

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

DU CHÂTELET, Gabrielle-Émilie Le Tonnelier de Breteuil, marquise

Paris 17.XII.1706 – Lunéville 10.IX.1749

The only hint that Voltaire's companion, known as a mathematician and natural philosopher, was also an amateur pastellist is contained in his letter of 26.III.1740 to the long-suffering abbé Moussinot:

Je vous écris hier pour demander encor un autre exemplaire de ces éléments [de Newton] avec une petite boete de crayons à pastel.

Un portrait promptement fait, et à bon marché est toujours ce que je demande de la part de madame du Chastelet.

Voltaire's dissatisfaction with his portraits (pastels by La Tour, Barat, de Wyl and many others) is well rehearsed. Du Châtelet's translation of Newton with her commentary appeared in 1759.

Bibliography

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