

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

BOSSE, Bonaventure-Simon-Nicolas

Paris .X.1742 – Versailles 3.XII.1827

M. “Bosse de Lille”, rue et île Saint-Louis (*Almanach des peintres*, 1776), who showed pastels at the 1774 Salon de Saint-Luc and the 1776 Colisée exhibition (as well as religious, mythological and genre paintings), is somewhat of a puzzle. The suffix “de Lille” probably indicates temporary residence rather than his origin or a noble seigneurie; no Bosse from Lille can be plausibly identified. It has been suggested that he might be the obscure engraver Louis Bosse, who worked in Paris in 1767–77 engraving pieces after Freudeberg, Eisen, Roslin, Vanloo & al. but there is no plausible connection.

Albeit also with no Lille connection, the Paris address is close enough to identify him as Bonaventure-Simon-Nicolas Bosse, son of a maître serrurier and bourgeois de Paris, Simon-Jacques Bosse. He was a pupil at the Académie royale in Paris from .III.1765, “agé de 22 ans 5 mois”, under the protection of Vien; by 1769 he was a maître peintre de l’Académie de Saint-Luc, living “Isle Notre Dame rue et paroisse Saint...” (tutelle, AN Y4923^b); he was later a huissier-commissaire-priseur. In 1767 in Paris he married Jeanne-Françoise Gravet who died in 1773; in 1778, again in Paris, he married Elisabeth-Bonne-Adélaïde Brisset who survived him. At his death, 58 avenue de Paris, Versailles, he was described as an “ancien pépiniériste”.

Bibliography

Guiffrey 1915, p. 198; Le Brun 1776; Ratouis de Limay 1946; Sanchez 2004; Saur

Pastels

J.1716.101 Mme ***, pstl, ov., Exposition du Colisée 1776, no. 17

J.1716.102 Plusieurs portraits et têtes d’étude, pstl, Salon de Saint-Luc 1774, no. 96