

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

GIORDANO, Sig.ra Giovanni, née Sofia Clerc

Turin 1778–1829

Sofia Clerc, or Le Clerc, Leclerk etc., manifested a talent for drawing very early, and, at the instigation of the painter Palmieri, benefited from the support of the rich banker Giacinto Vinay. She was sent to Rome at the age of 18 to study miniature and pastel with Mengs's sister Mme Maron (*q.v.*), and is to have been admitted to the Accademia di San Luca. Having made three pastel copies she devoted herself to miniature on ivory. After several years in Rome Vinay demanded her return to Turin, where she attended sessions of the Accademia delle Scienze. In 1803 she married a surgeon, Giovanni Giordano, but she continued to paint and exhibit under her maiden name. Apart from several further pastels, including a life-sized Bacchante with almost full-length figures, she also produced a full-length portrait in oils shown at a Turin 1811. The reviewer (Grassi, *Courrier de Turin*, 20.VIII.1811) wrote:

Le tableau (num. 8) de Mlle Sophie Clerc attire tous les regards par l'air de vérité que l'auteur a donné à la gentille figure de la jeune fille qui y est peinte, par la correction du dessin, l'harmonie du coloris et l'extrême délicatesse du pinceau, qui nous rappelle le gracieux d'Albani et la fraîcheur de la touche de Mengs. La liberté avec laquelle ce tableau est exécuté annonce un artiste consommé dans la partie de l'huile; on sait cependant que c'est le premier essai de Mlle Sophie dans ce genre. Le pastel (num. 9) et la miniature (num. 10), d'après Dominique et le Guide, du même auteur, ne laissent rien à désirer: on peut croire de voir les originaux sur une échelle plus petite.

The following year she was awarded the Turin academy's gold medal for her exhibits. She had two children and died of a nervous fever.

Bibliography

Baudi di Vesme 1963–68, p. 530f; Gabrielli & Caramellino 1971; necrologia, *Gazetta piemontese*, 14.V.1829; Michaud, *Biographie universelle*, s.v. Giordano, suppl., LXV, 1838; Saur, s.v. Giordano

Pastels

J.349.101 AUTORITRATTO, pstl, sd \nearrow "Sophia Clerc se pst 1805" (Turin, Galleria Sabauda, inv. 697. Don signora Giordano Clerc 1914). Lit.: *Gazetta piemontese*, 1829; Gabrielli & Caramellino 1971, no. 85 *bis*, fig. 502 ϕ



J.349.104 Dottore [Giovanni Battista] BALBIS [(1765–1831)], professore di botanica in Lione, pstl. Exh.: Turin 1820, no. 51

J.349.105 [Carlo Luigi Guiseppe] BERTERO [(1789–1831)], botanista, pstl, 1827
~grav. A. J. Lallemand 1838

J.349.107 Beatrice CENCI (1577–1599), pstl, cop. a/r Elisabetta Sirani pnt. (Rome, Palazzo Barberini. *Olim* attr. Guido Reni) [*n.q.* J. Liszewska]

J.349.108 Giovanni GIORDANO, chirurgo, pstl, p.1803. Lit.: *Gazetta piemontese*, 1829, n.r.

J.349.109 Emilio [GIORDANO], figlio, pstl. Lit.: Baudi di Vesme 1963–68, p. 533

J.349.11 NAPOLÉON Bonaparte (1769–1821), busto, grandezza naturale, pstl (Sig. Becker, Turin)

J.349.111 Domenico ROSSETTI [(1772–1816)], avvocato, [poeta ed archeologo], scopritore della grotta di Monte Calvo, 1803
~grav. Stagnon

J.349.113 VASALLI, professeur, pstl, p.1803

J.349.114 Giacinto VINAY, pstl/ppr, 56.5x46.5 (Asti, Palazzo Mazzetti e Pinacoteca Civica) ϕ



J.349.116 VINAY, portrait en grand, m/u

J.349.117 Mme VINAY, née Rosina Righini, avec ses trois filles dont l'aînée n'avait pas 5 ans, pstl

J.349.118 Baccante, pstl, 94x86 (desc.: famiglia; acqu. ambassadeur de France en Turin c.1858). Lit.: *Gazetta piemontese*, 1829, n.r.

J.349.119 Baccante, pstl, più piccola. Lit.: *Gazetta piemontese*, 1829, n.r.

J.349.12 Flora, pstl, ?a/r Titian. Lit.: *Gazetta piemontese*, 1829, n.r.

J.349.121 Notre Dame, pstl a/r Guido Reni. Exh.: Turin 1805, n.r.

J.349.122 =?La Vergine, pstl a/r Guido Reni. Exh.: Turin 1820, no. 52

J.349.123 L'Innocenza, pstl (Rome, Accademia di San Luca)

J.349.124 Pastel, a/r Domenichino. Exh.: Turin 1811

J.349.125 Ritratto, pstl (desc.: Prof. Ermanno Ferrero)