

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

FOSSIER

fl. France 1758–75

Possibly to be identified with the decorative artist and draughtsman Louis-Denis Fossier known in Paris from 1744; he was a cousin of the painter Pierre-Charles Trémolières (and son of Benjamin Fossier or Foissier, lieutenant au régiment de Champagne), and a witness on his widow's death certificate (Saint Eustache, Paris, 12.IX.1773), where he signed as “dessinateur de l'Académie des Sciences” (the same description was given when he witnessed a marriage in 1781). Antoine-Laurent Lavoisier left manuscript *Observations sur le feu citoyen Fossier dessinateur de l'Académie des sciences*, 1793 still in the Académie's archives (MS1228–40); Fossier engraved plates for some of Lavoisier's scientific papers. Fossier, by now “ancien” dessinateur de l'académie, was however living in the rue Saint-André-des-Arts when Antoine Portal treated his six-year-old daughter (the date is unclear, but before 1808). Louis-Denis Fossier, peintre inherited (AN MC/XCII/600, 30.IV.1756) an annuity of 400 livres p.a. from “[Louis] Faucier, valet de chambre-tapisserie du roi et de Mme la duchesse”, the relative of Trémolières who took charge of him on his arrival in Paris in 1719 and sent him to J.-B. Van Loo. He may be the painter and illustrator of whom Patas engraved 28 drawings for the *Abrégé historique et portatif des principaux faits des rois mérovingiens*, Paris, 1775. Several portrait engravings after Fossier's drawings are known: one, of the duc de Brissac, was derived from a portrait by Pougin de Saint-Aubin (*q.v.*). He may also be the M. Fossier who made a portrait of Polly Wilkes (*q.v.*) and remained in contact with her father in Paris in 1765.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Mariette 1858, v, p. 346; Antoine Portal, *Mémoires sur la nature et le traitement de plusieurs maladies*, Paris, 1808, III, p. 144ff; Saur; P. C. Trémolières (*Cholet, 1703 – Paris, 1739*), exh. cat., musée de Cholet, 29.VI–30.IX.1973, pp. 56f

Pastels

J.3214.101 Maximilien-Alexis de Béthune, prince d'Henrichmont et Boisbelle, dit duc de SULLY (1750–1776), en chasseur, pstl, 45.9x37.5, sd verso 1758 (Barnard Castle, Bowes Museum, inv. BM 462) Φ



Photo courtesy The Bowes Museum, County Durham

~v. pseudo-pendant, Éc. fr., duc de SULLY, frère

J.3214.105 Mary “Polly” WILKES (1750–1802), m/u (John Wilkes 1765) [?attr.]