

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

MARIE-JOSÈPHE, dauphine de France, née de Saxe

Dresden 1731 – Versailles 1767

The daughter of Friedrich August II. Kurfürst von Sachsen (August III. of Poland), Maria Josepha Karolina Eleonore Franziska Xaveria von Sachsen married Louis le dauphin on 9.11.1747 a few months after her fifteenth birthday. Three of her eight children became kings of France. Of limited intelligence and plain appearance, she was respected for her domestic virtues and her piety. A pastel by “the king’s daughter, now the dauphiness of France” was encountered by Thomas Nugent (c.1700–1772) on his Grand Tour at a “hunting lodge” half way between Leipzig and Dresden. There (Schloß Hubertusburg) the “gallery is of a good size, and furnished with some fine pictures”, of which Marie-Josèphe’s is the only one described. The first edition of his book came out in 1749 (Hanway’s account, published in 1753, duplicates at least this section), and the pastel, which depicts the saint whose name she bore, must have been made shortly before the princess went to Versailles. Marie-Josèphe no doubt made it under the guidance of her drawing teacher, Marie-Maximilienne de Silvestre (*q.v.*), who alone of her retinue was allowed to accompany the princess to Versailles. Maximilienne and her mother, Mme Silvestre (*q.v.*) both portrayed her as a child (Munich and Naples). A great many portraits of the dauphine were subsequently made, the most notable of those in pastel being by La Tour and Liotard (*qq.v.*).

GENEALOGIES [Sachsen](#); [France](#)

Pastels

J.5156.101 St FRANCIS XAVIER [(1506–1552)] supported by an angel, crayons (Schloß Hubertusburg 1749). Lit.: Thomas Nugent, *The grand tour...*, London, 2nd ed., 1756, II, p. 259; Jonas Hanway, *An historical account...with a journal of travels*, London, 1753, II, p.236