

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

BEYER, Frau Wilhelm, née Gabrielle Bertrand

Lunéville 27.IV.1737 – Vienna 11.IV.1802

Gabrielle Bertrand, or Bertherand, a painter of flowers and genre pieces; she worked in miniature and on porcelain, and also left numerous pastel portraits at Vienna, Brussels and Naples.

She was the daughter of the tapissier François-Gabriel Bertrand, concierge or Schlosshauptmann at Schönbrunn, also described as Franz Stephan's gardener; her mother was Elisabeth-Françoise Fricque. She was baptised the day after her birth at Saint-Jacques, Lunéville, with the names Gabriel Margueritte; her parrain was Antoine Maurice, avocat à la cour. From 1738 she lived in Vienna, where she was trained at the Akademie; she became a member in 1771. Her father died in .III.1765; a sister Louise died 2.VII.1758. In the same year she married the sculptor Wilhelm Beyer (1725–1796); they divorced in 1785. She taught the princesses Marie-Antoinette (*q.v.*) and Maria Caroline from 1764 (on 7.XII.1764 she was formally appointed k. k. Cammerdienerin at an annual salary of 300 florins), and was well known at the imperial court.

A group of genre pictures in pastel which come from the Habsburg collections in Vienna have caused considerable attributional confusion. They were with Erzherzog Maximilian in the Castello di Miramare between 1860 and 1919 (as by Liotard), and are now in the Schönbrunn. R&L assign them to a single (unidentified) hand, although the single figure works are less distinctive than three pastel conversation pieces; they note that one, the group of children playing with chess pieces, probably corresponds with the pastel described as children playing with chestnuts inventoried as by Liotard in the private apartments of Maria Theresia in 1772. In fact there is a further pastel in the Miniaturkabinett that fits this description perfectly, and is here reassigned to Liotard (*q.v.*); it is evidently the lost portrait exhibited in the Salon de Saint-Luc in 1752.

The remaining pastels, evidently by this different hand, apparently Austrian and described as the “Schönbrunn pastellist” in the online *Dictionary* until 2015, shows the influence of Liotard in the three conversation pieces R&L knew. Among the other pieces is one influenced by Boucher. It has been suggested (on the Schönbrunn website until 2015) that they are all (including the Liotard) by Franz I. Stephan (*q.v.*) and his children. But the attribution of many of the pastels (but not the Liotard, nor one signed by Maria Elisabeth) to Gabrielle Bertrand-Beyer, here suggested in 2015, is confirmed by the description by Fortia de Piles of his trip in 1790–92 when he saw in the second room of the Aile droite of the Petit Belvédère, among 52 pictures, “Quatre portraits au pastel, dont un Tyrolien et une Tyrolienne, par madame Beyer, fort bons. *Enfants qui soufflent des boules de savon*, en pastel, par la même, très-joli.” The first two of these evidently correspond to two pastels in von Mechel's catalogue “peints d'après nature [qui] se distinguent sur-tout parmi plusieurs autres de

cette habile main [de Mme Beyer], qui se trouvent dans ce Cabinet.”

Traditionally her dates have been given as 1730–1790, but the death certificate (at 1 Himmelfortgasse 21) is reported as at 11.IV.1802, aged 65.

Bibliography

Bellier de La Chavignerie & Auvray; Bénézit; Felix Czeike, *Historisches Lexikon Wien*, 1992, I, p. 355; Joseph Dernjač, *Zur Geschichte von Schönbrunn*, Vienna, 1885, pp. 16f; Dussieux 1876, pp. 10, 155; Alphonse de Fortia de Piles, *Voyage de deux Français en Allemagne... en 1790–1792*, Paris, 1796, V, p. 167; Füßli 1806; Jeffares 2015d; Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Nagler 1835–52; Paris 2008; Ratouis de Limay 1946; Roethlisberger 2017; R&L pp. 693f; Saur, *s.v.* Bertrand; Voreaux 1998, *s.v.* Bertrand

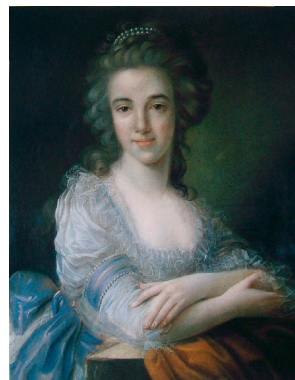
Pastels

J.153.101 Wilhelm Christian Friedrich BEYER (1725–1806), sculpteur [??Fischer von Erlach], pstl/ppr, 88x67, s “Peint par la Peyer/née de Bertherand”, c.1775 (Wienmuseum, inv. 103.222. Max Gutmann, Vienna, 1930). Exh.: Vienna 1910, no. 44 n.r.; Vienna 1930b, no. 3 repr.; Vienna 1999, no. 3.1 repr.; Vienna 2017a, no. VI.1 repr. φ



J.153.103 MARIE-THERESE, au moment où elle quitte le deuil pour prendre les rênes de pouvoir (comm. reine des Deux-Siciles). Lit.: Nagler 1870–85

J.153.104 Frau Andreas PICHLER, née Karoline von Greiner (1769–1843), Schriftstellerin, pstl/crt., 73.5x58.5, 1785 (Wienmuseum, inv.17.953). Exh.: Vienna 1910, no. 46 n.r.; Vienna 1927, no. 192 repr.; Vienna 1930b, no. 3 n.r.; Vienna 1990, no. ix/37 n.r.; Vienna 1999, no. 3.2 repr. φ



J.153.106 Vieil homme avec pipe, pstl, 72x57.5 (Vienna, Schönbrunn, 55011 AC, ?GG-9844. Castello di Miramare). Lit.: L&R A25 repr.; R&L R92 n.r., ??Liotard [new attr.] φv



J.153.108 Herr in blauem Rock, pstl, 92x76, s (Vienna, Dorotheum, 3.V.1990, Lot 99, ÖSch.35,000)

J.153.109 Jeune femme au chapeau fleuri, pstl, 59x49.5, sd ✓ 1767 (Paris, Drouot, Tajan, 23.VI.1999, Lot 145, est. Fr6–8000, Fr5500)

J.153.11 Jeune fille avec fleurs, pstl/ppr, 55.4x44.5, 1771 (Vienna, Akademie, inv. 185). Lit.: Lützw 1889, p. 24 n.r.; Habersatter 2002, p. 136 repr. φv



J.153.112 Jeune fille dormante, pstl, 46x38 (Vienna, Schönbrunn, 55019 AC, GG-9857; Castello di Miramare). Lit.: L&R A18 repr.; R&L R92 n.r., ??Liotard [~Boucher] [new attr.] φv



J.153.114 Jeune fille avec rose aux cheveux, pstl, 48.5x37 (Vienna, Schönbrunn, 55018 AC, GG-9856; Castello di Miramare). Lit.: L&R A20 repr.; R&L R92 n.r., ??Liotard [new attr.] φv



J.153.116 Jeune paysanne, pstl, 50x41.5 (Vienna, Schönbrunn, 55007 AC, ?GG-9845; Castello di Miramare). Lit.: L&R A22 repr.; R&L R92 n.r., ??Liotard [new attr.] φv



J.153.118 Un jeune paysan; & pendant: J.153.1181 une jeune paysanne du Tyrol, dans leur costume, pstl, 48.7x40.6 (Vienna, Galerie impériale, Cabinet blanc 1781, 1792). Lit.: Mechel 1784, p. 145, no. 14/15; Fortia de Piles 1796, p. 167 n.r.

J.153.119 =?Enfant avec panier de carottes, pstl, 57x46 (Vienna, Schönbrunn, 55009 AC, GG-9847; Castello di Miramare). Lit.: L&R A21 repr.; R&L R92 n.r., ??Liotard [new attr.] φv



J.153.121 ? & pendant: Jeune fille avec chapeau de paille, pstl, 62x48 (Vienna, Schönbrunn, 55008 AC, GG-9845; Castello di Miramare). Lit.: L&R A19 repr.; R&L R92 n.r., ??Liotard [new attr.] φv



J.153.124 Deux autres portraits, pstl (Vienna, Galerie impériale, 1792). Lit.: Mechel 1784, p. 145, no. 14/15; Fortia de Piles 1796, p. 167 n.r.

J.153.125 Vieille mendicante, pstl (Vienna, Schönbrunn, Castello di Miramare). Lit.: R&L p. 694 n.r. [new attr.]

J.153.126 Enfants qui soufflent des boules de savon, pstl (Vienna, Galerie impériale, 1792). Lit.: Mechel 1784, p. 145, no. 14/15; Fortia de Piles 1796, p. 167 n.r.

J.153.127 =?Mädchen, mit Seifenblasen spielend, pstl, 58x72.5 (Vienna, Schönbrunn, 55014 AC, GG-9852; Castello di Miramare, Trieste). Lit.: L&R A15 repr.; R&L R92 n.r., ??Liotard [new attr.] φv



J.153.129 Zwei Buben und ein Mädchen, pstl, 45.5x62.5 (Vienna, Schönbrunn, 55016 AC, GG-9854; Castello di Miramare, Trieste). Lit.: L&R A16 repr.; R&L R92 n.r., ??Liotard [new attr.] φv



J.153.131 Vier Mädchen und Knaben, pstl, 53.5x69 (Vienna, Schönbrunn, 55015 AC, GG-9853; Castello di Miramare, Trieste). Lit.: L&R A17 repr.; R&L R92 fig. 830, ??Liotard; [new attr.] φv

