

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

DUPRÉ, André-Joseph-Guilhaume

Montauban 4.V.1733 – ?Paris a.1801

Dupré exhibited regularly at Toulouse between 1758 and 1766, and again from 1781 to 1784. Most of the works were paintings or miniatures, but a few pastels were included. The pastel *tête de chien* was lent by François-Philippe-Antoine Garipuy (nephew of Louis de Mondran and son of Philippe Garipuy, ingénieur de la Province); this amateur exhibited his own drawings after the engraved *Fables* of La Fontaine as the preceding item at the same salon, and the layout of the livret misleadingly suggests that the *tête* was also his work. In 1765 Dupré lent twenty small paintings by Bellotto to the Salon de Toulouse, suggesting that he lived in the city and was of some affluence; again in 1784 he sent eight pictures in various media from his studio, confirming that he resided there.

He evidently cannot be (*pace* Mesuret and later sources, including here to 2023) the Claude Dupré (Claye 1740 – Paris 1815), rue de la Verrerie, who was *reçu* in 1772 by the Académie de Saint-Luc de Paris, but who was a peintre-doreur en bâtiments; his carte de sûreté (12.IV.1793) indicates that he arrived in Paris in 1755.

The pastellist is identified here (in 2023) as the “Sr André-Joseph-Guilhaume Dupré Pintre en portret”, who was married to Rose Vigourel and whose son Paul-Louis was baptised at Toulouse, Saint-Étienne, on 25.III.1759. Further research shows that he married Roze Vigourel in Montauban, Saint-Jacques, 28.V.1755; he was a native of that parish, described as the son of the late André Dupré, écuyer, and Hélaine Dulis. The details lead us to the somewhat unusual baptismal entry in the parish register of Saint-Jacques, Montauban:

Guilhaume fils naturel d'André Dupré ecuyer de monseigneur le duc de Duras, ainsi quil nous apparui par une lestre quil nous a esté escrite du cinquieme may, par le dit dupré dans laquelle il nous prie de vouloir le Baptiser sous son nom de pere et a demoiselle helaine de Dulis, né le quatrieme may mil sept cens trente trois, a este baptise le septieme dudit mois, Parrain Guilhaume Sevres peigneur de laine, Marraine Margueritte Sadorg et presens François sadorge qui nont signé pour ne scavoir

Hélaine Dulis gave birth to other illegitimate children, including a girl on 23.IV.1742, and died in Montauban in 1760 aged 45.

Guilhaume's bride in 1755 was the daughter of a huissier de la cour de Bourgogne. She must have died soon after their son's birth, as the artist was married to an Anne Méric when a daughter, Marie-Jeanne-Françoise Dupré, was baptised in Béziers, Saint-Félix, on 25.I.1762; he was again described as “peintre en portret”. Anne Méric appears to have been baptised in Carcassonne, Saint-Vincent, 25.XII.1743, and to have had a sister, Gérarde-Marquette Méric, who married a Jacques Arbaud there in 1764; their daughter married (Saint-Roch, Paris, 29.XI.1800) a Jean-Baptiste Devolvé, lieutenant de la garde, who was described as the nephew and heir when Anne Méric, “veuve de Dupré Lautour” died on 3.XI.1801, at Cloître Saint-Nicolas, Paris; he disclaimed the inheritance as

she died with no assets according to his letter (Archives de Paris, Tables de successions, DQ8 14).

Bibliography

Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Mesuret 1972; Sanchez 2004

Pastels

J.2912.101 Trois tableaux, pstl, Salon de Toulouse 1758, no. 98

J.2912.102 Tête de chien, pstl, Salon de Toulouse 1765, no. 12 (M. Garipuy fils). Lit.: *Mémoires de l'Académie des sciences inscriptions et belles-lettres de Toulouse*, 1917, p. 516, as by Dupré

J.2912.103 Portrait, pstl, Salon de Toulouse 1766, no. 125

J.2912.104 Portrait, pstl, Salon de Toulouse 1784, no. 81 (atelier de M. Dupré)