

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

MOUTON, Cathelin-Maurice

Etuz 26.v.1769 – Châlons-en-Champagne
18.IX.1850

Maurice Mouton was a portraitist in oil, pastel and miniature. The son of Antoine Mouton, entrepreneur des bâtiments (piqueur au fort de Trois-Châtel in 1795), he was a pupil under Wyrsch (*q.n.*) at the school in Besançon from 1783 where he was awarded the prix des élèves commençans, of 12 livres, for copying a print. Four years later he received another prix d'encouragement. In 1795 in Besançon he married his first wife, Marie-Françoise Richard; she was seven years his senior. He was then described as dessinateur de fortifications. He exhibited pastels in 1806, 1807, 1808 and 1811, from rue Saint-Paul, Besançon. On 3.III.1814 he was married for the second time, to Jeanne-Pierre-Marie Thomas. He was still working in Besançon in 1831, where he had become "le portrait attitré de la petite bourgeoisie de Besançon". His burial entry described him as a peintre d'histoire.

Although a pastel seascape may be earlier, the only recorded pastel portraits are nineteenth century; they have been described as "à la fois frappants de ressemblance et détestables de platitude." *Réaliste* before the word was invented, his searchingly accurate portraits, where the costumes were rendered with a trompe-l'œil fidelity, seem to have inspired ridicule. It was said that, before starting a portrait, he would measure all the details of his subjects with a wooden compass.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Castan 1888, p. 205f; Schidlof 1964–65; Wey 1861, p. 46

Pastels

J.5484.101 Officier du 1^{er} régiment de cuirassiers, pstl, 82x65, sd "Mouton", 1819, important cadre doré (Paris, Drouot, Fraysse, 4.III.2009, Lot 13 repr., est. €3500–4000, €7000). Lit.: *Tradition magazine*, no. 218 φ



J.5484.103 Colonel des cuirassiers, pstl, 76x60, 1820 (Christopher Rehnlund-Ross 2001). Exh.: *Napoleon and his age*, Roslyn Harbor, Nassau County Museum of Art, 28.I.–29.IV.2001. Cat. Constance Schwartz & al., p. 89

J.5484.104 Homme en redingote bleu, pstl, 62x50.5, sd & "Mouton 1823" (Dijon, Cortot Vregille Bizouard, 24.XI.2012, Lot 151 repr., est. €500–600) φ



J.5484.1045 Deux frères assis, pstl, 69x80, sd & "Mouton Ptre l'an 1832" (Mayenne, Blouet, 21.v.2025, Lot 20 repr., est. €1000–1500) φ



J.5484.105 Jeune mariée, pstl, 49.5x40.5, sd & "Mouton 1818" (Paris, Drouot, Beaussant Lefèvre, 13.XII.2017, Lot 13 repr., est. €1800–2500; Paris, Drouot, Beaussant Lefèvre, 7.III.2018, Lot 14 repr., est. €1000–1500; Paris, Drouot, Beaussant Lefèvre, 8.XII.2021, Lot 11 repr., est. €1000–1500) φ



J.5484.106 Homme en habit bleu; & pendant:
J.5484.107 dame au bonnet blanc, pstl, 66.5x51, s (Westerhope, Anderson & Garland, 7–8.VI.2011, Lot 51 repr., est. £500–800; Westerhope, Anderson & Garland, 22–23.III.2011, Lot 71 repr., est. £300–600; Nottingham, Mellors & Kirk, 10–12.VI.2015, Lot 1067 repr., est. £200–300) φ



J.5484.11 Port de mer, effet de lumière, pstl, 58x74.5, sd & (Besançon, Dufreche, Hôtel des ventes des Chaprais, 2.XII.2010, Lot 110 repr., est. €2500–2000) φ

