

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

ESTERNO, Philippe-Antoine- Joseph-Régis, comte d'

Dole 1741 – Berlin 1790

The “Graf d’Esterno, d. Ä.” listed in the Berlin livret was the French envoy in Berlin. He was initially an enseigne de la garde du roi; he was admitted to the honneurs de la cour in 1767, was made a chevalier of the ordre de Saint-Georges that year (he also had the Saint-Louis), and married Adélaïde Hennequin d’Ecquevilly in 1769. He retired from the army as maréchal de camp in 1781 and became minister plenipotentiary to Liège in 1782 and Berlin 1786, replacing the marquis de Pons. He died of complications from a squirrel bite. Some sources praise his honesty, while Mirabeau (whose unofficial mission to Berlin undermined the envoy’s position) said he had “ni pénétration, ni adresse, ni caractère”.

While his son’s work is identified as after Pesne, no indication is given of the father’s influences.

Bibliography

Chaix d’Est-Ange 1903; Wælmont 1923–27

Pastels

J.304.101 Ein Mannskopf, pstl, Berlin 1787, no. 245