

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

GUÉRIN, François

Paris bpt 22.x.1717–23.iv.1801

Painter, miniaturist and draughtsman; adjoint à professeur at the Académie de Saint Luc; rue Neuve-Saint-Médéric. Guérin exhibited one pastel and a number of oil paintings of religious or mythological subjects at the Académie de Saint-Luc from 1751 until 1756; there is no record of the first name of this painter, although most sources assume that he is the same as the François Guérin who was *agrégé* à l'Académie royale, 1761, *reçu* 1761, and exhibited various genre scenes and portraits at the Salons from 1761 to 1783. Some of these seem to have been in pastel, although a larger number of drawings in coloured chalk may give rise to confusions.

The Dresden painting of prince Xavier de Saxe, signed “F. Guérin”, relates to the La Tour pastel of the prince shown in the Salon de 1761. Hitherto thought to date to that or the previous year, the private accounts of the prince (published in 1910, but overlooked) indicate two payments made in .vi.1759: one of 744 livres for “deux portraits en miniature du prince Xavier, fourniture de glaces et étuis”, receipted by “Guérin, peintre”; the other, a “gratification” of 2 louis paid to “les domestiques de M. de Latour, peintre”, suggesting that the La Tour sittings took place earlier than thought hitherto (2018).

François Guérin's dates have long been given incorrectly, as c.1740–1791 (which would preclude identification with the saint-lucien painter). In fact he was baptised at Saint-Jean-en-Grève, Paris, 22.x.1717, his father Pantaléon being a bourgeois de Paris. He was already identified as a “peintre” in the registres de tutelles following his father's death (AN Y4589A, 6.iv.1742). In 1751 he married a Catherine-Éléonore Goyer (1722–1799); of three children, Thomas-François (*q.v.*) became an artist and picture-dealer.

A pastel self-portrait exhibited in 1908 as by the son relates to a large oil by Guérin père, and is here reattributed to him.

François Guérin died in Paris, rue Montholon, 23.iv.1801; an inventory was taken 12.v.1801 (AN MC/RE/XV/15).

Pictures were noted in the livrets of both académies as owned by wealthy connoisseurs such as Boulongne, Buchelay de Savalette, de Gourgues, and the abbés Breteuil and Pommyer. Jean-Baptiste Massé, who owned a miniature by Guérin, says that he was a pupil of Natoire.

Bibliography

Bellier de La Chavignerie & Auvray; Dijon 2001, p. 102; Guiffrey 1915; Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Ottawa 2003; Ratouis de Limay 1946; Sanchez 2004; *Inventaire sommaire des Archives départementales antérieures à 1790. Aube. Série E* (fonds de Saxe): Archives particulières du prince Xavier de Saxe*, 1910, III, p. 294

GENEALOGIES [Guérin](#)

Pastels

J.365.101 [?]AUTOPORTRAIT, pstl, 54x48 (¶desc.: artist's son, Thomas-François Guérin.] G. Lecreux 1908. M. B...; Paris, Galerie

Charpentier, 10.v.1938, Lot 67 repr.). Exh.: Paris 1908a, no. 22, pl. 15; Jeffares 2006, p. 218Ai, as by/of Thomas-François Guérin [new attr., ?] Φαδν



LARGER IMAGE

~pnt. 1745 “Famille de Julie-Pierrette Marie Mariette le Cain de Boiscrecy/ Repas dans la forêt de Villacrosse près de Pontoise” (château de Saint Maclou; Bayeux, 14.vii.2016, Lot 13). Lit.: *Gazette Drouot*, 8.vii.2016, p. 86 repr.

Viscountess DILLON, née Henrietta Phipps (Basildon Park, National Trust), v. *Le Gendre*

J.365.103 ?Mme de GENLIS, la dame avec harpe, pstl/ppr, 39.7x30.8 (Paris PC; Monaco, Sotheby's, 22.ii.1986, Lot 22 repr., attr. Jean-Antoine de Peters, inconnue, est. Fr40–60,000; New York, Sotheby's, 13.i.1988, Lot 148 repr., as inconnue). Attr. [?; cf. Legendre] Φαδν



Photo courtesy Sotheby's

J.365.106 Une tête, coiffée d'un chapeau de paille, pstl, Salon de Saint-Luc 1751, no. 31

Anon. related pastels

Le prince XAVIER [Franz Xaver] de Saxe, comte de Lusace (1730–1806), pnt., p.1759 (Dresden, inv. 99/55). Exh.: Dijon 2001, no. 26 repr.; Dresden 2009, no. 35 repr.

~*visage a/r La Tour pstl, q.v.*

~?repl., 2 mins. (744 livres; paid .vi.1759)

~cop., pnt. (Troyes, mAH, inv. 882.5.4). Lit.: Dresden 2009, p. 199 n.r.

J.365.11 ~cop., Militaire portant le cordon bleu de l'ordre de l'Aigle blanc, pstl, 52x41 (Munich, Hampel, 19–20.ix.2003, Lot 1291 repr., est. €1800. Antiquitäten Erwin Marchgraber, Marchtrenk, Austria, 2004, as 19th century. Vienna, Dorotheum, 24.iii.2016, Lot 887 repr., as by Liotard, inconnu, est. €2600–3600;

Vienna, Dorotheum, 7.iv.2016, Lot 195-034108/0011, est. €2200) Φκν

