

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

BÉRANGER, Gabriel

Rotterdam 1729 – Dublin 18.II.1817

Also Berenger; this Huguenot artist from Rotterdam travelled to England and was sent by the Archaeological Society to Ireland in 1750 to make a series of topographical drawings. He exhibited at the Society of Artists 1765–68 from St Stephen's Green, Dublin, where he ran a print shop. Béranger's toile of Lord Charlemont inspecting a review in Phoenix Park was a popular printed textile. He moved to South Great George's Street in 1769 (he was naturalized from that address on 6.VI.1769), teaching and executing flower and bird pictures. Among his patrons was William Burton Conyngham, treasurer of the Royal Irish Academy (and the subject of pastels by Hamilton and Mengs); he arranged for Béranger's tours around Ireland, starting in 1779. The following year he was appointed Assistant Ledger Keeper in the Treasury, a sinecure. His collaborators included Barralet, Forrest, Vispré (*qq.v.*) and General Vallancey. He was married twice: to his cousin Louise (–1782) and (St Mary's, Dublin, 29.II.1782) to Elizabeth Mestayer (–1802), another Huguenot; her brothers were a silk weaver and a colonel in the engineers.

A memoir on Béranger was published by Sir William Wilde in 1870 and completed by Lady Wilde in 1876.



Monographic exhibitions

Béranger 2017: *Beranger's Ireland: eighteenth-century watercolours by Gabriel Bernager, c.1729–1827*, Dublin, Royal Irish Academy, 14.VIII.–21.XII.2017

Bibliography

Bénézit; Béranger 1870/71; Breeze 1985; Crookshank & Glin 1994; Figgis 2014; Peter Harbison, "Berenger's painted people", RIA blog post, 28.IX.2017; William Laffan, "The origins of Irish 'plein-air' painting", *Apollo*, IX.2007; Saur; Strickland 1913

Pastels

J.1436.101 SELF-PORTRAIT, pstl/ppr, 24x18.8 ov., c.1780 (Dublin, NGI, inv. 3292. Rev. Cotton Walker, rector of Ballinasloe; Miss Emily Cotton Walker, Kingstown. Don Miss D. Pilkington 1956). Exh.: Dublin 2023. Lit.: Béranger 1870/71, grav. repr.; Strickland 1913, I, p. 59 n.r.; Le Harivel 1983, repr. φ