

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

CHAISE, Charles

Paris a.1740–10.IX.1790

Also Chaix, Chaize, La Chaise; peintre doreur, *reqm* 1760. On 16.X.1758 at Paris, Saint-Roch, he married Marie-Louise Guibert (1735–1802), by whom he had five children including at least one painter, Charles-Édouard Chaise (1758–1798); Marc-Antoine Chaise (1767–1853) was a doreur–encadreur. Charles-Édouard Chaise enrolled in the école de l'Académie royale aged 15, under Bonvoisin, living with his father, “marchand de tableau, rue Saint-Louis, Saint Honoré”. Chaise père died of gout, 10.IX.1790, rue de l'Échelle.

While the inventaire prepared by M^e Gibert recorded only numerous English and French prints, to be valued by Antoine-Charles Dulac and Joseph-Alexandre Le Brun, both dealers (the latter the brother of Jean-Baptiste-Pierre Le Brun), the Chaise sale held by Le Brun, 3.II.1791 & seq. included some 48 pastels. Of these 26 were ovals in two uniform sizes, the rest undescribed; they were evidently the firm's stock. Mme Chaise ran a boutique at the corner of the rue de l'Échelle and the petite rue Saint-Louis, displaying a number of licentious pictures including five pastels for which she was reprimanded by Pierre Thieron, commissaire au Châtelet, on 11.V.1765. She pleaded ignorance of the regulations or thought they had fallen into disuse, and undertook to comply in future. She was allowed to keep the pictures, although the matter was noted by the police inspector Hemery. It seems possible that all these pastels were by her husband, to whom they are here tentatively attributed. An anonymous girl with a basket of eggs, in the manner of Boucher (*v. Éc. fr.*, J.9.6745, c.1760), bears the firm's label, and might also be by him. The early label for “Chaise...rue de l'Échelle, au coin de la rue St-Louis” offered “toutes sortes d'ouvrages”, including “Têtes de Femmes en Pastels”. These do not appear in a later (c.1800) version of the label (found on a chalk drawing by Coqueret), but are replaced by “Tabatières, Bonbonnières et Porte-Feuilles”. Chaise also seems to have supplied frames: the painter Jean-Baptiste-Joseph Le Tellier owed 237 livres “à M^e Chaise sculpteur pour bordures” (inv. p.m. of his wife, née Christine-Antoinette Chambellan-Duplessis, 15.IX.1777 – too early to refer to their son Marc-Antoine Chaise).

Bibliography

Guiffrey 1915; note de Pierre Thieron, commissaire au Châtelet, 11.V.1765, AN Y10889; lettre d'Hemery, inspecteur de police, 15.V.1765, BnF, MS franc. 22121, Anisson, 2, both, cited Louis Dunand, “Les estampes dites *decouvertes* et *convertes*,” *Gazette des beaux-arts*, LXIX, 1967, p. 236f; Guiffrey 1885

Pastels

- J.2158.101 Venus sortant de la mer; une femme les jambes croisées sur laquelle dont deux tourterelles; deux jeunes filles nues jusqu'à la ceinture; Venus sortant de la mer, 5 pstls (boutique de Mme Chaise 1765) [new attr., ?]
J.2158.102 8 pstls, 55x46 ov. (Chaise; vente p.m., Paris, Boileau, Le Brun, 3.II.1791 & seq., Lot 120) [new attr., ?]

- J.2158.103 14 pstls, 44x33 ov. (Chaise; vente p.m., Paris, Boileau, Le Brun, 3.II.1791 & seq., Lot 121) [new attr., ?]
J.2158.104 4 pstls, 44x33 ov. (Chaise; vente p.m., Paris, Boileau, Le Brun, 3.II.1791 & seq., Lot 122) [new attr., ?]
J.2158.105 22 pstls, différentes grandeurs, sans bordures (Chaise; Paris, Boileau, Le Brun, 3.II.1791 & seq., Lot 123) [new attr., ?]