elizabeth Gardner was born on Nantucket, the daughter of John and Priscilla (Coffin) Gardner. In 1737, at the age of twenty-two, she married Andrew Craigie, Sr. (1703-66), a sailor who had been 'cast-away' on Nantucket some years before. The couple moved to Boston, where Andrew Craigie was a merchant-mariner, sailing regularly between America and England. The couple had five children, three of whom survived to adulthood, including Andrew Craigie, Jr. (cat. 34) and Mary Craigie Foster (cat. 50).<sup>1</sup> After the death of her husband in 1766, Elizabeth Gardner Craigie lived with her daughter Mary in Boston. She was adored by her children and grandchildren and is referred to frequently in family correspondence as 'Mamma Craigie.'<sup>2</sup>

This miniature, like those of her children, has been attributed to the Scottish painter Archibald Robertson. The technique is similar to work by Robertson, especially in the modeling of the facial features and the cross-hatching used to form the costume details. Elizabeth Gardner Craigie did not sit for this miniature, as she died in Boston on September 30, 1791, a day before Robertson's arrival in New York. It is more likely that the miniature was commissioned posthumously by Andrew Craigie, Jr., at the same time that other family miniatures were taken.

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<sup>1</sup> Frederick Haven Pratt, The Craigies: A Footnote to the Medical History of the Revolution (Cambridge, Mass.: Cambridge Historical Society, 1942), 2-5.

<sup>2</sup> Mary Craigie Foster to Andrew Craigie, February 24, 1778, and April 20, 1783, Andrew Craigie Papers, 1717-1834, AAS.