

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

CONDORCET, marquise de, née Marie-Louise-Sophie de Grouchy

Meulan 1764 – Paris 1822

Sister of the maréchal de Grouchy; in 1786 she became the wife of the celebrated philosopher and mathematician Jean-Antoine-Nicolas de Caritat, marquis de Condorcet (1743–1794), secrétaire perpétuel de l'Académie des sciences, and an early advocate of the rights of women. Sophie de Grouchy was strong willed and ambitious, and conducted one of the most brilliant salons before the Revolution from the hôtel de la Monnaie. Her attendance at her husband's lessons led to her being called the Vénus lycéenne, and she was herself an accomplished writer. She is said to have been a pupil of Mme Vigée Le Brun (*q.v.*), whose works she copied. After the suicide of her husband in prison, she withdrew to Auteuil, where she was reduced to making a living from “petits portraits à la gouache” (according to the duchesse d'Abrantès) and translating (she published a French edition of Adam Smith in 1798). According to Stendhal (*Henri Brulard*), however, she was a connoisseur but also something of a snob: she had a liaison with the bourgeois writer Claude-Charles Fauriel until her death, but left him an annuity of 1200 francs “comme à un laquais”.

Her daughter Élise or Eliza married the Irish general in the French service Arthur O'Connor in 1807, and some of the few known examples of Mme Condorcet's pastels and miniatures descended through her, in addition to a miniature of her by Dumont, executed before 1788 (widely described as a self-portrait, but well beyond her accomplishment); another miniature of her, with a pendant of her husband, is recorded in Hall's work list but is now lost.

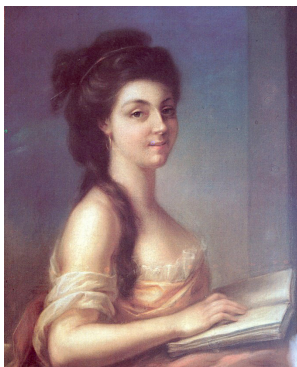
Bibliography

Bénézit; Blanc 2006; Léger 1933; Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Paris 1994c; Salmon 1997a; Saur; Waelmont 1923–27, IV

GENEALOGIES Caritat

Pastels

J.2352.101 AUTOPORTRAIT, pstl, 72x61, 1792 (desc.: sa fille, Mme Arthur O'Connor, née Alexandrine Caritat de Condorcet; son petitfils Arthur Marie O'Connor (1844–1909); sa fille, Brigitte, comtesse François de La Tour du Pin Chambly de La Charce 1933; PC 1997). Exh.: Paris 1994c, repr. Lit.: Léger 1933, frontispiece; Salmon 1997a, p. 144 repr.; Blanc 2006, p. 72 n.r. Φ



J.2352.103 Marie-Jean-Antoine-Nicolas Caritat, marquis de CONDORCET (1743–1794), secrétaire perpétuel de l'Académie des sciences, mari de l'artiste, pstl, 60.5x49.5 ov., c.1790 (Versailles MV 5529, inv. DESS 1172. Acqu. 1900). Exh.: Versailles 1997, no. 33. Lit.: Salmon 1997a, no. 43 repr., *Éc. fr.*, ?attr.; Christina Chimisso, *Exploring European identities*, 2003, p. 90 repr. φασ



J.2352.105 Marie-Jean-Antoine-Nicolas Caritat, marquis de CONDORCET, m/u (*olim* Colonel Corbett PC). Lit.: Léger 1933, p. 11 n.r.

J.2352.106 Charles-Claude FAURIEL (1772–1844), historien, crayon (Bibliothèque de l'Institut). Lit.: Léger 1933, repr. opp. p. 170 [XIX^e] φ



J.2352.108 Mme VIGÉE LE BRUN et sa fille Julie, pstl, a/r Mme Vigée Le Brun, 110x83 (marquise de Condorcet, château de Bignon, début XIX^e; sa fille, Mme Arthur O'Connor, née Alexandrine Caritat de Condorcet; son petitfils Arthur Marie O'Connor (1844–1909); sa fille, Brigitte, comtesse François de La Tour du Pin Chambly de La Charce 1933; desc.;

New York, Sotheby's, 25.v.2000, Lot 88 repr., circle of Vigée Le Brun, \$46,750). Lit.: Léger 1933, p. 11 n.r. Φ



Photo courtesy Sotheby's