

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

PRÉVOST, Bonaventure-Louis

Paris 1733–19.III.1816

Although older sources (e.g. P&B) refer to the draughtsman and engraver, best known for his plates after Cochin (including for the *Encyclopédie*) as Benoît, his first name was Bonaventure. A pupil of Jean Ouvrier, he was close to the Chéreau and Huquier families, and was executor to Jacques Chéreau; a drawing of Jacques-François Chéreau in his study is known from an engraving (by Antoine Carrée, 1780). There is some doubt about his dates, mostly given as 1733–1807: an inv. p.m. of Bonaventure Louis Prévost, 5 rue Saint Dominique d'Enfer, was prepared on 30.III.1816 (AN); he appeared, as Louis-Bonaventure Prévost, Graveur et dessinateur, rue Saint-Dominique, as an ami of one of Jacques-Gabriel Huquier's daughters, 1781 (registres de tutelle, AN Y5084^A). A carte de sûreté was issued 2.VIII.1793 for a 60-year-old graveur of this name, born in Paris, living 319 rue Saint-Thomas, while the table de successions and état civil reconstitué (Archives de Paris) record the death, 19.III.1816, of the ancien graveur Bonaventure Louis Prévost, aged 83, unmarried, living at 2 rue Saint-Hyacinthe. Despite this his parentage remains uncertain, until published here in 2024. He and his brother Philippe-René Prévost, marchand lapidaire, attended the marriage of their sister Claude-Madeleine to Hyacinthe-Lamoral Latour de Villers, 16.X.1769, at Saint-Eustache; their parents were René Prévost, a maître brodeur, rue Saint-Honoré, and Claude Broust. On 15.I.1770 Louis-Bonaventure Prévost witnessed the burial of his father at Saint-Médard (notoriété, AN MC/ET/v/628, 26.V.1770); he was then living in the rue Saint-Thomas, paroisse Saint-Benoît.

The *Almanach des peintres* of 1776 lists the engraver of Cochin as also a “dessinateur correct et élégant (p. 177), identifying him as of the Académie impériale de Vienne (not otherwise verified). The few known black chalk drawings show the strong influence of Cochin, whose work he engraved. Whether he or a homonym was the author of the 1781 pastel is speculative. Flower pictures from a 1770 sale, and a further reference in the 1774 *Almanach*, erroneously here until 2024, are to a homonym, Jean-Jacques Prévost (*q.v.*).

Bibliography

New York 1999a; Portalis & Béraldi 1882; Sanchez 2004; Sabrier & Paunet, cat. de dessins 2024

Pastels

J.6024.101 Éléante à Péventail, pstl, 86.5x63.5, sd Prévot 1781 (Auxerre, Auxerre Enchères, 24.VI.2007, Lot 292 n.r., Éc. fr., est. €2000–2500)