

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

DANZEL, P.-A.

fl. Ferney 1764

The draughtsman P.-A. Danzel is known only for his drawing of Voltaire engraved by Jean-Baptiste Michel. Heineken lists him as a draughtsman and engraver in Paris, noting the portraits of Voltaire engraved by Michel and Aubry, and one of Rousseau, engraved after Bernard. This seems to conflate him with one of his homonyms, engravers from Abbeville to whom he may not have been related: Eustache (1735–1775), Pâiné, who left a few engravings, including several after pastels by Voiriot; Jacques-Claude (1737–1809), the best known, a pupil of Flipart and Beauvarlet; Jérôme (*fl.* Paris 1755; died 1810), to whom sheets signed Danzel are usually attributed; and Théophile, the most obscure.

The drawing of Voltaire, executed at Ferney in 1764, was according to the legend commissioned by Charles-Michel, marquis du Plessis-Villette (1736–1793). He sent Voltaire a copy of the print, on receipt of which verses were returned (11.XII.1765) referring to Danzel's drawing "avec les crayons de La Tour". Although Cabezas 2009b infers that the drawing was in pastel, even allowing for poetic licence Voltaire had only the print to go on, and so the medium remains uncertain.

Bibliography

Cabezas 2009b, p. 197; Delignières 1886, p. 534; Heineken 1790; Roux & al. 1930; Sanchez

Portraits

[J.2572.101](#) François-Marie Arouet, dit VOLTAIRE (1694–1778), m/u, 1764 (marquis du Plessis-Villette)

~grav. Jean-Baptiste Michel