

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

DUPAN, Barthélémy

Geneva 18.VIII.1712–4.I.1763

Dupan, or du Pan, was a portraitist in oil and pastel. He studied with Gardelle in Geneva, in Paris, perhaps with Largillierre, and in Rome before working in The Hague, in England from 1743 and in Ireland in 1750 (a portrait of the Earl of Harrington, “Du Pan pinx^t Dublin 1750” engraved by Ford is often credited to Françoise du Parc, *q.n.*). He returned to Geneva in 1751, where he abandoned painting and became a magistrate (conseiller au petit conseil 1757, syndic 1761), in line with the family tradition.

A passage in the *Journal hebédique*, .II.1745, p. 189, listing the most skilled painters from Geneva, mentions without name one who had settled in London some time before. From one of Geneva’s best families, he was destined for the magistrature but his passion for painting redirected his career; he was trained in Paris and then Italy, and painted both in oil and in pastel: the latter mode being in fashion and mores suitable for flesh, he is well employed in England for this sort of portrait.

His conversation pieces are in a very distinctive, recognisable style. His work is mainly known from engravings; so far too few pastels have emerged to allow other anonymous works to be restored to this talented and sophisticated artist. Rigaud (1849) mentions that Dupan’s great-nephew John Dupan had some drawings in his collection; this is probably the album of 28 studies of portraits and hands in black and white chalk, some with sanguine, on blue paper which were sold in London (Christie’s, 10.XII.1991, Lot 199) and relate to the painting of George II in the Royal Collection (together with portraits of other members of the English royal family).

Bibliography

Bénézit; R&L p. 706; Rigaud 1849, p. 71f; Saur; Strickland 1913; Ellis Waterhouse, *Burlington magazine*, LXXXVIII, .VI.1946, p. 152; Waterhouse 1981; Wright 2006, *s.v.* Pan

Pastels

J.2894.101 Jean-François SELLON (1707–1790), ministre de la République de Genève à Paris 1749–64, pstl (Geneva, Société des Arts. Don Bernard Naef 1984) ◊



J.2894.103 William WINDHAM II (1717–1761), pstl, 38.7x30.5, 1738x40 (Felbrigg Hall, National Trust. Ketton-Cremer). Lit.: London

1982b, fig. A; Ford 1989, p. 118 n.r.; Maddison 1995, p. 71 n.r. [Windham was in Geneva 1738–42; more likely date than Dupan’s trip to England 1743–50] ◊



Photo courtesy National Trust

J.2894.106 Three studies of hands, one holding a book, cr. clr, 27.3x37.7 (artist’s album; desc.: Jean-Marc, dit Jules, Dupan (1785–1835), L.1440; ?Paris, 26.III.1840. London, Christie’s, 10.XII.1991, Lot 199; Kate de Rothschild, cat. 1993, no. 20. London, Sotheby’s, 7–8.VII.2011, Lot 132 repr., est. £5–7000, £6250; Colnaghi) ◊

