

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

DEZALLIER D'ARGENVILLE, Antoine-Joseph

Paris 1.VII.1680-29.XI.1765

Secrétaire du roi, celebrated naturalist, connoisseur and collector. His influential *Abrégé de la vie des plus fameux peintres* appeared in four volumes, 1745–52; its technical analysis, particularly of drawings, drew on his own extensive collection. A second edition, 1761–62, included a life of Rosalba based on information supplied, among others, by Jean-François Séguier 1752. Dezallier's own letters to Séguier include important information on the cost of pastels and mention his own (occasional) use of pastel (*v.* Treatises). His collection was dispersed in two sales (1766 and 1779, following his widow's death). His son Antoine-Nicolas (1723–1796), also a magistrate, was the author of the *Voyage pittoresque de Paris* (1749) and *des environs de Paris* (1755), of several gardening treatises, and of an extension of his father's work, the *Vies des fameux architectes et sculpteurs...* (1787).

Bibliography

Dezallier d'Argenville 1751–53; *Dictionary*, collectors; genealogy; treatises; writers; Jacqueline Labbe & Lise Bicart-Sée, *La Collection de dessins d'Antoine-Joseph Dezallier d'Argenville*, Paris, 1966; Chatelus 1991, pp. 286f; Grove 1996; Lise Bicart-Sée, "Antoine-Joseph Dezallier d'Argenville: supplement of newly identified drawings from his collection", *Master drawings*, XLV/1, 2007; Inv. p.m., AN MC/ET/XLIX/749, 10.XII.1765