

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

AUBERT, Louis

Paris 1720 – p.1798

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. Louis's 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.*); an Étienne-Louis Aubert, who succeeded Jacques Aubert as violinist in 1746, was probably a younger brother.

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 continued to practise as a professional musician while working as an 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. In 1798 he was still drawing a pension of 1000 livres. He published a number of violin sonatas (1750, dedicated to Madame Adélaïde, herself a violinist) and six *symphonies* (1755).

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. He is presumably 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. 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. A pastel, apparently signed and dated 1781, cannot be by this Aubert.

Bibliography

L'Année musicale, 1912, p. 100; Bénézit; Columbia 2000; Engerand 1901; *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; Sadie 1980; Edmund Sebastian Joseph van der Straeten, *The history of the violin*, 1933, I, p. 245; Tourneux 1903, p. 23

Pastels and other drawings

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



Un artiste, cr. clr, gch., 33.5x26 ov. (Jean Masson; Paris, Petit, 7–8.v.1923, Lot 1 repr.). Exh.: Paris 1920, no. 130 φ



Homme, deux cr., pstl, 23x18, s "L. Aubert" (Jean Masson; Paris, Petit, 7–8.v.1923, Lot 2 repr.). Exh.: Paris 1920, no. 129 φ



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



Garçon tenant une chandelle, dessin aux crayons φ



Gentilhomme debout, en habit violet, cr. clr, s "Louis Aubert" (Louis-Auguste, baron de Schwitter). Lit.: Tourneux 1903, p. 23 n.r.
Fillette, dessin, 38.5x25 (Paris, Galerie Charpentier, '9–20.xii.1949, F125,000)
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

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.]
Femme assise, pstl/ppr, 39x26 (Paris, Millon, 27.iii.2007, Lot 80 repr., est. €4–6000; Paris, Drouot, Millon, Cornette de Saint-Cyr, 11.xii.2009, Lot 112 repr., attr., est. €2–3000; Paris, Millon, 23.vi.2011, Lot 58 repr., attr., est. €1500–2000) φ



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



Jeune fille endormie avec son chat, tenant une lettre, pstl/ppr, 39x25.5 (Aix, 18.ii.2012, est. €2–3000) 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)
~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. *Olim* attr. Chardin φ



=?one of: Deux desseins 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)

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

Vue d'un moulin, pstl, psd "L. Aubert, 1742" (François Joullain; Paris, Hayot de Longpré, Buldet, 5 livres 3)

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

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



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

Une paysanne assise dans un intérieur, s'appuyant sur un bâton; & pendant: 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" (Paris, Chirstie's, 23.iii.2006, Lot 292 repr., est. €10–15,000, €11,400) φ



=?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)

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



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



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

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.)

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



Tête de jeune homme, le porteur du poulet, de profil à dr., pierre noire, pstl (Mallinet; Edmond de Goncourt, acqu. 1880, F40; Paris, 17.ii.1897, Lot 377 part, F700; Georges Victor Hugo 1920, all with pendant). Exh.: Paris 1883b, no. 204, with pendant; Paris 1920, no. 128 n.r. Lit.: Launay 1991, no. 3 n.r. Étude pour le *Billet doux*, gravé par Duflos

Feuille d'études de pieds et de mules, pierre noire, pstl, 18x26, Lugt 1089 (Mallinet; Edmond de Goncourt, acqu. 1880, F40; Paris, 17.ii.1897, Lot 377 part, F700, all with pendant. A. S. Henraux, Paris, 1934–35. Paris

PC 1991; Paris, 27.iv.1994, F30,000; Swiss PC 2003). Exh.: Paris 1883b, no. 204, with pendant; Paris 1934b, no. 85?; Paris 1946c, no. 336. Lit.: Launay 1991, no. 4 repr.; Bénézit. [Attr.] Étude pour le *Billet doux* gravé par Duflos φ



Photo courtesy owner

~related grav. Duflos

La revendeuse à la toilette, m/u

~grav.: Duflos

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

