

**CLERMONT, Jean-François  
Ganif, dit**

Paris 1717 – Reims 1807

Draughtsman in trois crayons, in the manner of Boucher; painter of history, landscape and religious subjects in oil or gouache; professeur of the Académie de Saint-Luc, where he exhibited from place de Sorbonne (1753), rue du Four Saint-Germain (1756), rue du Vieux-Colombier (1762). He exhibited several pastels in 1762; that year he was appointed to the drawing school at Reims on a salary of 1500 livres with the requirement that he taught eighteen pupils free. There he remained until his retirement in 1789 and his death.

Hitherto little has been known of his état civil, and there has been confusion over his family name: much of this has been cleared up by Brunel (2017), to which we can add that Jean-François Ganif dit Clermont, a widower, formerly married to a Catherine Paris, was remarried on 21.X.1761 at Reims, St Symphorien, to a Françoise Simon. It is possible that he was the son of François Ganif, maître grainier, rue du Four, whose daughter Elisabeth-Françoise married Nicolas Bellier, maître peintre, enclos de l'abbaye Saint-Germain-des-Prés, 28.v.1733 (AN).

According to Walpole (1828), and widely repeated, Clermont spent many years in England where he worked for the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Marlborough and Walpole himself before his return to France in 1754. But this is a confusion with the flower-painter Andien, from Clermont-Ferrand (– Paris 1783), known confusingly as “Andien de Clermont”. He was the “Mr Clermont Disciple of Mr Baptist” who advertised in the *London daily post and evening advertiser* on 18.XII.1740, noting that “the principal part of his Time, being employ’d in the Villa’s of the Nobility and Gentry; his Collection of Pictures will be sold at Auction, on Monday next, and the following day, at the Black-Lyon, in Thrift-street, St Ann’s.” It included “some curious Enamel and Miniature Paintings, by Cooper, Liotard and Serre.” Walpole subsequently visited Sceaux (25.IX.1767), where he saw the cabinet in which the duchesse du Maine had Clermont paint the faces of her courtiers onto the bodies of monkeys.

**Bibliography**

Bénézit; Georges Brunel, “Un imitateur de Boucher: Jean-François Clermont ou Ganif”, in Vogtherr & Cosentino 2017, pp. 241–52; Dussieux 1856, p. 169; Guiffrey 1915, p. 229; Ratouis de Limay 1946; Ingrid Roscoe, “Andien de Clermont: decorative painter to the Leicester House set”, *Apollo*, CXXIII, 1986, pp. 92–101; Sanchez 2004; Saur; Walpole 1828, pp. 118f

**Pastels**

J.2302.101 Quatre têtes d’enfants, études, pstl,  
Salon de Saint-Luc 1762, no. 28