

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

CAZES, Pierre-Jacques

Paris 1676–25.VI.1754

History painter. A pupil of Houasse and Bon Boullogne, he won the grand prix de Rome in 1699 and was *agrégé* 1702; *reçu* 1703; directeur 1744; chancelier 1746 at the Académie royale. In 1727 he was one of the dozen painters who participated in the Galerie d'Apollon competition. Although now largely forgotten, he was a prolific painter in the tradition of Le Brun, and was admired by patrons such as Friedrich der Große, for whom he worked at Sans, Souci and Charlottenburg. His œuvre includes religious paintings for Notre-Dame, Saint-Germain-des-Près and other churches in Paris, as well as genre and mythological pieces. Apart from his portrait by Aved, Cazes is best known as the teacher of Chardin as well as of Lundberg (*qq.v.*), and the appearance of a signed pastel, from 1723, is therefore of considerable interest to the evolution of the medium in France. It is in a manner which could easily be mistaken for Coypel (*q.v.*), although it is free from the archness which permeates all the younger painter's work.

Cazes and his wife Reyne-Geneviève Jovan (–1739) had two sons, Jacques-Nicolas and Pierre-Michel, *reçus* at the Académie de Saint-Luc in 1750 and 1754; the former exhibited history paintings there 1751–53, and one may be responsible for the rare miniatures that appear under the name. The 1723 pastel however is too early to be given to them. Cazes also had a nephew, Pierre-Michel, who married Marie-Françoise Robert (*q.v.*), a pastellist and pastel-maker.

Bibliography

AN Y5325, 12.VIII.1739, inv. p.m. Mme Cazes; Bénézit; Patrice Marandel, in Grove 1996; Mariette 1851–60; Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Rambaud 1965, I, p. 134; Sanchez 2004

Pastels

J.2134.101 L'Amour aiguisant une flèche, pstl, 47x38, sd "Cazes 1723" (Dijon, hôtel des ventes Victor Hugo, Gautier, 27.XI.2011, Lot 308 repr, as by Carles, est. €500–600) [new attr.] φv

