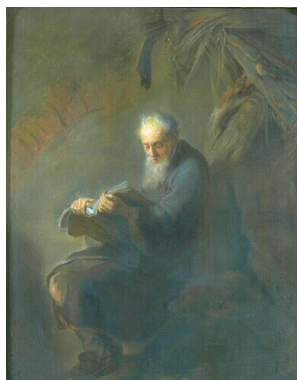


**BONNAC, François-Armand  
d'Usson, marquis de**

Constantinople 7.XII.1716 – Bonnac 2.XII.1778  
This nobleman, soldier, diplomat, author and collector was the subject of numerous portraits, including a pastel exhibited by Vigée at the Académie de Saint-Luc in 1752. He was himself an amateur artist, leaving an engraving of Casimo Maranessi. Around 1768, Bonnac sold his Paris hôtel and retired to the château de Bonnac, near Pamiers. Here he returned to his interests in art, becoming in 1773 an associé honoraire of the Académie de Toulouse and presenting a pastel in the “manière de Rembrandt” as his morceau de réception. (In this respect Toulouse was ahead of Paris: it was not until 1787 that works by honoraires were exhibited at the Académie royale.) We have now rediscovered this pastel since our 2002 article; it is a copy of a painting now attributed to Van Ostade but regarded as a Rembrandt when Albert Kaempfen presented it to the Louvre in 1904. It is tempting to imagine that the lost pastel Vigée exhibited at the Salon de Saint-Luc in 1751, “un vieux Hermite, lisant dans un livre”, no. 126, may be another version of the same picture. Did Vigée teach Bonnac; did he even perhaps have a hand in the Toulouse pastel?



*Photo courtesy musée des Augustins*

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**Pastels**

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