

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

RABINEAU, Francis

fl. USA 1791–1804

According to his advertisement in the *New-York daily gazette* (6.VI.1791),

FRANCIS RABINEAU, Limner, Respectfully informs the public, that he has lately removed to this city, and resides at the end of Greenwich street, opposite to the late Mr. Dean's dock. He carries on the business of a Limner in all its parts, particularly crayon, pastel and miniature likeness; Hair Work and other Devices for Rings or Locketts. Being already employed by a number of the most respectable inhabitants of this city, he has been so fortunate as to give full satisfaction. He delivers Likeness as large as the life (when not exceeding twenty four inches in length) neatly framed, gilt and glazed, and in every respect completely finished, for the moderate price of eight dollars; and if no likeness, no pay.

Those who may please to encourage him in his profession, may have an opportunity of seeing some of his performances, by applying at his house, or, as he lives at a distance from the centre of the city, any lady or gentlemen, upon leaving their names at Mr. Fleming's, No 10 Broad street or at Mr. Hardie, corner of Crown and Lombard street, will be immediately waited on.

The following year he again advertised at some length in *The diary, or London's register* (3.XII.1792), from 8 Murray Street: "He continues to Draw Likenesses in Miniature, and Crayon Painting, At the moderate price of 6 dollars per picture. Likenesses in crayon he completes in full bust, glazed and with elegant gilded frames, at the low price of Four Pounds." He advertised in Newark (*Wood's Newark gazette and New-Jersey advertiser*, 6.IV.1796) and again in the *North-Carolina gazette* (11.III.1797), as a "limner from Philadelphia and Washington"; in New Bern (*North-Carolina gazette*, 5.VIII.1797) he repeated his "no likeness – no pay" formula; and in 1798 he promised that the ladies and gentlemen of Fayetteville (*The North Carolina Minerva and Fayetteville advertiser*, 12.V.1794) who employed him "would be waited upon punctually on applicaton", while he was willing to take on and teach "a Young Gentleman...provided he is of a natural genius." A letter notes that Rabineau was engaged to furnish colours to the Hunterdon militia in Philadelphia, but (4.II.1799) had absconded without completing the job. He was last recorded in Lynchburg in 1804.

A number of miniatures and some oil paintings are known, as well as a couple of pastels from the early 19th century.

A François Rabineau, from Sennerpont [sic] in Picardie, won prizes in anatomy at the Académie royale des sciences, des belles-lettres & des arts de Rouen, 1754–55; among the other prizewinners was Le Barbier l'ainé, whose birth in 1738 probably provides an indication of this Rabineau's age.

Bibliography

Prime 1932, II, p. 32

Pastels

J.608.101 Jasper MURDOCH (–1805), pstl, c.1800 (PC, Orange County, 1978)

J.608.104 Daniel WILLSON; pendant: J.608.105 Susan Willson, pstl, c.1800 (PC, Virginia)