

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

DÖPLER, Gottlieb

Berlin 1762–c.1810

~grav. Doepler

J.2786.106 Ein Kopf, pstl, Berlin 1786, no. 201

The Herr Dopler, Bildnismahler, who exhibited a pastel head in 1786, and the Herr Döbler, Portrait-Mahler, who exhibited the following two years, are the same artist, identified by Börsch-Supan as Gottfried Doepler and no doubt the same as the history painter Gottlieb Doepler in Bénézit (also Doeppler, in Meusel). Having travelled to London and Russia, Döpler became a pupil of Cunningham (*q.v.*) at the Berlin Akademie c.1784. Two pastels exhibited in 1787 were engraved by the artist, signing T. Doepler (for Théophile, the French version of his name); they represented members of the French Huguenot community in Berlin. A long list of the submissions of this “young painter” to the Berlin Akademie in 1788, none of which is identified as in pastel, appears in the *Journal von und für Deutschland*, VI, 1789, p. 317; it includes portraits, mythological and history paintings and drawings. The critic awarded him first prize for encouragement, noting that “Jahre und mehrere Erfahrungen werden ihn vollkommener machen.” Döpler must have travelled to Königsberg in 1791, where he made his celebrated portrait of Kant (widely reproduced, the original variously described as in oil, watercolour or miniature; it was in fact a small oil, and survived in the masonic lodge Zum Totenkopf und Phönix in Königsberg until c.1945). He probably returned to Berlin soon after, and was thought to have committed suicide c.1795, although others believe he was active until c.1810.

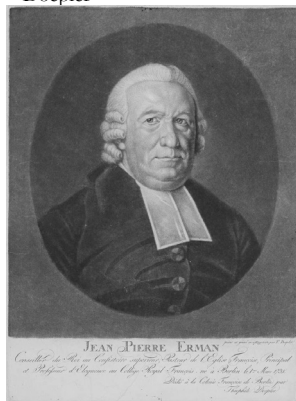
Bibliography

Bénézit; Börsch-Supan 1994, p. 9; Heinrich Lange, “Rätselraten um Kant-Portrats”, *Preussische allgemeine Zeitung*, 13.XI.2004, 18.VII.2009; Heinrich Lange, “Die Porträts Immanuel Kants von und nach dem Berliner Maler Gottlieb Doepler”, *Kant-Studien*, C/4, 2010, pp. 476–95; Meusel 1808, I, p. 175

Pastels

J.2786.101 Oberkonsistorialrat Jean-Pierre ERMANN (1735–1814), pstl, Berlin 1787, no. 192

~grav. “peint et gravé en Mezzotinto par T. Doepler”



J.2786.104 Pierre-Chrétien RECLAM (1741–1789), Prediger, pstl, Berlin 1787, no. 193