

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

BARBIER, Paul-G.

fl. Paris, St Petersburg 1781–1828

Painter, miniaturist and lithographer, said to have worked in Paris, London and St Petersburg. His career remains obscured by a number of homonyms. A Paul Barbier was awarded successively third, second and first medals at the Académie royale between .IV.1781 and .X.1782. A G. P. Barbier exhibited portraits and miniatures at the Royal Academy in London between 1792 and 1795 (he appears to be the “Monsieur Barbier” through whom Sir Joshua Reynolds communicated with the secretary of the Académie royale to ascertain whether the Mona Lisa was still in the cabinet du roi). A number of portraits in various media survive from his Russian period (the collector Henri Brocard assembled a large group of his drawings), but these are mostly nineteenth century although he is said to have arrived in St Petersburg around 1796. Apparently he married a housekeeper in the imperial laundries, and he taught drawing at the court. His subjects included portraits, genre pieces and mythological subjects.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Cahen 1993; Michael Burrell, “Reynolds’s Mona Lisa”, *Apollo*, .IX.2006, n.25; Foskett 1987; Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Saur; Алексей Савинов & Наталья Семенова, “Русский коллекционер Генрих Броккар”, *Наше наследие*, 93/94, 2010

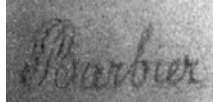
Pastels

John STEERS, crayons, sd “P. Barbier, 1793” (John Henderson, FSA, 1865). Exh.: London 1865, no. 2712

Young in white dress with orange bandeau and shawl, pstl/ppr, 64x52.6 ov., sd → “P.B.../1797” (New York, Bonhams, 21.IV.2009, Lot 91 repr., *Éc. fr.*, est. \$3–4000, b/i) [new attr. ?; signature illegible] φ



Jeune fille, pstl/pchm, 40.3x32.3, s ← “P. Barbier” (Hermitage OR-43539. All-Union Society “Antiquariat”; acqu. 1939). Exh.: St Petersburg 2001, no. 1 repr. Lit.: Каменская 1960, no. 1 repr. A/r Greuze pnt. (Hermitage. *Olim* Yusupov Palace) Φ



Deux enfants, lisant, pstl/ppr, 58x51, sd “P. Barbier 1811 mai” (Moscow, Pushkin Museum, inv. 3019. M. B. Benediktov, Moscow; acqu. 1937). Lit.: Данилова 1995, p. 307 repr., *olim* attr. Barbier-Walbonne φ

