

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

MÉANCE, Pierre-Julien

Grand-Goâve, Saint-Domingue 1762 – La Rochelle 26.XI.1810

Peter J. Meance advertised in New York journals (*Daily advertiser*, 1.III.1793, 7.V.1793, 12.V.1796, 10.VI.1797; *French and American gazette*, 16.XII.1795) initially as a miniaturist, “pupil of the academy of Paintings of Paris”, from which it is inferred that he was French. He was evidently the Pierre-Julien Méance, “bourgeois de Paris”, who married a Marie-Françoise Chapeau in Paris, 18.VIII.1786 (AN MC/RE/XLVII/6); on 26.I.1794, at St Peter’s Church, New York, an Anthony Theodore Meance was born to “Peter Julian and Mary Frances Chapeau, Catholics”.

He established a drawing academy in Maiden Lane. He spent several months in Albany in the summer of 1796. On his return to New York, he moved to 62 Broadway, where he now added crayon painting and “painting upon silk in the neatest manner” to his skills. He was recorded in Philadelphia in 1808–09. His portrait of the Franco-American bookseller Nicolas Gouin Dufief was engraved by David Edwin. Some miniatures survive in US museums but no pastel is known.

Méance died in La Rochelle, described as a refugee from Saint-Domingue. In 1829 a Pierre-Julien Méance was recorded as a caféyère in Grand-Goâve; he may have been a son.

Bibliography

Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Schidlof 1964; archives de Charente-Maritime