

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

CARMONTELLE, Louis Carrogis, dit

Paris 1717–1806

Of humble origins (his father and brother were marchands cordonniers), Louis Carrogis was trained as an engineer but became tutor to the children of the duc de Luynes in 1754; in 1756 he accompanied the French army in Westphalia; he joined the Orléans household, becoming lecteur to the duc de Chartres in 1763. Carmontelle was a self-taught garden designer and writer, but is known for his numerous full-length watercolour profiles of Enlightenment and society figures. He also developed a method of painting transparencies on paper for use with a light box (patented in 1794/5).

Some of his watercolours have been erroneously described as pastels. Two pastels included in the Paris 1908a exhibition but omitted from the volume of plates have nothing to do with him.

Monographic exhibitions

Carmontelle 1933: *Louis de Carmontelle: lecteur du duc d'Orléans (1717–1806)*, Paris, Galerie André Weil, 1933. Cat. L. Vauxcelles

Bibliography

Baltimore 1984; Bénézit; Chatel de Brancion 2003; Christie's catalogue, London, 15.XII.1992; Dumont-Wilden 1909; Fahy 2005; Grove; Gruyer 1902; Jal; Richard John, article in Grove 1996; Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; New York 1979b; Paris 2017b; Saur

Pastels

La comtesse d'HUNOLSTEIN, née Charlotte de Barbantanne (prince de Tomay-Charente 1908). Exh.: Paris 1908a, no. 2, no pl. [v. Vigée Le Brun]

Jeune femme en costume bleu (Arthur Veil-Picard 1908). Exh.: Paris 1908a, no. 3 n.r. [v. Éc. fr.]