

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

COUTELLIER

Paris 1754–p.1789

Draughtsman and engraver of theatrical subjects after his own drawings or those of artists such as Jacques-Antoine-Marie Lemoine. The drawings are mostly in coloured chalk. Known only as “J. Coutellier” or “F. Coutellier”, the plates, from the late 1770s or 1780s, bear the address “chez Coutellier, rue de la Juiverie, maison du Boulanger, à côté de la Madelaine en la Cité” or variants. The early prints were sold also by Chereau, rue des Mathurins; the later ones by Mondhare et Jean. Many were advertised in the *Journal de Paris* which announced (20.IX.1782) “une suite de portraits des principaux acteurs du Théâtre Italien. Son genre fera Plaisir sans doute, quoiqu’il n’imite que foiblement le tableau, il en donne du moins une idée.” Finally, in 1789, he issued a portrait of Louis XVI, drawn and engraved by “Coutellier Demeure parvis Notre Dame Maison de M^r Parvi à côté de la porte du Cloître à Paris.” The advertisement in the *Gazette de France* describes the artis as “le sieur Coutellier, graveur en taille-douce & Peintre en miniature.” An anonymous portrait an artist holding a portfolio, with costume from c.1730, in grisaille oils in the musée Antoine-Lécuyer (inv. 1983.7.51) has a manuscript note with Coutellier’s name and address on the back: “Coutellier M^{re} de dessin rue de la Juiverie contre la Madeleine chez M^r Thevenot Boulanger en la cite à Paris”; it presumably copies an older portrait.

A carte de sûreté issued on 16.v.1794 (AN 149515 F7/4804) to an incompletely identified “Coutellier”, marchand, aged 40, born in Paris, at “Quet de l’Unité”, with previous domicile indicated as “Parvis de la La Raison” surely refers to the engraver, based on the address.

The dates, initials and addresses do not match those of any identified homonym, who may however be related. “M. Jean-Pierre Coutellier, Graveur, quai des Orfèvres” whose death was announced in the *Journal de Paris*, 21.IX.1785, p. 1090, and born in Paris in 1717. The entry in the registres of Saint-Barthelemy confirms that this graveur du comte d’Artois died 17.IX.1785 aged 68, witnessed by his son Jean-Charles Coutellier (1747–p.1801), maître graveur, with whom there may be confusions. Jean-Charles married Catherine Panel on 2.X.1801. Earlier documents indicate that “Jean-Pierre Coutellier, maître graveur” or “maître graveur-ciseleur” took apprentices on 8.IX.1744, 8.X.1746, and 25.v.1747. On 7.I.1744 also at Saint-Barthélémy he married Marie-Catherine Gribelin, daughter of Louis and Marie-Louise Jolly; their son was born and baptised at the same church on 7.X.1747. Marie-Catherine Gribelin died 31.v.1780 when Coutellier was living at the quai des Orfèvres (*Journal de Paris*, 2.IV.1780). He was present on 28.v.1745 when his father, Jean Coutellier, bourgeois de Paris, rue Dauphine, aged 64, was buried at Saint-André des Arts; the deceased’s brother-in-law, Michel Le Conte, marchand mercier, was also present.

A different but no doubt related family of engravers included Pierre-Simon-Toussaint Coutellier, graveur en taille douce, son of Joseph-Charles Coutellier who died in 1786, leaving a widow, Marie-Saviesienne Choron and brothers Henry and Noel-Guillaume Coutellier.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Heinecken 1790; IFF; P&B

Pastels

J.2448.101 Mlle Jeanne-Adélaïde-Gérardine OLIVIER (1764–1787), de la Comédie-Française, en Chérubin, dans *Le Mariage de Figaro* de Beaumarchais, pstl/ppr, 40x35, p.1784 (Paris, Comédie-Française) ☉



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~related grav.: Coutellier (FD 296), “Coutellier del. et sculpt.”

J.2448.201 Jeune garçon coiffé d’une perruque à catogan, pstl, 24x19, sd “Coutellier 1771” (Lyon, Conan, 15.XII.2019, Lot 42 repr., est. €150–200) ☉

