

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

PARROCEL, Charles

Avignon 1688 – Paris 1752

The Parrocel dynasty of painters goes back to Charles's grandfather Barthélémy (1595–1660), and includes his son, Joseph, known as des Batailles (1646–1704), and grandsons, among them Charles and Pierre (1670–1739), father of Joseph-François (1704–1781), in turn father of the portraitist Marie (*q.v.*). Charles was trained by his father. He served in the cavalry for a year before taking up painting, and he spent nine years in Rome before returning to Paris where he was *reçu* in 1721. He was, like other members of the dynasty, a prolific draughtsman, occasionally using coloured chalk. It is likely that the drawing in the cabinet de Montullé was one of these, and this may also be the case with the “Esquisse en pastelle faite par Parrocel peintre a Paris representant une publication de paix sous glace dans la bordure a filets de bois doré prisé Cent livres” in the estate inventory of La Tour's other friend, the abbé Huber (it is conceivably the framed picture which appears in La Tour's pastel of the abbé lisant in Geneva). La Tour had intervened on Parrocel's behalf when, in 1743, Rigaud's pension became available after his death; a sketch for a painting for Fontainebleau given by Parrocel to La Tour was exhibited in the Salon de 1746, no. 55.

Bibliography

Bénézit; C.-N. Cochin, “Vie de Charles Parrocel”, 1760, in L. Dussieux & al., *Mémoires inédits sur la vie...*, 1854, II, p. 413–414; Mariette 1851–60; Saint-Quentin 2005; Sanchez 2004; New York 1999a; Toledo 1975

Pastels

- J.5738.101 Une publication de paix, esquisse, pstl (abbé Huber; inv. p.m., 10.VI.1744, 100 livres)
- J.5738.102 L'ambassadeur turc, trois crayons, coloré d'un peu de pastel (Montullé; Paris, 22–30.XII.1783). Lit.: A. Boppe, *Les Peintres du Bosphore*, 1911, p. 105 n.r.
- J.5738.103 Cavalier et son cheval, trois hommes en discussion, pierre noire, pstl, 24.5x18 (Paris, Drouot, Thierry de Maigret, 20.VI.2014, Lot 120 repr., est. €200–300) φ

