Neil Jeffares, Dictionary of pastellists before 1800

Online edition

LE BARBIER, Jean-Louis, le jeune

Rouen 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.467.103 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; Zurichm Koller, 26.III.2015, Lot 2742 repr., est. SwF2–3000) Φσ



