

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

RÖNNOW, Casten

Karlshamn 1700 – Stockholm 1787

A military surgeon, he served in the Norwegian campaign in 1718 before embarking on a course of study at Stockholm, Uppsala, Denmark, The Netherlands and Germany. He then spent seven years in Paris where he was trained by Le Dran, for whom he made drawings for a treatise on cutting for stone (1730). He was awarded a doctorate in medicine by the université de Reims in 1730. In Paris he came under the influence of Lundberg (*q.v.*), after whose portrait of Hedvig Elisabet Sack he made a copy in miniature (1730, PC); a 1727 portrait of Lars Roberg is in Uppsala (Anatomiska Institutionen). Rejecting offers to illustrate further works for celebrated surgeons such as Douglas in London and Winslow in Paris, he joined the service of Stanislas Leszczyński in Königsberg in 1735 and followed him to Lunéville in 1737, where he was made conseiller intime and premier médecin personnel du roi. With Charles Bagard he played an important role in establishing the Collège royale de médecine de Nancy (1752). No doubt with Lundberg's continued support he was made a foreign member of the Académie royale des sciences in Stockholm in 1744, and was ennobled (1759) and given the Étoile du nord in 1766. Following the death of Stanislas Leszczyński he settled in Stockholm. His portrait was made by Lundberg in 1777. According to Voreaux, he worked in pastel as well as the miniature and watercolour mentioned in other sources. A number of his drawings are preserved in the medical college in Stockholm.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Laine & Brown 2006; Voreaux 1998