

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

GERBIER, Sir Balthazar

Middelburg 1592 – London 1663

Architect, courtier, diplomat and art agent of the 1st Duke of Buckingham. He painted a number of miniatures on vellum using crayons as well as pen and ink etc. According to Norgate:

The best Crayons that ever I saw were those made by Sr Balthazer Gerbier after those soe celebrated Histories done by Raphaell of the banquets of the Gods, to be seene in the Pallazzo de Gigi in Longa Ara in Rome, which rare peeces are surrounded with a world of fruits, Grotesco, &c., done by the excellent John d' Veline. In the same pallace is that incomparable Gallatea done in Fresco by Raphael, and cut in Copper by Goltzeus. Some of these I saw copied by this Gentleman in Crayon – excellently done, the Colours of as excellent a temper, the face noe bigger then a shilling, the colours made up like small sticks, about the size but somewhat longer than the tag of a point, which would sharpen to draw lines almost as neat as Limming.

However they are probably not pastels in the sense of this *Dictionary*.

Bibliography

AKL; Bénézit; Foskett 1987; Norgate 1919; Norgate 1997, pp. 102, 197f; Oxford DNB