

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

ALGAROTTI, Francesco, conte

Venice 11.XII.1712 – Pisa 3.V.1764

The celebrated patron and collector travelled and wrote extensively on art; from 1742 he advised Friedrich August II. on the Dresden picture collection which included numerous pastels by Rosalba (who also portrayed Algarotti's sister). In a letter to Mariette of 13.II.1751 he describes some of the pictures he had assembled, among them–

Due ritratti in pastello molto vaghi della Rosalba, ed una Maddalena penitente, che non arriva alla mezza figura, parimenti in pastello, che alcun direbbe disegnata da Guido, colorita da Wondike, ed animate dalla espressione del Domenichino.

He himself was the subject of a superb pastel by Liotard (*q.v.*), and bought Liotard's famous Belle Chocolatière for Dresden in 1745, which he famously described in the same letter (following a description of a real Holbein) as “un Holben en pastel dont les Chinois mêmes, qui sont ennemis jurés des ombres, seroient enchantés.” Although he is not normally thought of as an artist, a box of pastels sent to him in Parma by the abbé de Saint-Non (*q.v.*) on his return to Paris suggests that he may have been an amateur pastellist.

GENEALOGIES [Algarotti](#)