

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

SEFFF, Carl August

Kreypau 1770 – Dorpat 1838

Also Karl Gustav Senff or Kārl August Zenfs. Portraitist, genre and landscape painter, working in oil, pastel and watercolour; he also made lithographs and engravings. He studied in Dresden and Leipzig and in 1802 was appointed professor of drawing and engraving at the newly established university at Mitau (Jelgava). He is said to have been a successful pastel portraitist; the only known examples are from the nineteenth century, although they continue in the eighteenth century tradition taught in Dresden. He was the brother of the still-life pastellist Adolf Senff (1785–1863) who studied theology before turning to painting in 1810.

Bibliography

Bénézit; rKD; Jānis Siliņš, *Latvijas māksla, 1800–1914*, Daugava, 1979, 1, p. 282, fig.174, 175

Pastels

J.6716.101 Mme DUHAMEL, wife of the governor of Vidzeme, pstl, 1815. Lit.: Siliņš 1979, fig. 175 repr. ϕ

J.6716.103 Graf Wittgenstein [Ludwig Adolph Peter Graf zu SAYN-WITTGENSTEIN (1769–1843), Generalfeldmarschall], pstl, [c.1812]. Lit.: Siliņš 1979, fig. 174 repr. ϕ

J.6716.105 Herr, pstl/ppr, 30x24, sd “Senff fec. 1808” (Hannover, Kastern, 22.IX.2012, Lot 114 repr., as by Adolf Senff, est. €700–900) [?attr.] ϕ

