

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

ASSEN, Francis

London bpt 6.v.1761–brd 27.xi.1805

Exhibited some chalk drawings at the Free Society from 10 King Street, Soho in 1779 and 1780. Graves unwarrantably describes him as a “crayon painter”. In fact he was a perfumer, as we learn from the trial (26.x.1791) of a thief, indicted at the Old Bailey for theft from the shop at 10 King Street of linen (including a “Marseilles petticoat”) worth 6*s.* 6*d.* “Francis Assen junior” insured 62 King Street with the Sun Fire Office in 1787; it was part occupied by a cabinet maker called Stevenson. The rates books show a Francis Assen in Litchfield Street from 1770 to 1798, probably the father: “Franciscum Assen” was baptised in the Romann Catholic church in Lincolns Inn Fields, to Francis and Elizabeth, on 6.v.1761. On 15.i.1787, Francis Assen married Ann Acclee at St George, Bloomsbury; three children were recorded in the following few years; Ann died in 1791. On 20.x.1793 “Francis Assen junior” married a Mary Bacon at St Anne, Soho. Francis Assen (1738–1794), presumably his father, was buried 18.ii.1794 in Bunhill Fields (non-conformist). In the Westminster poll book for 1796, Francis Assen of King Street was listed as a wax chandler (he voted for Charles James Fox against John horne Tooke). A Francis Assen was admitted to the freedom of London in the company of Turners on 16.ix.1800. Probate of Francis Assen of Bell Alley, buried in Bunhill Fields (aged 44) 27.xi.1805, was granted in the Commissary Court of London the following month, and is most likely to be the draughtsman.

Bibliography

Graves 1907; oldbaileyonline.org [consulted 23.ix.2012]