

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

ASSELIN, Jean-François

Roncey 17.IV.1771 – Moscow 29.II.1809

Pastel portraitist from a family of artists from Coutances; he and his father François-Jacques (1741–1813) were pupils of Robert Bichue (1705–1789). (His father enrolled in the école de l'Académie royale in 1767 aged 25 under Bachelier.) It is said that he worked in the royal porcelain factory in Paris (Sèvres?) around 1790. He emigrated during the Revolution and lived in Dresden until 1801, where he copied pastels by Mengs (his *Amor*, in black chalk, was described as “voll Kraft und Leben”) and exhibited two of his own pastels which demonstrated “Weichheit und gefällige Behandlung”. He returned to France in 1801 before settling definitively in St Petersburg, where according to older sources he married a Russian princess shortly before his death in St Petersburg in 1803. The family archives however suggest that he married a French woman, Julie, and died in Moscow in 1809.

Bibliography

AKL; Bénézit; André Boizard & Guy Poirier, *Roncey, 1082–1982: 900 ans d'histoire*, Saint-Lô, 1984, pp. 77f; Campe 1833; Füllli 1806; Jean-François Hamel & René Gautier, *Dictionnaire des personnages remarquables de la Manche*, II

Pastels

- J.1134.101 AUTOPORTRAIT, pstl (desc.: family PC).
Lit.: Bénézit
- J.1134.102 ~cop. Léon Quesnel, pnt. (Coutances, musée Quesnel-Morinière, inv. 886.CP.3)
- J.1134.103 François-Jacques ASSELIN (1741–1813), père de l'artiste, pstl (desc.: family PC). Lit.: Bénézit
- J.1134.104 ~cop. Théonie-Jouanna Quesnel, pnt., 53.7x46.2 (Coutances, musée Quesnel-Morinière, inv. 886.CP.2)
- J.1134.105 *Amor*, black chalk, a/r Mengs, Dresden 1800
- J.1134.106 *Zwei Portraits*, pstl, Dresden 1800