

Online edition

CHÂTEAUBOURG, Charles-Joseph de La Celle, chevalier de
Nantes 1758–1837

The brother of the second husband of Chateaubriand's sister Bénigne, the chevalier de Châteaubourg is best known for his numerous lively miniatures. He is said to have studied under Isabey. A soldier (capitaine in the prince de Condé's army), he emigrated in 1792, travelling first to London, then to Germany, where his progress through the princely courts was marked by miniatures at Baden-Baden, 1793 (Karl von Baden), Aachen, 1795 (Erzherzogin von Hessen-Darmstadt), Anspach, 1796, Berlin, 1798–99, where he exhibited at the Berlin Akademie. He then travelled to Russia (1800–05) before returning to France. He exhibited in Paris salons from 1804, and settled in his home town of Nantes around 1808.

The anonymous pastel of Chateaubriand may well have been executed in 1786 or 1787 at Bénigne's house, the château du Plessix-Pillet, at Dourdain. The traditional attribution is not implausible on the basis of the broad, slightly clumsy drawing allied with a directness found, for example, in a miniature of Anton Radziwill (Louvre). Two other hitherto anonymous pastels, of the celebrated writer's sister and nephew, seem to share sufficient similarities to justify a tentative attribution to the same artist. One of these exists also in a miniature version.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Alexandrina Miller, "Un miniaturiste français en Russie: De Chateaubourg", *Revue de l'art*, LXVII, 1935, 360, pp. 97–106; Saur; Schidlof 1964

Pastels

J.2208.101 François-René, vicomte de CHATEAUBRIAND (1768–1848), pstl/ppr, 53.5x45 ov., c.1786 (Saint-Malo, musée d'Histoire de la ville, inv. 65.2.1, attr.) Φα



Photo courtesy Saint-Malo, musée d'histoire. Photo: Michel Dupuis, Ville de Saint-Malo

J.2208.104 =?pstl, c.1787 (vicomte de Vesins, petit-neveu du sujet). Lit.: comtesse d'Arjuzon, *La jeunesse de Chateaubriand*, 1910, repr.; photo exh. Chateaubriand, Paris, 1948, no. 42

J.2208.105 La comtesse de FARCY, née Julie-Marie-Agathe de Chateaubriand (1763–1799), pstl, 70x50, c.1786 (Châtenay-Malabry, maison de Chateaubriand, inv. P.995/2. Levezou de Vezins. Mme Herbert 1929. Mayenne, 24.IX.1995; acqu.). Exh.: *Un Livre, un siècle: le bicentenaire du Génie du christianisme*, Châtenay-

Malabry, maison de Chateaubriand, 28.IX.–22.XII.2002, p. 239, no. 11 repr. Lit.: *Annales de la Société d'histoire et d'archéologie de l'arrondissement de Saint-Malo*, 1969, p. 117; *Bulletin de la Société Chateaubriand*, 1996, p. 107; Jean-Paul Clément, *Chateaubriand: des illusions contre des souvenirs*, Paris, 2003, p. 22 repr. [new attr., ?] φα



Photo courtesy Châtenay-Malabry, Maison de Chateaubriand – CG92/MDC

~version, min., rnd. Lit.: G. D. Painter, *Chateaubriand. The longed-for tempests*, New York, 1978, repr.

J.2208.109 François-Hippolyte-Marie de QUÉBRIAC (1782–1846), maire de Fougères, neveu de Chateaubriand, pstl, 52.5x44 ov. (desc.: famille La Celle de Châteaubourg; Mayenne, Pascal Blouet, 9.X.2011, est. €1500–2000). Lit.: *Gazette Drouot*, 23.IX.2011, p. 116 repr. [new attr., ?] φα

