

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

MESSINI, Ferdinando

f.l. Florence –1750

The son of a poor coal merchant from Val di Pesa, the painter Messini was taught in the drawing school of Giovanni Perini before being directed briefly by Anton Domenico Gabbiani and Francesco Conti. Abandoning tuition, he developed his own style by studying the works of the masters, and became an accomplished pastellist and copyist in Florence. According to Gabburri, “operando specialmente a pastelli in ben tinti ritratti, molto bene, con una maniera forte di grande impasto e insieme con tenerezza e con ragionevole disegno.” He may be identified with the unknown “Missini” in the Corsini inventories. He also worked for English tourists. Messini seems to have been married at least twice; his first wife, née Giovanna Tacconi (*q.v.*), was a pastellist who died young (Messini erected a touching memorial to her in the church of SS. Annunziata in Florence); he was outlived by Maria Ceccherini, who sold his self-portrait to the grandducal collection.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Berti 1979; Gabburri, *Vite di pittori*, p. 949-II-C228R; Zani 1823

Pastels

J.534.101 AUTORITRATTO, pstl, 65x52.5, inscr. verso “Ferdinando Messini dipinto da se medesimo anno 1750” (Uffizi, inv. 1890, no. 2061. The artist’s widow, Maria Ceccherini; acqu., 10 zecchini, 1788). Lit.: Gabburri, *ibid.*; Berti 1979, A599 repr. ◊



Photo su concessione del Ministero dei Beni e le Attività Culturali; reproduction forbidden

~grav. Giovanni Battista Galli, p.1793

J.534.105 Imperatore Francesco [Kaiser FRANZ I. Stephan, Herzog von Lothringen (1708–1765)], pstl (Cardinale Neri Corsini, Florence, inv. 1750, 1770)

J.534.106 Imperatrice Regina sua Consorte [MARIA THERESIA von Habsburg (1717–1780)], pstl (Cardinal Neri Corsini, Florence, inv. 1750, 1770)

J.534.107 Ritratto, m/u, Florence 1737 (Gabburri)