

# Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

## **BENOIST, Antoine**

Joigny 1632 – Paris 1717

As well as being valet de chambre du roi, he was a portrait painter, miniaturist and sculptor, best known for his wax portraits (peintre ordinaire du roi, son unique sculpteur en cire colorée). He was *agrégé* 1663, *reçu* 1681, and ennobled in 1706. According to the abbé de Marolles (*Livre des peintres et graveurs*) these wax portraits were finished with pastel. He travelled to England in 1684 and made wax busts of James II and members of his court. Benoist was married to a Marie-Madeleine Marces; their son Gabriel was also a painter.

Benoist is a possible candidate for the author of a pastel of Mme de Montespan at Chantilly [*v. Éc. fr.*].

### **Bibliography**

Chatelus 1991, p. 220; Paul Fréart de Chantelou, *Journal du voyage du cavalier Bernin en France*, Paris, 1885, p. 123 n.; Dutilleux 1905, pp. 81–97; Foskett 1987; Maze-Sencier 1885, p. 673; Rambaud 1965–71, I, pp. 127f; II, pp. 205ff; Sanchez 2004; Saur; Wildenstein 1966