

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

RUPRECHT von der Pfalz

Prague 27.XII.1619 – London 29.XI.1682

The son of the Winter Queen, Prinz Ruprecht von der Pfalz, also known as Prince Rupert, Duke of Cumberland, or le prince Robert, was a keen amateur artist and is credited with the development of the mezzotint process, which he communicated to Wallerant Vaillant (*q.v.*) in 1653 (it is subsequently referred to in the 1683 *Épitome* by Luttrell, *q.v.*). He is also said to have developed recipes for pastels; these appeared in early treatises such as Gautier's *L'Art de laver*, Lyon, 1687, or Antoine d'Emery's *Recueil des nouveaux secrets concernant les arts*, Toulouse, 1683, or his *Nouveau recueil de secrets et curiositez*, Amsterdam, 1709 (I, p. 141), as the "secret très estimable...trouvé par M. le prince Robert". Some drawings and paintings have survived, but no pastel is known.

Bibliography

Croft-Murray & Hulton 1960; Lavallée 1949, p. 77; London 1987a; Sloan 2000