

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

PUYSÉGUR, comtesse de, née Antoinette-Louise-Claire Ricouart d'Hérouville

Alfortville, Val-de-Marne 16.III.1759 –
14.III.1832

The daughter of Antoine-Jean de Ricouart, marquis d'Hérouville (1713–1782), lieutenant-général, commandant de Guyenne, mineralogist and scientist and his first wife, the actress, mistress of the 2nd Earl of Albemarle, Louise Gaucher, dite Lolotte (1724–1765), known as the presumed subject in a portrait by Liotard ([J.49.13](#)). In Paris on 28.II.1780 she married Antoine-Hyacinthe-Anne de Chastenet (1752–1809), a mariner, archaeologist and writer; he was comte de Puysegur from 1782, but often referred to as comte de Chastenet-Puysegur. She brought extensive properties in Saint-Domingue to the marriage. Her husband, who fought in the American war of independence, was commissioned by the maréchal de Castres to survey Saint-Domingue in 1784; he published *Détail sur la navigation aux Côtes de Saint-Domingue et dans ses débouquemens* in 1787. She was dame d'honneur de la duchesse de Bourbon, and received the honneurs de la cour in 1788. They emigrated during the Revolution, returning in 1801.

The subject in the only signed pastel is named Zamor, a name frequently given to liveried servants of exotic origin. Inevitably he has been confused with Mme du Barry's servant Louis-Benoît Zamor, of a similar age and origin, but this is surely "Antoine Marie Matoulla dit Zamore, fils de Chek Felley Oulla", born in Bengal in 1762, who was baptised at Saint-Sulpice in Paris 16.VIII.1773 when he was recorded as living "chez M. d'Hérouville"; his godparents were "Antoine Ricouart d'Hérouville" and "Julie-Catherine d'Arrot", d'Hérouville's second wife (SHAT, Dossier Zamore, état des services et lettres des 22 thermidor an VIII et 12 messidor an X, cited Eric Noël, "Zamor", Centre d'information et de documentation de l'Inde francophone, lettre 26/27, 2008). The army record shows that he entered service in 1785, serving in the local militia in Martinique and promoted by Rochambeau to be captain of the compagnie of "hommes noirs et de couleur" before retiring to Lorraine (*v.* Bernard Gainot, *Les Officiers de couleur dans les armées...*, 2007, pp. 84ff, 107, 112).

GENEALOGIES [Chastenet](#)

Pastels

[J.6045.101](#) Antoine ZAMOR (1762–p.1799),
servant du comte d'Hérouville, pstl, ov.,
c.1775 (PC 2022) øv