

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

NOËL, Alexandre-Jean

Brie-Comte-Robert 1752 – Paris 1834

Pupil of Nicolas-Charles de Silvestre and of his son Jacques-Augustin as well as of Joseph Vernet; a pupil at the Académie royale, he took third prize in 1767, before joining Jean Chappe's scientific expedition to California as illustrator. Noël returned to France in the 1770s and thereafter divided his time between France and Portugal, continuing to make topographical pictures in oil, watercolour and gouache. A report from Lisbon appeared in the London *Star*, 16.XII.1791:

The Sieur Noel, a French painter, who gained a comfortable livelihood by making drawings of our ports and their environs, has fallen a victim to his rage for Gallic liberty. Having been frequently advised to discontinue his seditious discourses, but in vain, he was seized and put on board a ship on the point of sailing, without inquiring whither. Several of his countrymen have been served in the same manner: which mode our Court adopts without ceremony.

The pastels he left were no doubt influenced by Pillement, but the compositions are in the Vernet genre. He also made two pastel portraits of the future baron de Silvestre, his teachers' grandson and son.

There is confusion with the work of homonyms, including Jules Noël (1815–1881); and a number of the works described as in pastel may in fact be in gouache.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Miguel Faria, "Alexandre-Jean Noël", in Pillement 1997, pp. 202–215; Paris 1984c; Sanchez 2004

Pastels

- J.5578.101 Augustin-François, baron de SILVESTRE (1762–1851), enfant, pstl. Lit.: Silvestre 1869, p. 120 n.r.
- J.5578.102 Augustin-François, baron de SILVESTRE, jeune homme, pstl. Lit.: Silvestre 1869, p. 120 n.r.
- J.5578.103 Rock of Conde de Obidos, pstl, 72x54 ov., sd "Noël 1789" (Lisbon, FRESS museum, inv. 396). Exh.: Pillement 1997, no. 78 repr. clr φ



J.5578.107 Clair de lune, pstl/crt., 46.3x80, s ✓
"Noël" (Amiens, musée de Picardie, inv. MP.3037-1069. Legs chanoine Eugène Dumont 1926) φ



Photo courtesy musée de Picardie, Amiens

- J.5578.111 Navire de haut bord dans une rade, pstl/ppr (Beverly, Horvitz Collection. Acqu. Christophe de Quénétaïn)
- J.5578.111 Marine animée sur une côte, gch., pstl/ppr, 44.5x73 (Paris, Drouot, Pescheteau Badin Godeau & Leroy, 16.VI.2003, Lot 46 repr., est. €15–20,000, b/i) φ



J.5578.105 The fort at Alcântara, pstl, 69x51 ov., sd "Noël 1789" (Lisbon, FRESS museum, inv. 394). Exh.: Pillement 1997, no. 79 repr. clr φ