

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

LEBEL, Antoine

Arc-en-Barrois 1705 – Paris 1793

Marine painter and occasional portraitist; *agréé* 1746; *requ* 1746. 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 en 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.

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 *Étrennes orléanaïses* in 1775 (p. 86) as a "peintre en mignature". It does not seem that he should be conflated with Antoine Lebel.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Martin Eidelberg, "In search of Lebel", *Apollo*, .IX.2004

Pastels

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