

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

CARBURY, comtesse de, née Adélaïde-Renée-Charlotte Soos

Paris? 1750 – Paris 7.v.1789

Adélaïde Soos was the daughter of Didier Soos, chirurgien aide major de l'armée de France en Wesphalie and his wife, née Anne-Charlotte d'Hervilly. The youngest of four siblings, the others were all born in Paris between 1741 and 1746. Her father died in 1759 (AN Y5327, 13.1.1759, registre de clôtures d'inventaires). On 12.1.1786, in Paris, at Saint-Nicolas-du-Chardonnet, she married Jean-Baptiste, comte de Carbury, also known as conte Giovanni Battista Carburis or Χαρμπούρης (1722–1804), a physician of international reknown born in Cephalonia, médecin consultant du roi from 1770, to the comtesses de Provence and d'Artois from 1771, and from 1781 to the comte d'Artois. These were very lucrative appointments (Newton 2020, pp. 2115ff). Carbury was also physician to Franklin and Jefferson while they were US ministers in France. Marmontel (*Mémoires*) called him "l'homme de tous les temps et de tous les pays par la riche variété de son esprit et de ses connaissances." He was a member of the Royal Medical Society of London and the Edinburgh Philosophical Society, and was elected a fellow of the Royal Society in London in 1765. He had been professor in Turin, a member of the faculty of medicine of Padua and pensionnaire du roi de Sardaigne, whose daughter, the future comtesse d'Artois, he had accompanied to Versailles. His brother Marin Carburis, comte de Céphalonie, a lieutenant-colonel in the Russian service, was entrusted with the transportation of the enormous stone used for the equestrian monument to Peter the Great by Falconet (*Mercur*, .XI.1777, p. 210).

Adélaïde died 7.v.1789 at her home in the rue de Bracq, aged 38 (notoriété, 8.1.1790, AN MC/LIV/1046). A document in the registres de tutelles (AN Y5185^b) dated 16.XII.1789 appointed guardians for her seven-month-old daughter, ondoyée but still to be fully baptised (no doubt on account of illness; she would later be named Charlotte); in addition to the father and her brother Jean-Baptiste Soos (1746–1823), chanoine de la Sainte-Chapelle du Palais, Hubert Robert, peintre de l'Académie (who in 1767 had married Adélaïde's sister Anne-Gabrielle Soos) and the baron d'Holbach were nominated. The only evidence of her work as a pastellist is the pair of pendants of young children, who may be relatives; whether she was taught by her brother-in-law (who is not known as a pastellist) is uncertain; it is also possible that she knew her sister-in-law's portraitist, Mme Roslin (*q.v.*).

The comte de Carbury formed a considerable collection of natural history specimens which he gave to the roi de Sardaigne. He was still in Paris on 17.IX.1789 when he wrote to Lavoisier (*Œuvres de Lavoisier*, 1997, VII/6, p. 69), presenting his compliments to his wife, the pastellist Marie-Anne Paulze (*q.v.*). During the Revolution he returned to Padua where he died in 1804. After the death of Hubert Robert's widow (1821), Adélaïde's daughter Charlotte inherited a large group of Robert drawings.

Mme veuve Robert's 1821 inventaire (Gabillot 1895, pp. 253f) contained only two pastels, a portrait sous verre (item 270, R2) and one of birds (item 309, R3); neither can be specifically attributed. Charlotte, or Carlotta, married (before 1806, when a son was born) the scientist Lorenzo Luigi Linussio (1772–1852), of Tolmezzo, Udine, grandson of the founder of the important linen factory. In 1794 Linussio published a volume of correspondence with international scientists including Saussure, Rumford and Humboldt.

Bibliography

Gabillot 1895; chronology in Robert 2016

GENEALOGIES [Soos](#)

Pastels

J.1964.101 Enfant en habit gris; & pendant:
J.1964.102 enfant en habit blanc, pstl/ppr,
44x36.5 ov., sd "Peint a quatre/ans par
Mlle/adélaïde/soos"/n.s., c.1780 (Amboise,
Daguerre, 28.II.2021, Lot 13 repr., as by
Adélaïde Loos, est. €400–500) [new attr.] ov

