

Online edition

AUBERT, Louis

Paris 15.v.1720 – p.1790

Louis Aubert, a professional musician as well as an artist, was the son of Jacques Aubert (1689–1753), first violinist at the orchestra at the Opéra, member of the Académie royale de musique, associated with Mme de Prie and the duc de Bourbon-Condé, who was parrain at the artist's baptism at Saint-Sulpice, 25.v.1720 (Mademoiselle de Charolais was marraine); his mother was Marie-Louise Lecat. Louis's younger brother Jean-Louis, known as the abbé Aubert (1731–1814), was a poet, musicologist, writer and correspondent with Claude Pougin de Saint-Aubin (*q.v.*); a profile portrait of him, known from an engraving by Jean-Baptiste de Lorraine after "Aubert" (according to the lettering) is by Louis: the advertisement in the *Journal des beaux-arts*, 1770, p. 572 specifies "dessiné par L. Aubert, son frere". Another brother, Etienne-Louis, succeeded Jacques Aubert as violinist in 1746. In the registres de clôtures d'inventaires for their father (AN Y5327, 16.vi.1753), the minor children listed were Jean-Louis, Estienne-Louis and Marie-Louise (in 1755 she married Antoine-Édouard Magimel, an orfèvre and échevin de Paris; she died in 1810); "Louis Aubert, officier du roi" was included in his own name and as tutor to the minors, while "Jean-Louis Aubert peintre", "Jean-Jacques Aubert employé dans les affaires du roi" and Françoise Aubert (represented by her husband Jean-Baptiste Renaudin de Vassy (1714–1784), marchand de vin, bourgeois de Paris) were the older children.

In a document (AN Y4596^A, registres de tutelles, 28.i.1742; contrat 4.ii.1742) hitherto overlooked, but confirming Aubert's close association with the artistic circles surrounding the Bourbon family, "Louis Aubert officier de la Chambre du Roy fils du Sieur Jacques Aubert aussy officier de la Chambre du Roy et cy devant Intendant de la musique de feu S.A. Monseigneur le Duc et de D^{elle} Marie Louise Le Cat sa femme" was approved (by her guardians, including the marquis de Lassay, Louis Angran de Fontpertuis, the parrain at her baptism at Saint-Nicolas-des-Champs in 1723, and Claude and Jean-Baptiste Glucq) to marry Marie-Roze de La Faye, 18½ years of age, the natural daughter of Voltaire's friend Jean-François Lériget de La Faye (1674–1731), de l'Académie française, soldier, diplomat and (like Glucq and Fontpertuis) a notable collector, associated with the comtesse de Verrue. It appears that the bride had been living with the Aubert family in rue Saint-Honoré, Jacques being her tuteur. As provided in her father's will of 5.iv.1724, she had a dowry of 20,000 livres and an annuity of 1000. (Aubert's signature on the document matches those found on his drawings.) It is difficult to believe that Aubert's interest in art was not encouraged by such contacts.

On 19.v.1748 a daughter, Marie-Victoire was baptised at Saint-Eustache (registeres paroissiaux). On 27.iii.1757 a second daughter, Charlotte-Hypolite, was baptised there; her parain was François-René-Charles de La Tour Dupin, marquis de Montauban, and the maraine,

Françoise-Hippolyte Lériget de La Faye, Mme Aubert's niece (and Montauban's future daughter-in-law).

Louis le fils, as he was known, himself entered the orchestra at the Opéra at a very early age (perhaps as early as 1728), and was nominated to the Vingt-quatre violons du roi in 1732, although he was only officially appointed in 1746; the salary in 1749 was 365 livres, while at the Opéra, he was earning some 700 livres. He published a number of violin sonatas (1750, dedicated to Madame Adélaïde, herself a violinist) and six *symphonies* (1755). He continued to practise as a professional musician while working as a painter and draughtsman. His artistic output appears to have stopped when he succeeded his father as leader at the Opéra in 1755, a post from which he retired in 1771. The *Mercur de France* for .i.1760 recorded the public donations of silver to the mint to meet the costs of war: among the fermiers généraux, secrétaires du roi, présidents and duchesses listed as donors, his contribution (of about 14 kilograms) was very respectable (*v. Jeffares 2017*). In 1774, after 40 years of service he was awarded a pension on the Maison du roi of 1365 livres. In 1780 he was living in the cloître Notre-Dame, paroisse Saint Jean Saint Denis. He was still drawing his pension in 1790 (the exact date of his death is unknown).

He used pastel to enhance three-crayon drawings of genre scenes which have been attributed to Chardin; they are however unlike the work of any other French pastellist of this period, and are closer to pastels of the Dutch school in theme. The mixture of ink, natural chalks and pastel is unusual, and several of the interiors depict shafts of sunlight which are also rare.

Nevertheless, both the attribution and technical description of the recorded works should be considered unreliable, particularly in view of the numerous homonyms. A Louis-François Aubert, peintre en émail du roi, died 27.x.1755, rue du Four, paroisse Saint-Sulpice (registres ds scellées, AN Y14316). He may be the nephew of François Marteau, graveur en médailles, aged 15 when he was apprenticed to Chales Clément, orfèvre joaillier in 1736, and could perhaps be the artist commissioned in 1745 and subsequent years to decorate the apartments of the Dauphin at Fontainebleau, Versailles and Compiègne. Some of these pictures were engraved by Duflos, Basan and others. A pastel, apparently signed and dated 1781, but in fact a copy after Greuze, is not by this Aubert. He has been confused with the engraver Michel Aubert (1704–1757). A Louise Aubert, from Paris, was a pupil at the Académie royale from 1758 to 1765, under Vien.

Bibliography

L'Année musicale, 1912, p. 100; Bénézit; Columbia 2000; Engerand 1900; *L'État de France*, 1749, I, p. 311; Fétis 1835–44; Heinecken 1778; A. P. de Mirimonde, *L'Iconographie musicale sous les rois Bourbons*, 1977, p. 53; Arthur Pougin, *Le Violon: Les violonistes et la musique de violon du XVI^e au XVIII^e siècle*, Paris, 1924; Sadie 1980; Edmund Sebastian Joseph van der Straeten, *The history of the violin*, 1933, I, p. 245; Tourneux 1903, p. 23

GENEALOGIES [Aubert](#)**Pastels and other drawings**

J.1142.101 L'abbé Jean-Louis AUBERT (1731–1814), fabuliste et critique, frère de l'artiste, m/u

~grav. [Jean-Baptiste] de Lorraine [(1737–)] (FD 1410). Lit.: *Journal des beaux-arts*, 1770, p. 572

Guéau, *v. Reverseaux*

J.1142.102 Philippe-Antoine MAGIMEL (c.1692–1772), orfèvre, juge consul, beau-père de la sœur de l'artiste, m/u

~grav.: Demarteau (FD 376)

J.1142.1025 Jacques-Étienne Guéau, marquis de REVERSEAUX de Rouvray (1706–1754), conseiller du duc d'Orléans, pstl, pierre noire/ppr, 34x25.5, sd ✓ "Aubert f/1749" (Paris, Artcurial, 9.xi.2022, Lot 134 repr., est. €5–7000) φ



J.1142.1027 Garçon debout, pierre noire, pstl/ppr, 27.5x18.6, sd "Louis Aubert f.1745" (Stephen Ongpin, cat. 2022, no. 13 repr.) φ



J.1142.103 Un chasseur, pierre noire, pstl/ppr, 48x35, sd "L. aubert f 1746" (Paris, Drouot, 10.v.1971; Georges de Lastic). Exh.: Paris 2010b, no. 1 repr. φ



J.1142.105 Un artiste, cr. clr, gch., 33.5x26 ov. (Jean Masson; Paris, Petit, 7–8.V.1923, Lot 1 repr.). Exh.: Paris 1920a, no. 130 [est. FF2500] φ



J.1142.107 Homme, deux cr., pstl, 23x18, s “L. Aubert” (Jean Masson; Paris, Petit, 7–8.V.1923, Lot 2 repr.). Exh.: Paris 1920a, no. 129 [est. FF5000] φ



J.1142.109 Jeune garçon buvant dans un pichet, pierre noire, pstl, 19.2x16.2 (Jean-François Baroni, 2002 cat., no. 12) φ



J.1142.111 Jeune cabaretier, dans une cave, tenant une chandelle, cr. clr, 29x22 (marquis de Valori; vente p.m., Paris, Drouot, Lair-Dubreuil, 25–26.XI.1907, Lot 3 repr., ff135; Mme S. Meyer) φ



J.1142.113 Gentilhomme debout, en habit violet, cr. clr, s “Louis Aubert” (Louis-Auguste, baron de Schwiter). Lit.: Tourneux 1903, p. 23 n.r.

J.1142.114 Homme au manchon, assis, fusain, cr. blanche, 27x20, s “L. Aubert” (Paris, Drouot, Drouot & ses opérateurs, 31.III.2016, Lot 1 repr., est. €700–800) φ



J.1142.115 Le jeune amateur de dessins, pstl, gch., crayon noir, 27x19.7, s ↓ “L. Aubert [...]” (Paris, Drouot, 16–17.V.1898, Lot 19, ff141; Paris, Drouot, 20.III.1899, Lot 1, ff102; Gaston Delestre; desc.: Paris, Artcurial, 22.III.2017, Lot 108 repr., est. €10–15,000, €81,900). Exh.: Paris 1950b, no. 86. Lit.: Michel 2026, fig. 172 φ



J.1142.116 Fillette, dessin, 38.5x25 (Paris, Galerie Charpentier, 9–20.XII.1949, ff125,000)

J.1142.117 Femme assise, lisant, pierre noire, pstl/ppr br., 22.8x21 (London, Christie's, 6.VII.1999, Lot 195 repr., est. £4–6000, £5500; Didier Aaron 2000) φ



Photo courtesy Christie's

J.1142.112 Petite fille à l'orange, dessin aux trois crayons, 25x18.5 (Boussac; Paris, Petit, 10–11.V.1926, Lot 146 repr., as Michel Aubert) [new attr.]

J.1142.123 La lecture interrompue, cr. clr, 23.5x24.5 (Paris, Drouot, 14.V.1936, Lot 1 repr.) φ



J.1142.125 Jeune fille endormie avec son chat, tenant une lettre, pstl/ppr, 39x25.5 (Aix Enchères, 18.II.2012, est. €2–3000; Aix, 30.VI.2012, Lot 440, est. €1200–1500; Aix, 19.XII.2015, Lot 434, est. €500–600; Aix, 15.X.2016, Lot 354, est. €400–500) φ



La leçon de lecture, pnt., 32.5x22.7, sd 1740 (Amiens, musée de Picardie. Lavalard de Roye; legs 1890). Exh.: Karlsruhe 1999?; Columbia 2000, no. 25 repr.; Beauvais 2010. Lit.: *Burlington magazine*, X.1999 repr.

~grav. Angélique Papavoine (1759–), *Ce n'est pas cela* (P&B)

J.1142.129 ~repl., trois crayons, pstl, 33x23 (Chantilly, musée Condé, inv. DE 470 (305). Lempereur. Frédéric Reiset 1861; Henri d'Orléans, duc d'Aumale, L.2779, a.1879. Acqu. 1886). Exh.: Paris 1879, no. 668 n.r. Lit.: Chennevières 1879, p. 200 n.r.; Goncourt 1880, I, pp. 108f; Malo, *Cent dessins...*, Paris, 1933, no. 65 repr.; Prat 2017, fig. 814. *Olim* attr. Chardin φφ



J.1142.131 =?one of: Deux dessins coloriés au pstl; l'un représente l'éducation, & l'autre l'étude (Jean-Denis Lempereur (1701–1779); Paris, Chariot, Joullain/Boileau, 24.V.–28.VI.1773, Lot 755, 21½ livres; Brunet)

J.1142.132 =?La double éducation, deux dessins pastellisés. Lit.: Goncourt 1880, I, pp. 108f

J.1142.133 Vue d'un moulin, pstl, psd "L. Aubert, 1742" (François Joullain; Paris, Hayot de Longpré, Buldet, 26.V.1779 & seq., Lot 35, 5 livres 5)

J.1142.134 Peintre assis devant son chevalet, son élève tenant une boîte de couleurs, pstl, sd "L. Aubert 1744" (Charles-François, marquis de Calvière; vente p.m., Paris, Joullain, Chariot, 5–20.V.1779, Lot 383, 13 livres 19; Lescuriot). Lit.: Tourneux 1903, p. 23 n.r. Saint-Aubin sketch

J.1142.135 Intérieure avec une femme pelotant la laine, mine de plomb, pierre noire, cr. clr, encre, 31.5x22.6, sd "L. aubert 1746" (Rijksmuseum. Lacroix; Heseltine; Houthakker). Lit.: Amsterdam 1974, repr.; Paris 2003, no. 48 φ



J.1142.137 Homme et femme du peuple, pstl, gch., fusain/ppr, 31.5x21, sd ✓ 1746 (Geneva, Koller, 14.XI.2005, Lot 1438 n.r.)

J.1142.138 Une paysanne assise dans un intérieur, s'appuyant sur un bâton; & pendant: J.1142.139 Un paysan barbu assis dans un intérieur, son chapeau et sa canne à terre, plume, encre noire, cr. clr/ppr, 31.6x20.9, sd "L. aubert. 1746" (Cambridge, Horvitz Collecton, inv. D-F-1279/1280. Paris, Christie's, 23.III.2006, Lot 292 repr., est. €10–15,000, €11,400). Exh.: Gainesville 2017, no. 4A/B, pl. 49/50. Lit.: Paris 2017b, no. XVIa/b, p. 575 repr., conflating with J.1142.141; J.1142.146; J.1142.147 φ



J.1142.141 =?Deux pstls fort bien touchés dans la manière de Teniers par M. Aubert, l'un représente une vieille femme, & l'autre un vieillard (duc de Tallard; vente p.m., Paris Grignard, Remy, 22.III.–13.V.1756, Lot 466, 17 livres; Basan, rachetés pour de Vence, 24 livres)

J.1142.142 Les deux artistes, cr. clr, sd ✓ "Aubert 1747" (Vienna, Albertina) φ



J.1142.144 La visionneuse, cr. clr, inscr. ✓ 1747 (Vienna, Albertina) φ



J.1142.146 Une vieille femme; & pendant: J.1142.147 vieillard, pstl, manière de Teniers (comte de Vence. Duc de Tallard; Paris, Grignard, Remy, Glomy, 22.III.1756 & seq., Lot 466, 17 livres; Basan)

J.1142.1475 Deux dessins à plusieurs crayons & colorés (Paris, Augustins, Basan, 24.IV.1775 & seq., Lot 83)

J.1142.148 L'Éducation; & pendant: J.1142.149 L'Étude, pstl (Lempereur; Paris, Chariot, Joullain, Boileau, 24.V.1779 & seq., Lot 755, 21.50 livres; Briceau)

J.1142.15 Un jeune homme faisant lire une petite fille, dessin au pstl (baronne de Conantre, attr. Chardin). Lit.: Goncourt 1880, I, pp. 108f

J.1142.151 Une servante tenant une corbeille causant avec une jeune fille, pierre noire, lavis, 24x18.3, sd ✓ "L. Aubert f. 1747" (London, Sotheby's, 28.III.1968, repr.)

J.1142.152 L'heureuse mère, une jeune femme avec son fils et sa fille, cr. clr, gch., 38x33, sd ✓ "L.

Aubert, 1748" (Dubois; Paris, Drouot, 7.III.1901, Lot 4 repr.) φ



J.1142.154 Une dame et sa fille; & pendant: J.1142.155 Deux soeurs avec chat et oiseau mort, cr. clr, 38.5x27.5, sd ✓✓ "L. Aubert f. 1749" (Louvre, inv. RF 55352/55353. Dominique Gayraud, antiquaire, Béziers; acqu. 2006, Galerie Rattou-Ladrière; don M. & Mme Guy Ladrière 2017). Lit.: Grande Galerie, .XII.2017, p. 24 repr. φ



J.1142.158 Tête de jeune homme, le porteur du poulet, de profil à dr., pierre noire, pstl (Nicolas-Joseph Malinet (1805–1886), antiquaire, quai Voltaire; Edmond de Goncourt, acqu. 1880, fr40; Paris, 17.II.1897, Lot 377 part, fr700; Georges Victor Hugo 1920, all with pendant). Exh.: Paris 1883b, no. 204, with pendant; Paris 1920a, no. 128 n.r. Lit.: Launay 1991, no. 3 n.r. Étude pour le *Billet doux*, gravé par Duflos

J.1142.159 Feuille d'études de pieds et de mules, pierre noire, pstl, 18x26, Lugt 1089 (Nicolas-Joseph Malinet (1805–1886), antiquaire, quai Voltaire; Edmond de Goncourt, acqu. 1880, fr40; Paris, 17.II.1897, Lot 377 part, fr700; Georges-Victor Hugo, all with pendant. Albert Sancholle-Henraux (1881–1953), Paris, 1934–35. Paris PC 1991; Paris, 27.IV.1994, Lot 154, fr30,000; Jacques-Louis Isoz; New York, Sotheby's, 25.I.2023, Lot 12 repr., est. \$7–

9000, b/i; Paris, Sotheby's, 14.VI.2023, Lot 135 repr., est. €4–6,000, €3302). Exh.: Paris 1883b, no. 204, with pendant; Paris 1934b, no. 75; Paris 1946c, no. 336; Lausanne 2018, no. 31, attr., repr. p. 61. Lit.: Launay 1991, no. 4 repr. Étude pour le *Billet doux*; gravé par Duflos φασ



Photo courtesy owner

~ grav. Duflos, “Le Billet doux”, “peint par L. Aubert”, with verses from Jean Aubert, 1755. Lit.: *Mercur de France*, .XII.1755, I, p. 215, d’après “Louis Aubert”

J.1142.163 ~pendant: La Revendeuse à la toilette, m/u

~grav. Duflos, “La Revendeuse à la toilette” (IFF 162)

J.1142.165 Homme au manchon; & pendant: J.1142.166 femme au métier à filer, pstl, 50x35 (Fontainebleau, Osenat, 24.IV.2011, Éc. allemande, est. €3–4000) [new attr.] φ

