

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

LEFÈVRE

fl. Paris 1771–91

Little is known of the author of the 1791 pastel, described in the catalogue as Lefevre fils, and believed to be the son of Jean-Baptiste Lefèvre (*q.v.*); the date of 1791 may be a misreading. It seems likely that he is the other Lefevre listed in the *Almanach des peintres* of 1776 (p. 118), “rue Saint Honoré, près la rue du Roule, peint le miniature & le pastel”; since the professeur Lefèvre, quai Pelletier is also listed, they cannot be the same, although it is most likely that the latter himself was described as Lefèvre fils. Lefèvre, or a homonym, exhibited at the Salon de la Correspondance in 1779. A number of miniatures are known, in a style broadly related to Nattier.

Several homonyms studied under Vien: Dominique Le Fèvre des Forges (1727–1769) was a pupil at the Académie royale from 1756, winning first prize in .IV.1757, and was sent to Rome; Étienne Le Fèvre was a pupil at the Académie royale from 1758 to 1765, under Vien (he may be the Lefevre awarded medals in .VII.1759 and .X.1759, and possibly again in 1765); Alexandre Le Fèvre, born in Paris around 1743, the son of a draper, studied at the Académie under Vien from 1765; a Lefebvre was awarded first prize by the Académie royale in 1775; a citoyenne Lefebvre exhibited miniatures at the Salon de 1793. From an earlier generation, Nicolas Lefebvre, peintre, was recteur of the Académie de Saint-Luc; he was a cousin of Jacques-Charles Allais (*q.v.*).

Even less clear is the authorship of a pastel of Mme de Verdelin et ses filles, of which a detail of Rousseau’s friend is widely reproduced. The work may well be an amateur production by one of the family, possibly the daughter depicted in the centre of the pastel at an easel.

Pastels

J.4702.101 La marquise de VERDELIN, née Marie-Madeleine Brémond (1728–1810), avec ses deux filles, Léontine-Marie, marquise de Blénac (1754–1780) et Henriette-Charlotte, future vicomtesse de Tillières (1757–1834), pstl, 1773 (desc.: comte Le Veneur de Tillières, château de Carrouges). Lit.: Paul Tisseau, “La marquise de Verdelin”, *Annales de la Société Jean-Jacques Rousseau*, XXV, 1936, p. 4, det. repr.; Cranston 1991, fig. 11, det., as by Lefèvre; Terrier 2000, repr., anon.; Birée 205, p. 81 n.r., anon. [unclear which Lefèvre; cf. member of the Le Veneur family] φα



J.4702.103 Jeune femme à la robe bleue tenant une miniature, pstl, 67x56.5, sd ✓ “Lefevre 1791” (Mystic, Connecticut, Mystic Fine Arts, 13.XI.1997, Lot 306a n.r., as by Robert Lefevre, est. \$1500–2500, \$1200 [= \$1344]; Paris, 26.VI.1998, Lot 111 repr., est. Fr15–20,000) φ



J.4702.106 ~?pendant, Elegant lady, pstl, 61x49.5 (Mystic, Connecticut, Mystic Fine Arts, 13.XI.1997, Lot 306b n.r., attr. Robert Lefevre, est. \$1000–1500, \$700 [= \$952])