

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

PESNE, Antoine

Paris 1683 – Berlin 1757

Documents in the Archives nationales confirm that he was the son of Thomas Pesne, adjoint à professeur à l'académie de Saint-Luc (who died in 1734) and Hélène de La Fosse (inv. p.m. 1733; Antoine renounced his share in the estate). He was trained in Paris, he was awarded first prize in 1703. He was in Venice between 1705 and 1708, returning to Paris where he was to be *agrégé* 1718; *reçu* 1720, although by 1713 he had already settled in Berlin as official painter to Friedrich Wilhelm I. and then to his son Friedrich der Große. His celebrity is based on the numerous commissions to decorate the palaces of Charlottenburg and Sans Souci and his distinctive oil portraits of the court. He travelled to Dessau in 1715 and to Paris and London 1723–24. He visited Dresden in 1718 and 1728, where he would have seen Friedrich August's collection of Rosalba; and he was commissioned to paint a series of portraits for August der Starke which are recorded in letters from the baron Le Plat from Berlin, 11.VI.1728. In addition to the series of beauties, Pesne's self-portrait and "un portray en pastel de la femme de Paine original" were offered without payment; they were sent to Dresden 30.VI.1728, along with portraits of the painter Jean-Baptiste Gayot-Dubuisson, Pesne's father-in-law (he married the 14-year-old Ursule-Anne Dubuisson in Rome in 1710), and recorded in the Dresden inventory a month later. His 1728 portrait of Weidemann, now lost, seems to have been the only other pastel made in Berlin (apart from the sketches believed to have been made by Romandon, *q.v.*). Although numerous pastel copies of his paintings are known, none seems to autograph.

Monographic exhibitions

Pesne 1926: *Antoine Pesne 1683–1757*, Berlin, Galerie Goldschmidt-Wallerstein, 21.XI.–19.XII.1926. Cat. Charles F. Förster

Bibliography

Bayreuth 1998; Berckenhagen & al. 1958; Berlin 1991b; H. Börsch-Supan, *Der Maler Antoine Pesne, Franzose und Preuße*, Friedberg, 1986; Börsch-Supan 1994; Brieger 1921; Darmstadt 1914; Dijon 2001; Dimier 1930; Dresden 2009; Dumont-Wilden 1909; Dussieux 1856; Grove 1996; Walter Holzhausen, "Pesne und seine Beziehungen zu August dem Starken", *Zeitschrift für Kunstgeschichte*, IX, 1940; Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Pönsgen & al. 1958; Scholke 2000; Paul Seidel, "Die Ausstellung von Kunstwerken aus dem Zeitalter Friedrichs des Grossen. I. Friedrich der Grosse als Sammler von Gemälden und Skulpturen", *Jahrbuch der königlich preussischen Kunstsammlungen*, XIII/4, 1892, pp. 183–212; Toledo 1975; Warsaw 2009

Pastels

J.5834.101 Mme Antoine PESNE, née Ursule-Anne Dubuisson (1696–1748), pstl, original, 56.8x48.7 (comm. August der Starke; Dresden, inv. 1722–28, no. 1976 [not located]). Lit.: Holzhausen 1940, p. 64 n.r., citing lettre du baron Le Plat, Haupt-Staats-Archiv in Dresden, Fol. 187

J.5834.102 Karl Emil WEIDEMANN [(1684–1735)], peintre, pstl, 1728 (Berlin, Akademie; destroyed 1945). Lit.: Friedrich Nicolai & al., *Beschreibung der königlichen Residenzstädte Berlin und Potsdam*, 1786, II, p. 844; Brieger 1921, p. 310 repr.; Börsch-Supan 1994, p. 8 repr. ☉



J.5834.104 Junge Dame, pstl, 65.5x50 (Bautzen, Stadtmuseum) ☉



J.5834.117 ~cop., pstl, 55x43 (Berlin, Leo Spik, 2–4.XII.2010, Lot 268 repr., est. €6500) ☉



FRIEDRICH der Große als Kind, mit seiner Schwester Wilhelmine, pnt. (Berlin, Schloß Charlottenburg, GK I 3418)

J.5834.12 ~cop. (*Friedrich*), pstl/ppr, 41x33 (Berlin, Schloß Charlottenburg, GK I 40501. Lost a.1945). Lit.: Berckenhagen 1958, p. 128, no. 115

J.5834.121 ~cop., pstl (Huis Doorn HuD 76)

Anon. related pastels

Mlle Barberina [Barbara Campanini, dite BARBARINA (1721–1799), danseuse] (Sans, Souci)

J.5834.108 ~cop., pstl, 78.5x54.1 (*Verzeichnis der Gemälde-Sammlung des verstorbenen Obersten Quintus Icilius*; [Karl Gottlieb Guichard], inv. p.m., Potsdam, 1784, no. 114, copie)

FRIEDRICH der Große, Friedrich II. König von Preußen (1712–1786), pnt., 1714 (Charlottenburg). Lit.: Börsch-Supan, *Pesne*, 1986, fig. 26

J.5834.11 ~cop., pstl, 40x32 (The Hague, SHV, inv. 293). Lit.: rKD n.r.

FRIEDRICH der Große, Friedrich II. König von Preußen, pnt., 1715 (Charlottenburg)

J.5834.112 ~cop., pstl, 33x27, sd 1810 (Baden-Baden, Neues Schloß, K 424). Lit.: Kircher 1958, no. 705, n.r.

FRIEDRICH der Große als Feldherr, c.1745

~grav. J. Nilson

J.5834.115 ~cop., pstl, 65x50 (Paxton House, inv. H6965, as Carriera. Sitter; don: Patrick Home of Billie and Wedderburn (1728–1808); desc.) ☉