

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

STARCK, Freiherrin von, née Marie Albertine Schultz

Königsberg c.1750 – Darmstadt p.1805

Also Stark; Schulz, Schulze etc.; miniaturist and pastellist active in Königsberg and Mitau (now Jelgava, the former capital of Kurland). Her husband, Johann August Freiherr von Starck (1741–1816), was an important Enlightenment figure, a writer, linguist and freemason from Schwerin. His study of Eastern languages took him to Göttingen, St Petersburg, London and Paris. In 1769 he was appointed Professor extraordinarius orientalem at Königsberg (where he was a neighbour of Kant), subsequently occupying the chair of theology there. In 1774 he married Marie Albertine Schultz, the youngest daughter of Franz Albert Schultz (1692–1763), who had previously been professor of theology and rector of the university. Following theological controversy, Starck left Königsberg for Mitau in 1777; four years later he was appointed Oberhofprediger at Darmstadt. According to an anonymous contemporary visitor in 1785,

Seine Frau scheint viel Verstand und Einsichten zu haben, spricht er wenig ... Sie wohl schön und geschmackvoll, daß einem schon wohl wird, wenn man in das Haus tritt. Ihre Ehe ist vergnügt, obgleich ohne Kinder. Er mauert stark.

Albertine herself published, under the pseudonym of Eulalie, a “Lettre d’une dame à M. de Kotzebue sur le paganisme et le Christianisme” (*Gazette du monde élégant*, 1805), refuting the blasphemies of this controversial author who was later assassinated.

Bibliography

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