

# Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

## **FLORIMONT, Jean-Augustin** **Florat de**

Paris p.1740 – Philadelphia 1784

Portraitist, miniaturist, history and landscape painter and teacher. The basis for the attribution of a pastel in 1979 is not known, but presumably it was signed or inscribed. In the *Pennsylvania packet*, Philadelphia, 6.I.1781, he announced that “Austin Florimont, limner, lately arrived in this city, who is peculiarly happy in his likenesses, paints miniature and crayon pictures of all sorts at very reasonable prices.” He opened a gallery in 1783 offering lessons in painting and drawing. Another advertisement issued in Baltimore 28.I.1783 also indicated a European origin.

One source suggests that the artist was a French dancing master. We here (2021) identify him as Jean-Augustin Florat de Florimont. In Le Moule, Guadeloupe, 27.XI.1764, Augustin Florat, from the parish of Saint-Leu-Saint-Gilles, Paris, son of Augustin-Pierre Florat, marchand orfèvre, rue du Bourg-l'Abbé, and his second wife Germaine Cruchet (they were married in 1739), married the 18-year old Marie-Anne Normandie; a son, Louis-Augustin Florat, was baptised in Le Moule 21.I.1766, but died two months later. His wife was buried in La Mulem 8.VI.1768. By 1776 he was a member of the corps de génie in a regiment in Guadeloupe. He was given permission to serve in the American independence army, and commissioned as a captain in 1776. He worked on the fortifications at Ticonderoga under Péliissier, and later served in Canada. After the war he was briefly in Boston, but settled in Philadelphia, where (St Joseph's) on 29.V.1781 a son, Augustin, was born to “John Augustin Florat” and Elizabeth, of Boston. Perhaps both died; on 23.XI.1781, in Philadelphia, seriously ill, he made a will (which mentioned no family)) nominating François Cazeau as his executor. Several years later, Cazeau requested the release of unpaid wages (the subject of numerous petitions by Florat himself after the end of the war) in the course of winding up the estate in early 1785, months after Florat's death the exact date of which has yet to be established.

### **Bibliography**

Karel 1992; John Thomas Scharf & Thompson Westcott, *History of Philadelphia, 1609–1884*, 1884, II, p. 1041; Corinne Rocheleau Rouleau, “L'affaire Cazeau, 1776–1893”, *Bulletin de la Société historique franco-américaine*, 1946–51, p. 22; Corinne Rocheleau Rouleau, “La feuille de route d'un galonné français, Guadeloupe, États-Unis, Canada (1776–1784)”, *Revue d'histoire de l'Amérique française*, III/1, 1949, pp. 81ff

### **Pastels**

J.3184.101 T. DRAYTON, enfant, pstl (New York, Sotheby Parke-Bernet, 1979, attr.)