

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

CHARLES, Claude

Nancy 1661–1747

The son of Jean Charles, procureur au bailliage et tabellion à Nancy and conseiller à la chambre de ville, he was trained by Jean-Gérard at Épinal and by Giovanni Morandi and Carlo Maratta in Rome at some stage after 1677. He returned to Nancy in 1688 after a spell in Paris. In 1690 he married Anne Racle, a member of a local family of goldsmiths and engravers. He was appointed peintre ordinaire du duc de Lorraine in 1701, he was also made héraut d'armes de Lorraine in 1702 and first directeur of the Académie de peinture at Nancy, where he taught from its foundation in 1702 to its closure in 1737. A trip to Venice influenced his art. He left numerous religious paintings in churches in Nancy. Mariette cites reports that "il dessinait bien...il avoit un bon coloris". Charles Huin (*q.v.*) was a pupil before moving to Paris; others who practised pastel included Jean-Charles François and François Mansuy.

Bibliography

Bénézit: "Claude Charles, peintre lorrain (1661–1747)", *La Lorraine-Artiste*, 31.VIII.1890, pp. 245–54; Nicolas Le Clerc, "Le duc et le peintre", in Jacques Charles-Gaffiot & al., *Lunéville: fastes du Versailles lorrain*, Paris, 2003, pp. 114ff; Abbé Lionnois, *Histoire de Nancy*, passim; Mariette 1851–60; *Mercur de France*, .VIII.1747, p. 183; Saur; Voreaux 1998

Pastels

Tête de Vierge, pstl, 30x25 (Nancy, musée Lorrain, inv. 95-557). Lit.: *La Lorraine-Artiste*, 31.VIII.1890, no. 26; cat. musée, 1903, no. 557, attr. **Φ**



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