

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

CLARY UND ALDRINGEN, Fürstin von, née Marie-Christine- Leopoldine de Ligne

Bruxelles 1757 – Teplice 1830

In a letter to the prince de Ligne of 15.III.1781 sent from Paris, Jean-Baptiste-Nicolas, chevalier de L'Isle (1735–1784), a cavalry officer, minor poet and companion of the Coigny, Choiseul and Polignac families, complains that “Ce maudit vicomte de Polignac me garde, depuis deux mois, à Soleure, très boîtes de pastel que je lui ai fait adresser de Lausanne, et que je veux envoyer aux Christine, Thérèse et Hoyos; j'enrage.” The three amateur pastellists are de Ligne's daughter Marie-Christine, who married the Bohemian Johann Nepomuk Fürst von Clary und Aldringen in 1775; her sister-in-law, also Marie-Christine, née de Clary and her husband, Graf Hoyos (*q.n.*). The princesse Clary remained her father's favourite companion; correspondence records her cutting out prints and drawings for her screens. Her brother, prince Charles de Ligne, was an important collector of old master drawings. Writing of his daughter and daughter-in-law's domestic activities, the prince de Ligne joked “Christine colle et décolle, Hélène chante et enchante.”

Bibliography

“Lettres inédites du chevalier de Lille au prince de Ligne”, in François Barrière, *Tableau de genre et d'histoire*, 1828, p. 240; Lucien Perey, *La Princesse Hélène de Ligne*, Paris, 1923, p. 290; Philip Mansel, *Prince of Europe*, London, 2003, p. 178