

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

BOUNIEU, Michel-Honoré

Marseille 3.IV.1739 – Paris 29.III.1814

Genre and history painter and engraver; pupil of Pierre, admitted as an élève at the École de l'Académie royal in 1758, winning several prizes; *agréé* at the Académie royale in 1767, he was never *reçu*, but taught drawing at the École des ponts et chaussées. In 1792 he was made conservateur of the Cabinet des estampes at the Bibliothèque nationale. He signed the petition to have Vigée Le Brun's name removed from the list of émigrés (1799), described as a “peintre d'histoire”.

On 9.V.1767 in Paris, Saint-Roch, he married Jacqueline-Françoise Fournier; she died in Paris, leaving an inv. p.m., 21.XII.1804 (AN MC/ET/CVIII) Their daughter and pupil Émilie-Gabrielle (c.1785–1831, Mme Antoine-Remy Raveau) was a miniaturist, exhibiting at Salons from 1793; she was listed in the *Almanach du commerce de Paris* in 1805, rue du Faubourg Saint-Denis, 56; she was his heir. Bounieu died at his home, 105 rue du Faubourg Saint-Denis, aged 76, a hint that the year of birth traditional quoted (in every source until corrected here, 2024), 1740, was wrong. He was in fact baptised at Marseille, Saint-Martin on the day of his birth to Joseph-Bernard and Catherine Imbert; they had married there in 1733, and several siblings were christened in years before and after.

Most of his paintings were in the manner of Chardin or Lépicié; he engraved a number of these in mezzotint. The portrait of Mirabeau mentioned by Ratouis de Limay is in fact a chalk drawing corresponding to an engraved physionotrace by Chrétien after Fouquet (it also appears to relate to the Bonvallet engraving said to be after “mlle Boze”); it was attributed to Bounieu because it had once belonged to him. It is not clear if he ever made pastels.

Bibliography

Bellier de La Chavignerie & Auvray; Bénézit; Blanc 2006; Ottawa 2003; Parrocel 1890, II, p. 221; Ratouis de Limay 1946; Sanchez 2004; Saur

Portraits in other media

Honoré-Gabriel Riqueti, comte de MIRABEAU (1749–1791), pierre noire, reh. cr. clr, Ø34.5 rnd., 1789 (Versailles MV 6359. Bounieu; sa fille, Émilie, Mme Raveau. Charles Vatel, Villepreux). Exh.: Paris 1878, no. 422, as pstl. Lit.: Ratouis de Limay 1946 [?attr.; cf. Fouquet]

~grav.: Chrétien

~grav. ?L. Bonvallet a/r ?Ursule ou ?Fanny Boze, 1791–92. Exh.: Boze 2004, no. 56, repr.

~dessin, lavis gris, 13.2x9.8 (Versailles, musée Lambinet, inv. 696. Don Vatel). Exh.: Versailles 1981, no. 38 repr., attr. Moreau le jeune