BOISSIER, Victor-Urbain

Vernantes 21.VII.1765 – ?Orléans/Paris p.1816

The pastel in the mBA, Orléans is no doubt by the same hand as other examples by the pastellist Boissier active in the Loire valley in the early nineteenth century; Herluison notes the work "certes pas à cause de son mérite", and an anonymous engraving which may derive from it is of a similar level. A notice appeared in the *Affiches d'Angers*, 12.I.1781:

> Le sieur Boissière, peintre nouvellement arrivé de Paris à Angers, où il fera quelque séjour, offer ses services au public pour le portrait. Il enseigne aussi à peindre au pastel en très peu de tems, pour peu que les personnes sachent un peu de dessin.

He is also likely to be the "M. Boissier, peintre de talent" commissioned by the poet abbé Louis Jouanneau, curé de Villebarou, to portray his elderly father (Adrien Thibault, *L'abbé Louis Jouanneau*, Blois, 1893, p. 33): apparently–

> Boissier vit tout de suite le parti qu'il y avait à tirer de cette spirituelle tête de vieillard, et en deux séances il brossa un portrait d'une touche vigoreuse et d'une vie étonnante.

However it seems unlikely that the pastellist is to be identified with the religious and history painter and engraver André-Claude (Nantes 1760 – Château-Gontier 1833), a pupil of Brenet and follower of David who settled at Château-Gontier. His wife was Julienne-Marie Boussuge (1777–), also an artist; both are represented in the église Saint-Jean at Château-Gontier.

The pastellist is more likely to be connected with the Mlle Boissier mentioned in a change of address notice in the *Journal du Loiret*, 7.III.1824, announcing that "Madame Boissier et ses Demoiselles demeurent présensement [sic] rue de la Charpenterie, no. 2. M[lles] Boissier enseignent toujours, l'une le dessin et la peinture en miniature et à la gouache; elle fait les portraits très-ressemblans." The other taught music. Both made artificial flowers and works in hair.

One of these was evidently the "Élisabeth-Louise Boissier, professeur de dessin", who died in Orléans, rue de la Charpenterie, no. 2, 29.VI.1826, buried the next day, aged 26, the daughter of Victor Boissier, professeur de dessin, and Rose Legendre. Her acte de naissance, 17 pluviôse an VIII (5.II.1800), gives her father's signature and full name, Victor-Urbain Boissier and his wife as Rose-Jeanne Legendre. Her sister Rose-Marie Boissier (1796–1867), was evidently the musician."Victor-Urbain Boissier peintre demeurant Commune Dorleans" and Rose Le Gendre were married in Blois, 21.VIII.1797.

The father, whose signature on the actes de mariage and de naissance is consistent with that of the pastellist, was evidently the "Victor Hurbin Boissier, artiste", aged 28 when his carte de sûreté was issued in Paris, 4.X.1792, having arrived in Paris in 1785, originating in Vernantes, Maine-et-Loire. He was born there amd baptised the same day at Notre-Dame to Julien Boissier, a tailor, and Marie Lilavoye. No acte de décès has yet been located, but when his son Victor, a lithographer, married in Paris on 14.I.1839, he was already dead. Rose Legendre died, in Paris, rue de l'Hopital, 12[e], 26.V.1845 (she had been born in Tours c.1769).

This analysis is confirmed by the entry for "Victor Boissier de Vernarnte" who enrolled as an élève in the école de l'Académie royale in Paris on 18.II.1788, aged 20, under Pajou, with Paris addresses given up to .III.1791. He is no doubt the miniaturist recorded at 1202 rue de Vaugirard in the *Almanach du commerce de Paris*, 1801.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Bryan; Granges de Surgères, *Les Artistes nantais*, 1898

Pastels

J.164.101 Étienne-Alexandre BERNIER (1762–1806), évêque d'Orléans, négociateur du Concorde, pstl, 38x29, s "Boissier" (Orléans, mBA, inv. 304. *Olim* évêché). Lit.: Herluison & Leroy 1899, p. 696 n.r.; Klinka-Ballesteros 2005, no. 24 n.r., as by André-Claude Boissier φ

J.164.1015 Etienne JOUANNEAU (1730–1811), vigneron, père du poète, m/u (desc.: Mme Morioux 1893). Lit.: Adrien Thibault, *L'abbé Louis Jouanneau*, Blois, 1893, p. 33 n.r. [new attr.]

J.164.102 M. LEBAUCHERY en habit bleu, pstl, 31x24, sd ← "Boissier/f[t] 1802" (Blois, Pousse-Cornet, Valoir, 13.XI.2011, Lot 14 repr., as by André-Claude Boissier) φ

J.164.104 Laurent-Étienne-Henri LE FEBVRE (1770–1845), chevalier de la Légion d'honneur, receveur général à Blois, puis à Nancy, pstl, sd ← "Boissier ft/1806" (château de Bouges) φ

J.164.105 ~repl., pstl, 28.2x22.7, sd 1806 (Paris, Drouot, Rémy Le Fur, 30.XI.2011, Lot 196 n.r., inconnu, est. €400–500, b/i) φ

J.164.1053 Pierre-Laurent LE FEBVRE (1765–1835), sous-préfet de Romorantin, pstl, sd → "Boissier ft/1806" (château de Bouges) φ

J.164.10534 Marie-Anne-Souveraine MESNIER (1798–1883), pstl, 38x30, sd → "Boissier f 1801" (PC 2025) φv

J.164.1054 Homme en habit brun, pstl, 37.5x29, sd → "Boissier ft/1802" (Remi Fremiot, antiquaire, Paris, 2022) φ

J.164.10543 Jeune garçon en amour, de 3/4, en veste chamois à brandebourgs, de face préparant son arc, pstl, 29x20.5, sd ↘ "Boissier ft/1802" (Paris, Artcurial, 28.IV.2021, Lot 58 repr., est €300–500, €455) φ

J.164.1055 Homme en habit noir, pstl, 36x27, sd 1806 (Bourges, Michel Darmancier, Olivier Clair, 26.XI.2016, Lot 13 repr., as by Boisnier, est. €80–120) φ

J.164.1057 Homme en habit noir, pstl, 27.5x21, sd "Boissier fᵗ/1806" (Paris, Crédit municipal de Paris, 12.IX.2024, Lot 53 repr., anon., est. €80–120) φv

J.164.106 Enfant un habit militaire, pstl, 28x21, sd 1806 (Paris, Drouot, Gros & Delettrez, 14.X.2016, Lot 92 repr., est. €40–60) φ

J.164.1065 Enfant au tambour, pstl, 36.5x28.5, sd "Boissier fecit/1809" (Lyon, Berard Peron, 23.III.2019, Lot 64 repr., est. €200–300) φ

J.164.1067 Homme en habit noir, pstl, 34x26, sd → "Boissier fᵗ/1810" (Albi, Hôtel des ventes du Tarn, 13.IX.2023, Lot 128 repr., as by André-Claude Boissier, est. €80–100) [new attr.] φv

J.164.1069 Garçon écrivant, pstl, 34.5x26.5 ov., sd 1813 (Bagnolet, Art Valorem, 3.IV.2025, Lot 58 repr., as by André-Claude Boissier, est. €80–100) [new attr.] φv

J.164.107 Garçon en habit bleu tenant un livre, pstl, 34x26, sd 1814 (Orléans, Binoche, 25.X.2014, Lot 26 repr., est. €80–120) φ

J.164.108 Femme en bonnet blanc, tenant une lettre, pstl, 36x28, sd "Boissier/fᵗ 1802" (Blois, Pousse-Cornet, 26.II.2018, Lot 262 repr., est. €30–50; Blois, Pousse-Cornet, 9.IV.2018, Lot 99 repr., est. €30–50) φ

J.164.1085 Femme, pstl, 38x30, sd "Boissier fᵗ/1813" (Antiquités Alain Giron, Selles-sur-Cher, 2025) φ

J.164.109 Femme en robe rayée, pstl, 49x35, sd "Boissier 1814" (Clermont-Ferrand, Vassy, Jalenques, 31.I.2009, Lot 266 repr., est. €300–400) φ

J.164.111 Jeune femme en robe rose tenant une fleur bleue, pstl, sd ← 1814 (desc.: Barthomivat de Neufville; Chanonat, château de Viallevelours, Lucien Paris, 28.X.2012, Lot 560repr., est. €100–120) φ

J.164.115 Femme en robe bleue, pstl, 34.5x26.5, sd "Boissier/fᵗ 1816" (Paris, Rossini, 21.V.2026, Lot 555 repr.) φ