

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

MASSAVY DARMANCOURT,

Jean-Augustin

Paris 2.XI.1736–20.V.1811

He signed “Massavy Darmancourt” (tutelles, 26.VIII.1782, AN Y5096^b), probably the more accurate form of his name. Painter, miniaturist and drawing teacher; member of the Académie de Saint-Luc from 1776. Lemoine-Bouchard provides an account of the family background, and describes him as “marquis d’Armancourt” although he was the son of a maître épiciier Augustin Massavy Darmencout (who married Helene Leclerc in Paris in 1734: their son was baptised at Saint-Jacques-Le-Majeur the following year) and grandson of François Massavy, valet de chambre du duc d’Orléans, a perruquier. (Some documents are found under Massary.) He had been married to an Anne-Françoise Dourcy, and appears in the inv. p.m. of her father, Louis-Joseph Dourcy, in 1779 after her death. Presumably his second wife, “Marie-Magdeleine Buisson, épouse de M. Jean-Augustin Massavy Darmancourt, Peintre, rue saint Martin, près la grille des Religieux” was buried in 1781 (*Journal de Paris*, 3.VII.1781, p. 744). He was still living in the rue Saint-Martin when he issued a receipt to Joseph Micault d’Harvelay, conseiller du roi (AN MC/LIV/1004; 26.IV.1783). Two years later he married a Marie-Pierrette Charles (20.IV.1785). He was described as a “peintre en miniature” in family documents (registres de tutelles, AN Y5162^A, 1.II.1788), when his address was rue des Mauvais-Garçons; this was also found when Citoyen Darmancourt exhibited a “cadre renfermant plusieurs miniatures” at the open salon of 1795. A miniature “portrait de Darmancourt, peintre de miniatures, en buste”, dated 1797, by “Colins” was in the Auguste Vitu collection (Paris, Drouot, Motel, 30.XI.1891, lot 10 n.r.). He was a notable freemason, appearing in their records until 1799. His 1778 miniature of Benjamin Franklin (Stockholm, inv. NMB 2359) was painted after the Duplessis portrait en habit gris J.2906.112. A brother, Jean-Jacques, was a silk merchant in Turin. A notice appeared in the *Gazette de l’Île de Guernsey*, 19.V.1792:

DARMANCOURT, Peintre de Portraits en miniature, Élève de l’Académie royale de Paris, fait savoir, au public, qu’il est arrivé en cette Ville. Sa demeure est chez Mrs Scot, rue de la Fontaine.

He was back in Paris, 5e, when he died in 1811.

In addition to a number of miniatures, he exhibited portraits in three crayons at the Salon de Saint-Luc of 1774. The medium is reported as pastel in AKL, but this seems to be an erroneous translation.

Bibliography

AKL; Bouchot 1907; François Favre, *Documents maçonniques*, Paris, 1866, pp. 139ff; Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Etat civil reconstitué

Portraits in other media

M. & Mme LALLIÉ, trois cr., Salon de Saint-Luc 1774, no. 92