

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

DUVIVIER, F.

fl. Philadelphia 1796–97

It is not known if Duvivier & Son were associated with Mlle Aimée Duvivier (*q.v.*) or the Savonnerie factory (Duvivier père claimed to be a member of the Académie royale of Paris), but they worked as painters on silk as well as portraitists and teachers. They advertised in the *Aurora* (25.v.1796, from 112 Race Street) and the *Pennsylvania packet*, 23.v.1797, where their Academy of drawing and painting was first advertised: it had moved from North Second Street to 12 Strawberry Street, Philadelphia. A notice appeared in Claypoole's *American daily advertiser* (31.x.1797, p. 3) for pupils for the reopening of the Academy at Strawberry Street. Ladies and gentlemen were taught separately. Duvivier's secret method of painting on fabrics, patterns, tapestry etc. are mentioned at some length. The only evidence that either father or son worked in pastel is however the pair of portraits of Hazard and his wife, the basis of the attribution of which is unclear.

In 1798 the firm moved to Baltimore, and advertised the academy under the name "F. Duvivier & Son From Philadelphia". A museum was opened in 1799. A miniature profile of a little boy, signed F. Duvivier, appeared at auction in Boston (Freeman's, 13–14.xi.2013 (Lot 419).

"Duvivier, limner" appears at 26 North Gay Street in the Baltimore Directory for 1799 (with Duvivier & Son, removed to 22 North Gay street in the supplement); F. Duvivier, painter appears at the same address for 1800–1; F. G. Duvivier, painter appears at 24 Union Street in 1804, while the subsequent descriptions of J. F. Duvivier as a glazier, house and sign painter at various addresses until 1808 presumably indicates the firm's lack of success with its original objectives.

Bibliography

Bolton 1923; Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Prime 1932, II, p. 47; article in The Schwarz Gallery, Philadelphia, catalogue, 2003

Pastels

J.2952.101 Ebenezer HAZARD (1744–1817), postmaster general, founder of the Insurance Company of North America; & pendant: J.2952.102 spouse, née Abigail Arthur (1759–1820), pstl, 1796 (Rev. F. E. Vermilye, New York, 1892). Lit.: Bowen 1892, repr. pp. 156, 51; Bolton 1923, n.r.