

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

CÉZERON

fl. Paris 1770

In a letter (12.VI.1770) from John Wilkes to his daughter Polly (*q.v.*), who was staying in Paris, he refers to a pastel of her by Monsieur Cezeron executed for Mme de Chantereine, and recommends that “you avail yourself as much as you can of your being at Paris to take lessons from [him]”. In his next letter, he approves of her “desiring madame de Chantereine’s picture”, without specifying the artist or medium. Mme de Chantereine may have been Elisabeth-Charlotte-Geneviève de Rollinde, dame de Chantereine, widow of Sébastien Poilly de Millebourg de Chantereine, maître à la cour des comptes de Normandie, secrétaire du roi; she employed Leroux and Pineau on her house, rue Sainte-Anne (receipts, AN).

This drawing teacher is surely a relation of the celebrated maître à danser Antoine-François Cézeron (who appeared alongside Vestris, Guimard etc. in royal performances at Fontainebleau, 1761–65) and his brother Claude, an organist; they lived in Toulouse. The pastellist is most probably Antoine-François’s eldest son, Pierre Cézeron, pensionnaire du roi et ordinaire de ses ballets, rue des Vieilles-Étuves-Saint-Honoré, paroisse Saint-Eustache, recorded as lending 3000 livres to Bandieri de Laval (6.XII.1765; AN MC LXV/349); by 1768 he was married to a Jeanne-Antoinette Olympiade, who was godparent (together with the miniaturist Gabriel-Guillaume Bouton) to one of the eleven children of Pierre’s younger brother Pierre-François-Joseph Cézeron (1722–), négociant, and his wife Marie-Anne Gestes. All their children were baptised at Saint-Étienne or la Dalbade in Toulouse (during the time when the drawing teacher was in Paris).

Another baptism took place at La Dalbade following the birth on 21.II.1778 of Pierre and Marie-Anne’s youngest child, Lambert-François Cézeron. The godparents were Lambert-François-Thérèse Cammas and his wife, née Marie-Françoise Bouton (*qq.v.*). The child (or perhaps a sibling) was no doubt the Cezeron or Ceseron, pupil of M. Cammas, who exhibited drawings at Toulouse in 1787 and 1788, and he is probably to be identified with the the Francis Cezeron, believed to have been trained in France, who advertised as a teacher of dancing, drawing and French as well as a portrait painter in the USA between 1807 (*Lancaster journal*, 11.XII.1807) and 1814.

Bibliography

Gabriel Bernet, “Les Cézeron, musiciens et maîtres de danse, à Toulouse, au XVIII^e siècle”, *L’Auta*, 590/591, 1993, pp. 284–88, 299–301; *Correspondence of the late John Wilkes*, ed. John Almon, London, 1805, IV, pp. 49, 52; V, p. 114; *Gentleman’s magazine*, LXXII, 1802, p. 467; *The worlds of Jacob Eichholtz: portrait painter of the early Republic*, exh., Lancaster County Historical Society, 2003; Sanchez 2004

GENEALOGIES [Cézeron](#)

Pastels

J.2148.101 Mary “Polly” WILKES (1750–1802), pstl
(comm. Mme de Chantereine c.1770)