

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

MAUPERIN, François-Nicolas

?Doulevant-le-Château 5.III.1737 – Paris
30.VIII.1806

M. ***, m/u, 64.8x51.3 ov., Salon de Saint-Luc
1774, no. 160

Mauperin (also Mauperrin, Maupérin, Moperin) was active in the Académie de Saint-Luc as a portrait painter. A pupil at the Académie royale of this name was awarded third prize in 1766. His age at death, c.70, suggests he was the François-Nicolas Moperin born and baptised 5.III.1737 at Doulevant-le-Château, Haute-Marne, to Nicolas (1703–1743), a mason, and Françoise Vaugnez or Vognez; they had married in 1725. François-Nicolas Mauperin, peintre de l'Académie de Saint-Luc, married Marie-Renée Duflos (she was the daughter of Nicolas Duflos, intéressé dans les affaires du roi) at Paris, Saint-Gervais, in 14.X.1782; their son Jean-Baptiste-François, a soldier in the 19^e régiment d'infanterie de ligne, was born 19.XI.1783 (see also AN Y5188^B, registres de tutelles, 1790, entry for the children of her deceased sister Marie-Hélène Duflos, and her husband, Edouard Defontaine, avocat en parlement; he was then living in rue Saint-Jacques, paroisse Saint-Benoît; the document includes his signature). He died 9.VI.1806 in Paris, and his inv. p.m. was taken on 30.VIII.1806 (AN MC/RE/XX/11). A daughter, Marie-Françoise-Auguste, married a Jacques-Paul Guiot in Paris on 2.I.1815.

In addition to two small portraits of uncertain medium, his submissions to the Salon de Saint-Luc of 1774 included a large religious trompe-l'œil painting which must have been in oil. His portrait of Marie-Antoinette was engraved by Le Beau in 1774. He exhibited a portrait (presumably in oils) in the Salon de 1801, from place de l'Estrapade, no. 13). There is no firm evidence that he worked in pastel – unless the record of a pastel by “sr Monperin” (*q.v.*) in the 1776 inventory of the collection of the Académie de Saint-Luc is a typographical error.

He may have been the “sr Mauperrin, professeur de dessin de Mesdemoiselles de Saxe”, who offered a portrait in oil of the deceased dauphin to prince Xavier de Saxe, mentioned in a letter from the prince to Baron de Saiffert, 12.VII.1789, as “assez peu ressemblant” (Archives de l'Aube, correspondance du prince Xavier).

In the Salon de la Correspondance of 1.VII.1783, Mauperin lent half a dozen pictures, including ones by Collin de Vermont and Hutin. Two sales of collections by “Mauperin, peintre” took place in Paris, by Paillet, 4.XII.1780 (165 tableaux, including the supplement: although pastels are promised on the title page, none is listed in the catalogue), and by Le Brun, 18.V.1802 (28 floréal an X), a smaller sale with other vendors.

Bibliography

Guiffrey 1915; Procès-Verbaux; Sanchez 2004

Portraits

MARIE-ANTOINETTE, reine de France (1755–1793), m/u

~grav. Le Beau 1774

Mgr l'évêque de ***, m/u, 70.2x56.7 Salon de Saint-Luc 1774, no. 159