Online edition

LE BARBIER, Jean-Louis, le jeune
Rouen 11.X.1743 – p.1789

Jean-Louis Le Barbier was the brother of a more famous artist, Jean-Jacques-François l'aîné (*q.v.*). Jean-Louis learned drawing in Rouen under Descamps and then moved to Paris, to the workshop of the engraver, Le Bas. Apart from a print (the profits from which the artist donated to seamen) entitled the Bienfaisance du roi, showing the king honouring Boussard, the heroic pilot of Dieppe who rescued a ship in 1777, he seems not to have been particularly visible as an artist. He wrote a play, *Asgill, drame en cinq actes et en prose*, published in London and Paris in 1785, which he read to the Comédie-Italienne in 1783 (according to the *Mémoires secrets* (XXVII–XXVIII, 1786, p. 112f, the actors' guarded response to this "homme de lettres" was "indécente, insolente même"; the subject of the play was the diplomatic incident in 1782 when Louis XVI intervened on behalf of Sir Charles Asgill, a British prisoner of war held by the American rebels chosen by ballot to be executed in retaliation for a loyalist murder). An oil portrait of the marquise de Villeneuve-Flayosc (Ackland Art Museum), dated 1789, shows striking similarities of composition to the 1786 pastel.

Bibliography

Jeune 1988; Edith A. Standen, "Jean-Jacques-François Le Barbier and two revolutions", *Metropolitan Museum journal*, XXIV, 1989, pp. 255–74

Pastels

J.467.101 FRIEDRICH FRANZ I. von Mecklenburg-Schwerin (1756–1837), pstl, inscr. *verso* "Peint à Paris en 1783 par Le Barbier le jeune" (Schwerin, Staaatliches Museum). Lit.: Standen 1989, n.r. φ

J.467.102 Homme en habit bleu, pstl, 60x50 ov., sd → "L Le Barbier/Le Jeune/1784" (Angers, Chauvire, Courant, 2.VII.2019, Lot 822 repr., est. 1200–1500) φ

J.467.103 Jeune femme au chapeau fleuri, pstl, 74x60 ov., sd → "J. L. Le Barbier/le jeune 178[6]" (Paris, Tajan, 24.III.2004, Lot 139 repr., est. €4–6000, €4813. Château de Martheray; Zurich, Koller, 26.III.2015, Lot 2742 repr., est. SwFr2–3000) Φσ