

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

CLAVAREAU, Catherine-Victoire

Paris bpt 6.IV.1747–1.XII.1815

Victoire Clavareau, daughter of the comédien Pierre Clavareau, was recorded as a singer (“jeune premier rôle, et chante”), with her father and younger sister Lucie (“première soubrette, et chante”), in Vienna after 1752, Warsaw in the 1760s, and Kassel 1778–83. In 1767 both sisters were the subject of scandals: Lucie eloped in Warsaw with prince Kasper Lubomirski (1724–1780), who is said to have married her against his family’s wishes (this did not prevent him marrying Barbara Lubomirska soon after); while Victoire is said to have married the composer Mattia Gerardi, maître de chapelle of Prince Nikolai Vasilevich Repnin (1734–1801), the Russian ambassador in Warsaw, a camouflage for her affair with the prince. His daughter Princess Alexandra Repnina (*q.v.*) was an amateur pastellist. Van Swieten had been ambassador in Paris and Warsaw before 1764 but seems to have been in Vienna in 1765 when Clavareau’s pastel was made; he was to become Mozart’s patron.

Victoire’s dates have only been revealed by research in 2016. She was the daughter of the Augustin-Pierre Clavareau (1721–1805) who declared himself (AN MC/ET/LXXVI/381, 15.X.1761) as “peintre de l’Empereur, Autriche”; he was the son of the actor Augustin Clavareau (1685–1769) and his wife, née Marguerite Rochebelle. Pierre Clavareau made his debut at the Comédie-Française in 1755 as “Clavareau de Rochebelle”; despite praise in the *Mercur* (and being compared to Lekain by Voltaire, letter of 13.VI.1755, although Grimm thought him “détestable et sans ressource”), he was not admitted to the company. He was also a book illustrator (engraved by Fessard and others); a theatrical drawing from 1752 was sold in 2008, and his oil portrait of Mme de Graffigny is at Lunéville. (Mme de Graffigny referred to him as “mon protégé” in a letter to Devaux of 29.IV.1755.) He married his first cousin Marie-Françoise-Jeanne Clavareau (1718–1805) (AN Z19185^b, dispenses de consanguinité, 3.V.1745). Their daughters Catherine-Victoire and Françoise-Lucie were baptised 6.IV.1747 at Saint-Germain l’Auxerrois and 1.IV.1748 at Saint Sulpice respectively; a son, Auguste-François Clavareau, also a painter, at Saint Étienne, Lille, 21.XII.1751 (his father is listed as “peintre de l’académie royale”); his sister Victoire was marraine. “Augustin Clavarau” enrolled at the Académie royale in .IX.1765, “agé 14 ans qu’il aura a Noel prochain”, initially under Boucher but then as a pupil of Noël Hallé; he obtained second prize in 1772 and competing again in 1776 (Willk-Broccard 1995).

The inv. p.m. for Pierre-Augustin Clavareau (AN MC/RE/LVIII/11, 3.XII.1805) lists among the heirs his daughters Catherine-Victoire Clavareau, veuve de Nicolas-Mathieu Bugnet (or Xavier Beugnet in other sources) and Françoise-Lucie Clavareau, veuve de Pierre-François Héricourt. Presumably these marriages took place after the girls returned from Warsaw, but no records have been found and nothing is

known of the husbands. Also included were the four children of the deceased son Augustin-François Clavareau: Angélique-Sophie, adult but unmarried, and the minors Hyacinthe-Félix-Anne Clavareau (1787–), Amélie-François-Augustin (1791–) and Alexis-Pierre Victor (1793–) represented by their guardian Michel-Marie Clavareau, architecte.

Catherine-Victoire Clavareau died 1.XII.1815 in Paris, 1^{er} arrondissement.

Bibliography

Max Fuchs, *Lexique des troupes de comédiens au XVIII^e siècle*, Paris, 1944; Graffigny 2013; Heinecken 1790; Jeffares 2017w; Mieczysław Klimowicz, *Początki teatru stanisławowskiego: 1765–1773*, 1965; *Pamiętnik teatralny*, 1967, XVI–XVII, pp. 61f; Ratouis de Limay 1946; Karyna Wierzbicka-Michalska, *Aktorzy cudzoziemcy w Warszawie w XVIII wieku*, 1975, p. 62

Pastels

J.229.101 Gottfried Freiherr van SWIETEN (1734–1803), Leibarzt Maria Theresias, Direktor der Hofbibliothek, Musikförderer, pstl, 58x47.5, sd → “Victoire Clavarau/1765” (Wienmuseum, inv. 16.913. Acqu. Baronin van Swieten 1898). Exh.: Vienna 1930a, n.r.; Vienna 1990, no. II/52 repr. Lit.: Cantagrel 2005, p. 156 repr. φ

