BELLE, Alexis-Simon

Paris 12.I.1674–21.XI.1734

Pastels are rare (there is only one signed example) in the work of this pupil of François de Troy who served the courts of France and Poland as well as that of the exiled Stuarts in Saint-Germain. He received prizes at the École des beaux-arts between 1692 and 1700, and was *agréé* 1701, *reçu* 1703. After de Troy's death, Belle employed Hubert Drouais (*q.v.*) as a copyist in his studio. His first wife was the miniaturist Marie-Anne, sister of Élisabeth-Sophie Chéron, who died in 1718; Clément Belle (*q.v.*) was the son of Alexis-Simon's second marriage to Marie-Nicole Horthemels (1689–p.1745).

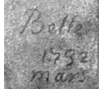
Bibliography

Bénézit; Camus 1990; Dumont-Wilden 1909; Edinburgh 2001; Guiffrey 1883, pp. 256ff, doc. L; Cathrin Klingsöhr-Leroy, in Grove 1996; Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Mariette 1851–60; Rambaud 1965–71, I, pp. 121–27, II, pp. 201f; Sanchez 2004; Saur; Simon 2007; Thieme & Becker; Toledo 1975

Pastels

J.139.101 ??Mme DU CHÂTELET, en manteau bleu, pstl/ppr, inscr. *verso* "Mme la Marquise Duchatelet/Peint par Latour", [c.1730] (US PC 2006) [new attr., ?; cf. H. Drouais] φα?δν

J.139.103 ?Louis-Philippe, duc de Chartres, puis duc d'ORLÉANS (1725–1785), enfant, pstl, 40x35, sd ↘ "Belle/1732/mars" (Paris, Drouot, PIASA, 31.III.2000, Lot 42 repr. clr, est. Ir£40,000, Ir£80,000) Φδσ



Jeune dame, pnt., 50.5x40.5 (PC 2026, as of Marie-Anne de Bourbon by Pierre Mignard) [?attr.]

J.139.107 ~cop., pstl, 54.3x40.3 ov. (New York, Christie's, 9.I.1991, Lot 66A repr., attr., est. $10–15,000) φ

Anon. related pastels

MARIE-ANNE-VICTOIRE, Infante d'Espagne (1718–1788), présentée devant la pièce d'eau des Suisses, pnt., 99x104, 1725 (Versailles, MV 4381). Lit.: Constans 1995 repr.; postcard

J.139.122 [*olim* J.139.102]~cop., pstl, 79x62 (PC 2018) φκ

J.139.124 [*olim* J.139.106] ~cop. (*tête*), pstl, 46x37 ov. (Gustave Déloye; Paris, Chevalier, 12–15.VI.1899, Lot 6 n.r., as autographe, inconnue, Ir£820. Zurich, Koller, 1.X.2019, Lot 6091, anon., inconnue, est. SwFr1200–1800, SwFr1250; PC 2021) φκ

La princesse de MONTAUBAN, née Catherine-Éléonore-Eugénie de Béthisy (1707–1757), tenant un perroquet, avec son frère Eugène-Éléonore (1709–1781), plus tard marquis de Mézières, enfants, pnt. (Versailles MV 3733). Lit.: Constans 1995 repr.

J.139.111 ~cop., pstl, 66x56 (Paris, Drouot, Coutau Bégarie, 13.VI.2000, Lot 107 repr., goût de Largillierre, est. Ir£20–30,000) φκν

J.139.113 ~cop., avec des fleurs, pstl, 79.5x62.5 ov. (Bury St Edmunds, Athenæum, Bonhams, 22.IX.2004, Lot 342 repr., manner of Largilliere, est. £800–1200) φκν

J.139.115 Jeune dame, pstl/ppr, 62.5x47, inscr. "A. S. Belle" (W. Wheeler & Son, London, 1958. Paris, Drouot, Audap Mirabaud, 1.IV.2016, Lot 18 repr., as autograph, est. €3–4000; Paris, Drouot, Audap Mirabaud, 14.VI.2016, Lot 3 repr., est. €1500–2000) [?date] Φ??απ