

# Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

## Online edition

### BORNET, Claude

Paris 1733–1804

Member and conseiller of the Académie de Saint-Luc; listed as peintre, rue Guénégaud (1782); “un artiste distingué” according to the *Almanach des peintres* of 1776, which lists him twice as a portraitist in enamel, and again as an enamelist – “peint supérieurement la miniature en émail, ainsi que le portrait”. In 1798 he lived in the rue de la Sorbonne, en face du passage Benoît. He married Charlotte de Noireterre, the aunt of the miniaturist Marie-Thérèse de Noireterre (*q.v.*). Bornet is best known for his miniatures and enamels, as well as his book illustrations (including *Gil Blas* and several works of the marquis de Sade). He also designed stage sets for the theatre at Fontainebleau.

The few extant pastels (almost all of which belong to the period 1763–67, before he turned to enamel) indicate a skilful draughtsman with a good sense of colour which provided his work with expression and grace. Characteristic silver and light blue harmonies work with a physiognomical honesty to provide a distinctive style suggestive of Perronneau. A single later pastel, of Mme Perregaux, has been confused with the work recorded in Hall’s livre de raison, but its style, while quite different from Bornet’s other pastels, is not inconsistent with that of his miniatures from the 1780s.

#### Bibliography

Bénézit; Fontainebleau 2005, pp. 177ff; Guiffrey 1915, p. 198; Le Brun 1776; Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Ratouis de Limay 1946; Sanchez 2004; Saur

#### Salon critiques

Anon., “Exposition des peintures, sculptures & autres ouvrages de MM. de l’Académie de St Luc, faite le 25 août 1774 & jours suivants, à l’hôtel Jabach...”; *Mercur de France*, .x.1774, p. 185:

Les portraits peints à l’huile, au pastel ou en miniature par MM. le Noir, le Fèvre, Nicolet, Garand, Glain, Darmancourt, Bornet, Naudin, Lallié, Rabillon, de Saint Jean, par Mlles Navarre & Labille, ont fait connoître les talens de ces différens artistes.

#### Pastels

Denis DIDEROT (1713–1784), pstl, 62x52 ov., sd → “Bornet 1763” (Paris, Comédie-Française, I 0074. Don J. Opicez). Exh.: Paris 1980a, no. 213 n.r. Lit.: Arthur Wilson, *Diderot*, New York, 1972, repr.; *Revue de la Bibliothèque nationale*, 1984, p. 41 ☐



Photo © Collections de la Comédie-Française

Pierre DUBUISSON, receveur général de l’Hôtel-Dieu, m/u, 1757. Lit.: *Mémoires de la Société archéologique d’Eure-et-Loir*, x, 1896, p. 191 n.r.

Jacques GOSSEAUME (1742–1817), paumier des enfants d’Apollon, au violon, 64x53, sd → “Bornet 1763” (Louvre inv. RF 31366. Gaston Brière; legs 1963). Lit.: Monnier 1972, no. 24 ☐



Mme Charles GOSSEAUME, née Marie-Louise Doré, mère de Jacques Gosseaume, 63.5x53, sd “Bornet 1763” (Louvre inv. RF 31367. Gaston Brière; legs 1963). Lit.: Monnier 1972, no. 25 ☐



Mme Jean-Frédéric PERREGAUX, née Adélaïde de Praël (1758–1794), pstl, ov., 1780? (*olim* Neuchâtel, Abbaye de Fontaine-André? Swiss PC). Lit.: P. de Pury, “Jean-Frédéric Perregaux”, *Musée neuchâtelois. Recueil d’histoire nationale & d’archéologie*, .I.–.II.1919, repr. opp. p. 6, as “C. Bornet, 1780”; Hedley 2004b, repr., *olim* attr. Bornet; Jeffares 2006, p. 220bii, as by Hall [?]; traditional attr. restored] ☐



Abbé, pstl/ppr, 54x44, sd ✓ “Bornet 1764” (Dijon, musée Magnin, 1938 DF 72. Henri Cain; Paris, 12.VI.1935, Féral & Catroux, Lot 10; acqu. Magnin; legs 1938) ☐



Homme en habit vert, pstl, 61x51 ov., sd “Bornet 1767” (London, Christie’s, 14.III.1924, Lot 12 repr., 29 gns; Metsu) ☐



Homme en habit bleu marine à revers rouge et à boutons dorés (Fossard 1946)

Femme âgée, 61.4x51.2 ov., sd ✓ “Bornet fecit/1767” (Washington, NGA, inv. 2001.21.1. Cailleux 1923; Mme Thalmann 1927–46; desc., son neveu, 1999; Artemis; don Helen Porter & James T. Dyke 2001). Exh.: Paris 1923c; Paris 1927a, no. 4, pl. LXXIX-115; Paris 1933b, no. 3; Washington 2004; Washington 2009, no. 96 repr. Lit.: Ratouis de Limay 1946, pl. LV/83 ☐



[larger image](#)  
Jeune demoiselle, pstl, Salon de la Correspondance, IV.1782

Homme de qualité, pstl, 73x64, sd “Bornet 1762”; & pendant: Dame de qualité, pstl, 73x64, sd “Bornet 1762” (Paris sale, date uncertain, Lot 5 repr.) ☐

