

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

CHARLIER, Jacques

Rethel, Ardennes bpt 27.I.1706 – Paris
19.II.1790

Académie de Saint-Luc; pupil of Boucher, recorded as producing miniatures for the Bâtiments du roi from 1748 on. In 1754 he was a witness at Perronneau's wedding. Marigny commissioned a portrait of his sister, but required Lépicié's advice as to its value, and it seems that he fell out of favour with the court on the death of Louis XV. "Breveté du roi, rue de Richelieu; non moins recommandable par un talent distingué que par un zèle ardent à former de bons élèves", according to the *Almanach des peintres*, 1776, which lists him among the painters of talent unaffiliated to either academy; it also lists him among the private collectors as having an excellent collection of pictures of all schools which he shows to interested amateurs and artists. (A number of anonymous pastels and some by Boucher were sold at auctions on 20.X.1778 and 3.XII.1781 and principally in the posthumous sale conducted by Boileau and Paillet on 7.IV.1790 & seq.; they are not however particularly clearly catalogued.) The following year he appears as "peintre du roi en miniature, rue Saint-Honoré, vis-à-vis le petit Hôtel de Noailles". "Jacques Charlier, peintre du roy demeurant rue Thérèse, paroisse Saint-Roch", together with De Peters and Voiriot, catalogued the pictures in the inv. p.m. for Pierre Méréelle, 14.X.1782. A projected sale shortly before Charlier's death (rue Thérèse) was abandoned, and taste for his work has continued to fluctuate ever since.

Although principally known as a miniaturist who produced genre pieces after Boucher and others, records suggest that he may also have worked in pastel. However the pendant young ladies, described as "style Louis XV", appear to be large miniatures rather than pastels in concept, and may perhaps be later pastiches.

Charlier's baptismal record was published by Lemoine-Bouchard in 2010 from two annuities: one for 400 livres purchased by him 23.IX.1752 (AN MC/ET/CXV/601) gave the date as 27.I.1706, while another, purchased 11.X.1750 (MC/ET/XLV/485), attached a certified copy with the parish identified as Saint-Nicolas, Mazarin (Rethel today) and the parents Pierre Charlier and Marguerite Perin. This clarifies the confusion in Guiffrey 1885, summarising his legatees in the document Y11106: Guiffrey mentioned erroneously as Charlier's sister, Marie-Charlotte, veuve de Gilles Duru, chirurgien à Vancq en Champagne; however she was born in Bay, Ardennes, on 16.XI.1707 to Thimothée Charlier, a couvreur de paille, and Louise Cury; confusingly she had a brother Jacques, baptised 27.V.1709). Guiffrey also correctly named as Charlier's sister, Marie, veuve Amour; that Marie-Charlotte Charlier, daughter of the artist's parents, married Jean-Baptiste Amour in Élan, Flize, Ardennes, 12.XI.1733. A document of substitution in the registres de tutelles (AN Y5188B) of 17.III.1790 does not resolve the puzzle: in it Marguerite Duru (c.1740–1807), veuve d'Alexis Bouqueau, laboureur à Grivy, no doubt a relative of Mme

Gilles Duru, was replaced by Jean-Robert Thomas for purposes concerning the administration of Charlier's estate (the Amours were also mentioned among parents et amis in the deed).

Bibliography

Arnoult 2014, p. 67; Bellier de La Chavignerie & Auvray; Bénézit; *Catalogue des tableaux au pastel, par feu M. Charlier, peintre, par Paillet, vente à Paris en 1790*; Chatelus 1991, p. 112; Guiffrey 1885, pp. 228ff; Guiffrey 1915, p. 218; Le Brun 1776; Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Nathalie Lemoine-Bouchard, *Lettre de la miniature*, 1, .III.2010, p. 3; .XII.2010, p. 5; Pappe & al. 2008; Sanchez 2004; Saur

Pastels

J.2194.101 Buste de jeune femme, 24.5x19, s "J. Charlier"; & pendant: J.2194.102 Buste de jeune femme, 24.5x19, s "J. Charlier" (F. C. 1910. Paris, Drouot, 21.XI.1991, Lot 7 repr.). Lit.: *Intermédiaire des chercheurs et curieux*, 1910, 277, 355 Φπ



J.2194.105 Léda et le Cygne, pstl; & pendant: J.2194.106 Diane et Callisto, pstl (London, 9.XII.1936, £160)

J.2194.107 Léda et le Cygne, pstl, 67x53 ov., inscr. v "J. Charlier" (Paris, Drouot, Blanchet, 20.XII.2004, Lot 106 repr., éc. de Charlier, est. €800–1200) Φ



Cupid among clouds; & pendant (New York, Sotheby's, 29.I.1997, Lot 226 repr./n.r., attr.), v. Fragonard

J.2194.11 Dix-huit têtes, portraits & études peintes à l'huile & au pastel (Charlier; vente p.m., Paris, 1 rue Thérèse Butte S. Roch, Paillet, 7.IV.1790, Lot 109 n.r., unattr.)

J.2194.111 Une figure de femme couchée sur un lit peinte au pastel. (Charlier; vente p.m., Paris, 1 rue Thérèse Butte S. Roch, Paillet, 7.IV.1790, Lot 110 n.r., unattr.)

J.2194.112 Différents tableaux au pastel & en miniatures, la plupart d'après M. Charlier, qui seront aussi divisés sous ce n°. (Charlier; vente p.m., Paris, 1 rue Thérèse Butte S. Roch, Paillet, 7.IV.1790, Lot 115 n.r.)