

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

CHARTON, Thomas

Lyon 21.VIII.1747 – Paris 1.V.1822

Audin & Vial assumed that Vien's friend Charton, the author of the pastel self-portrait and its pendant in Lyon, was probably to be identified with the Thomas Charton from Lyon enrolled at the École des beaux-arts de Paris in 1766, aged 24, under the protection of Belle (a later entry in .IV.1773 gives his age as 31, living with his father, cul-de-sac Matignon, still under Belle). He worked in 1768 at the Gobelins factory and took part in competitions in 1770, 1772 and 1773. This Charton cannot be identified with the younger Thomas Charton (1747–1822) whose work, appearing at Drouot in 1925, showed him to be a painter and draughtsman “de premier ordre” and sparked an exchange in the *Intermédiaire des chercheurs et curieux* in 1926. It seems more probable that the pastels reported by Perret de La Menue's widow to Audin & Vial are by the trésorier rather than the Gobelins worker.

Thomas Charton, the son of Jean-Baptiste Charton, marchand-fabricant in Lyon, was appointed trésorier de France au bureau des finances de la généralité de Lyon in 1774, the year of his marriage to Anne-Marie-Catherine Grassot, daughter of the Lyon surgeon (and Liotard subject) Pierre-Nicolas Grassot. Charton was an art collector; his portrait and that of his wife were painted by Wertmüller in 1779 in Lyon; his father-in-law in 1780; and in 1781 pendants of the couple's young son Jules and his sister were added. Vien's *Mémoires* for 8.X.1775 show that on his way to Italy he was received in Lyon by the children of “notre bon ami Charton”; “Charton le fabriquant” dressed up as a servant with the painter Danloux. Charton had become président aux finances de Lyon by 1787 when his younger daughter Armande-Edmée was born; she married the architect Destouches, and her 1816 portrait by Ingres is in the Louvre. Charton was living in Paris, 23 quai Saint-Bernard at the time of his death in the maison royale de santé; he was described in his acte de décès (État civil reconstitué) as a “capitaine retraité” and widower.

Bibliography

Audin & Vial 1918; Gaechtgens & Lugand 1988; Louveciennes 2003; Gunnar W. Lundberg, *Le Peintre suédois Adolf Ulric Wertmüller à Lyon, 1779–1781*, 1972; Ratouis de Limay 1946; Saur

Pastels

J.2202.101 AUTO PORTRAIT, pstl (Claude-Émile Perret de La Menue (1810–1889), architecte, Lyon; sa veuve c.1918)

J.2202.102 Mme CHARTON, [née Anne-Marie-Catherine Grassot], femme de l'auteur, pstl (Claude-Émile Perret de La Menue (1810–1889), architecte, Lyon; sa veuve c.1918)