

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

LESCALLIER, Antoine

Lyon 15.XI.1738 – p.1778

The grandson of Jean Revel, dessinateur de la fabrique de Lyon, his father was Balthazard-Antoine Lescallier (1717–p.1784), a négociant in Lyon who married Claudine Revel in 1738; he later moved to London where, from 1754, he was recorded as a wine merchant and, 1762–67, secrétaire de l'ambassade (the ambassador was the comte de Guerchy). In 1766 he was remarried, to a Henrietta Hannah Endon. His eldest son Antoine was awarded the drawings prize in Nonotte's school at the age of 14. Subsequently he visited Italy. Several pen and ink or wash drawings in the manner of Fragonard, dated 1770, were seen by Chennevières in 1862 when they were owned by the son-in-law of Lescallier's brother, the mariner and spy, Daniel, baron Lescallier (1743–1822).

A portrait in pastel of that brother, in the same collection, may have been by Antoine Lescallier (as Chennevières suggests), or may have been a version of the Ducreux portrait which was in the artist's 1865 sale; there is no other evidence of Lescallier as pastellist.

Lescallier enrolled at the école de l'Académie royale in .X.1765 under Cochin. He was presumably the "L'Escalier" involved in one of the episodes in the long-running battle between the Académie royale and the Académie de Saint-Luc: the latter had seized work by the painter, who was not agréé, as mentioned in a letter from Cochin to Marigny of 18.VII.1766 denouncing the "tyrannie" of the guild; however the artist's talents did not merit immediate admission to the Académie royale.

In 1769, Balthazard-Antoine Lescallier was living in London when he agreed to purchase an estate on the island of Grenada for £6000, which he borrowed but was subsequently unable to repay. He was imprisoned for debt in 1771; but was later recorded in Grenada (in 1781 he was doyen du Conseil supérieur de la Grenade), where other creditors pursued him. His son may have been involved in some of these transactions. Antoine seems to have been married to a Marie Chevreux (1752–); a daughter, Marie, was born in London 21.VIII.1776 and baptised at the Sardinian chapel 3.VIII.1777, but in reality the father was Jean-Juste Brommer, a négociant from Bordeaux, as disclosed and legalised in the parish register when Brommer himself married Marie Chevreux in Lagny-sur-Marne, 24 nivôse an III (13.I.1795 – Marie Lescallier witnessed the wedding).

In 1777 Antoine sent a painting to the Royal Academy in London entitled *A French kitchen*; his address was 38 King Street, Soho. *A Poème sur la peinture; en sept chants* was published by Antoine Lescallier in London in 1778, dedicated to "amateurs" to whom he poses as a candidate for admission to an Académie de l'Europe.

Bibliography

National Archives; Ph. de Chennevières, "Hilaire Pader"; *Revue universelle des arts*, xv, 1862, p. 89; Furcy-Raynaud 1907, pp. 54f; Locquin 1978, p. 40; Waterhouse 1981

Pastels

Daniel LESCALLIER, *psit* (desc.: son gendre, garde concierge de la porte jaune du parc de Villeneuve-l'Étang, près Garches 1862) [v. Ducreux]