Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

ARMANCOURT, Jean-Augustin Massavy d'

Paris 1735/36–p.1795

Painter, miniaturist and drawing teacher; member of the Académie de Saint-Luc from 1776. Lemoine-Bouchard provides an account of the family background, and describes him as "marquis d'Armancourt" although he was the son of a maître épicier and grandson of a perruquier. (Some documents are found under Massary.) He was living in the rue Saint-Martin when he issued a receipt to Joseph Micault d'Harvelay, conseiller du roi (AN MC/LIV/1004; 26.IV.1783). Two years later he married a Marie-Pierrette Charles (20.IV.1785). He was described as a "peintre en miniature" in family documents (registres de tutelles, AN Y5162[A], 1.II.1788), when his addres was rue des Mauvais-Garçons; this was also found when Citoyen Darmancourt exhibited a "cadre renfermant plusiuers minatures" at the open salon of 1795. He was a notable freemason, appearing in their records until 1799. A brother, Jean-Jacques, was a silk mechant in Turin. A notice appeared in the *Gazette de l'Île de Guernsey*, 19.V.1792:

> DARMANCOURT, Peintre de Portraits en miniature, Élève de l'Académie royale de Paris, fait savoir, au public, qu'il est arrivé en cette Ville. Sa demeure est chez Mrs Scot, rue de la Fontaine.

In addition to a number of miniatures, he exhibited portraits in three crayons at the Salon de Saint-Luc of 1774. The medium is reported as pastel in AKL, but this seems to be an erroneous translation.

Bibliography

AKL; François Favre, *Documents maçonniques*, Paris, 1866, pp. 139ff; Lemoine-Bouchard 2008

Portraits in other media

M. & Mme LALLIÉ, trois cr., Salon de Saint-Luc 1774, no. 92