

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

LEBEL, Antoine

Arc-en-Barrois 1705 – Paris 8.III.1793

Marine painter and occasional portraitist; *agr  * 1746; *re  * 1746. His death certificate (Archive de Paris) has “Antoine Le Bel, peintre”, aged 88, unmarried, living in Paris, in a shared house at 648 rue de Lille. The subject matter of the pastel from the Marcille sale suggests that it may be by this artist rather than one of the numerous nineteenth century homonyms, although no other pastel is known. However a signed and dated (?1767) drawing of a young man in a *chapeau clabaud*, in charcoal and red and white chalk (a medium which might have been described as pastel in an 1857 catalogue), appeared in Paris, Christie’s, 29.III.2012, Lot 120. Two further trois-crayons drawings, one sd 1746, were in Paris, Artcurial, 22.III.2023, Lots 8&9.

A miniature of Charles Le Normant du Coudray avec sa femme Marie-Madeleine Morand, signed “C. Lebelle”, is derived from the pastel by Perronneau (*q.v.*); its relationship with a 1783 watercolour by Ch. Le Bel, engraved by Gaucher (*v. Saunier 1922, p. 26 n.r.*) is unclear. Arnoult 2014 gives his initial as E. Le Bel. That miniaturist is likely to be the “Lebel” listed, with the address left blank, in the *  trennes orl  naises* in 1775 (p. 86) as a “peintre en mignature”. It does not seem that he should be conflated with Antoine Lebel.

There are unclear confusions also with Cl  ment Belle (*q.v.*).

A Belle fils, or Lebelle, peintre aux Gobelins, was an   lecteur in 1792 and commissaire civil (Soboul & Monnier 1985, p. 525).

Bibliography

B  n  zit; Martin Eidelberg, “In search of Lebel”, *Apollo*, .IX.2004

Pastels

J.4672.101 Claude-Joseph VERNET (1714–1789), peintre, pstl (Fran  ois-Martial Marcille; Paris, Pillet, 4–7.III.1857, Lot 253)