



PORTRAITS OF JULIA BRERETON AND (right) HER SISTER JANETTA  
*See: Shepherdess and Huntress*

### SHEPHERDESS AND HUNTRESS

SIR, I should be interested to know the whereabouts of two paintings, dating from the early 1770's, of Julia and Janetta, daughters of Major William Brereton of Bath. They may be by Thomas Hickey, whose painting of their father was engraved in 1778.

Julia (c.1753-1832), portrayed as a shepherdess, married Capt. George Ottley, nephew of Lord Lavington.

Janetta (c.1752-1825) is in the character of Diana the Huntress. She married first, in Bath in 1771, her cousin George Brereton of New Abbey, Co. Kildare, and secondly, in Dublin in 1783, Col. Robert Kennan of Annfield, Co. Dublin.

The Brereton's were friends and neighbours of the Linleys, and Sheridan called one of the characters in *The Rivals* after Julia.

Just before the First World War my grandmother, Mrs. Wykeham Bourne (*nee* Brereton) was persuaded to sell the painting of her great-aunt Julia to an art dealer, on condition that she received a copy. This is in my possession and is shown in the left-hand photograph.

The same dealer obtained Janetta's from her great-grandson Thomas Ponsonby Kennan, but disappeared before supplying a copy. I have a photograph of the original picture, shown in my right-hand illustration.

In the First World War my father, when convalescing at Sussex Lodge, Regents Park (then an officer's nursing home), noticed the original of Julia, with a plate attributing it to Sir Joshua Reynolds. The owner, Col. Hall-Walker, later Lord Wavertree, confirmed that he had purchased it as a Reynolds.

My enquiries at the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, as to its subsequent history, have been unsuccessful. I have also been unable to trace the provenance during the past 60 years of the companion picture of Janetta, though doubtless the dealer also sold this as a Reynolds.

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