

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

ARLAUD, Jacques-Antoine

Geneva 15.v.1668–25.v.1743

A miniaturist who made portraits as well as some religious pieces, Arlaud travelled to Paris around 1688 and worked in Largillier's studio. He was taken up by Madame, and by the duc d'Orléans, who gave him lodgings at Saint-Cloud and selected him as "son maître en peinture". D'Orléans, an excellent connoisseur, credited Arlaud with transforming miniatures from "images" to "portraits"; he and his mother showered Arlaud with gifts, and sent him on a diplomatic mission to Rome to purchase the collection of Queen Christina from the duca di Bracciano. Arlaud returned briefly to Geneva in 1715, and, in 1721 he travelled to England where his brother Benjamin had settled, having been appointed painter in enamel to George I in 1718 (some sources give Benjamin's death as 1719, others as after 1731; there may be confusions with Jacques-Antoine). Isaac Newton gave him a medal of Queen Anne and a copy of his *Optics*. After some 40 years based in Paris he definitively returned to Geneva in 1729. In 1736 his miniature self-portrait was requested for the Uffizi collection. He formed an important collection of old master paintings, and his will, made in 1740 (a translation of which was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury 13.X.1743; Heyer 1865 prints an extract from the original which omits family information), contains a long list of pictures, medals and miniatures presented to him by princes; they include "une teste peinte en pastel, avec sa bordure dorée, de l'ouvrage du mesme susdit Prince [SAR Philippe d'Orléans] qui m'en fit un don le 6^e Novembre 1713."

Other legacies to the library at Geneva included his portrait by Largillier and a set of Orlandi's *Abecedario pittorico*.

No pastel by Arlaud himself is known, but he seems to have added touches of pastel to his gouache miniatures (e.g. his 1727 autoportrait in the Uffizi).

Bibliography

AKL; Bénézit; Grove; Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Walpole 1828, p. 62; Heyer 1865; Muyden 1940; Rigaud 1849, pp. 47–51

GENEALOGIES [Arlaud](#)