

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

VOLAIRE, Jacques-Antoine, chevalier

Toulon 30.IV.1729 – Naples 19.IX.1799

Jacques-Antoine (as he often signed), or Pierre-Jacques (as he appears on his baptismal record), Volaire, or Volère, trained in the family workshop in Toulon, set up by his father – a painter originally from Nantes, believed to be Jacques-Auguste Volaire (1685–1768). After working as an assistant to Joseph Vernet, who came to Toulon in 1754 to paint the ports of France, Volaire travelled to Rome around 1763, becoming a member of the Accademia di San Luca. He specialised in landscapes and, after his move to Naples in 1767, in views of Vesuvius. The popularity of his nocturnal pictures was no doubt enhanced by the eruption of 1771. Among the confusions about this artist are the two *Marines*, medium unspecified, offered for sale at the Salon de Toulouse in 1752, which Mesuret suggests may be the pastels at Agen; if so they may be by the father.

Bibliography

Émilie Beck-Saiello, *Le Chevalier Volaire: un peintre français à Naples au XVIII^e siècle*, Naples, 2004; Émilie Beck-Saiello, *Pierre Jacques Volaire: 1729–1799*, Paris, 2010; Bellier de La Chavignerie & Auvray; Bénézit; Grove; Mesuret 1972; Paris 2005b; Sanchez 2004; Warsaw 2009

Pastels

J.774.101 Une Marine; & pendant: J.774.102 une autre Marine, m/u, Salon de Toulouse 1752, no. 35/36 (atelier de M. Volaire, à vendre)

J.774.103 =?Deux vues des bords de la méditerranée; & pendant: J.774.104 groupe de pêcheurs; pstl, 52x64, s ✓ “A. Volaire”/“J.-A. Volaire” (Agen, hôtel de la préfecture. Duc d’Aiguillon, château d’Aiguillon; vente 1790; acqu. duchesse d’Aiguillon, not paid; seized). Lit.: “Ancienne collection d’Aiguillon”, *Revue universelle des arts*, XIII, 1861, pp. 197f, “bien conservés, remarquables par la beauté des ciels”; *Inventaire général des richesses d’art de la France*, 1891, V, p. 286 n.r.; “Artistes de Toulon”, *Archives de l’art français*, X, 1894, p. 356 n.r.; Mesuret 1972, p. 28

J.774.105 Scène maritime, 53x65, s “J. A. Volaire” (Hermitage, inv. OP-18866). Exh.: St Petersburg 2001, no. 7 repr.; St Petersburg 2003a, no. 21. Lit.: Каменская 1960, no. 22 repr. φ



J.774.107 Scène maritime, pstl/ppr, 53x65, s “J. A. Volaire”, 1774 (Hermitage, inv. OP-18867. Gostorg Office, Leningrad; acqu. 1929). Exh.: St Petersburg 2001, no. 8 repr.; St Petersburg 2003a, no. 22. Lit.: Каменская 1960, no. 23 repr. φ



J.774.109 Quatre paysages & marines, bien peints, pstl, 54.1x65 (Paris, Chariot, Paillet, 30.XI.1778 & seq., Lot 177, ?divided into two sets of pendants; 394 livres; Olive)

J.774.11 Pêcheurs au bord de la mer, & pendant: J.774.111 pstl/ppr, 53.2x65, one s ∨ “J A Volaire” (Lady Cavendish. New York, Sotheby’s, 14.I.1992, Lot 99 repr./n.r., est. \$15–20,000, \$15,000) φ



Photo courtesy Sotheby's

J.774.114 Figures watching the eruption of Vesuvius at night (London, Bonhams, 8.VII.1993, circle) φ



J.774.116 Pêcheurs au clair de lune, pstl, 51.5x62, s ∨ “J. A. Volaire” (Paris, Drouot, Tajan, 26.XI.1996, Lot 196 repr., attr., est. fr20–30,000) φ



J.774.118 Sailors embarking for America; & pendant: J.774.119 Sailors returning from America, pstl, 53.5x63.5 (New York, Christie’s, 24.I.2001, Lot 130 repr., est. \$20–30,000, \$26,000) φ

