

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

GOSSUIN, Pierre

fl. Cambrai 1739

On 2.IV.1739, Pierre Gossuin, peintre en pastel, coming from Le Quesnoy, arrived at Cambrai in the company of Henri Canivet, maître verrier. Gossuin specialised “particulièrement aux portraits et aux paysages avec figurines et aux grandes figures, sans excepter les autres genres de peinture” which he undertook when required; further he offered to teach “le tout en peu de temps”. Among his pupils in Valenciennes were the baron de Stapel, the comtesse de Sernay, M. de Roche, ingénieur du roi and M. Cambier, avocat. He executed two pictures for M. Guyot d’Amareins, a local connoisseur. This excited the hostility of the Cambrai painters’ corporation, who brought a legal action to seize his pictures, claiming a breach of statutes forbidding all strangers who had not joined the maîtrise from selling pictures for profit, and demanding reparations of 20 livres tournois for each work. Among Gossuin’s defences was the argument that he worked in pastel, not oil. The final decision, delivered in 1741, has sadly been lost.

Bibliography

A. Durieu, “Les artistes cambrésiens”, *Mémoires de la Société d’émulation de Cambrai*, XXXII, 1873, pp. 110, 157