

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

DABOS, Mme Laurent, née Jeanne Bernard

Lunéville 11.II.1765 – Paris 9.X.1841

Miniaturist; daughter of the calligraphic artist Jean-Joseph Bernard (1740–1809), professeur des pages de l'Empereur, and his first wife, née Rose Brute (in 1792 Bernard was remarried to a Marguerite Toutlemonde); pupil of Mme Labille-Guiard (*q.v.*). According to a later notarial document (AN MC/VI 970, 19.XII.1820, which bears her autograph initials JB) creating a joint annuity of 600 francs, Mme Dabos was born in Lunéville on 11.II.1765, two years later than given in most sources. The parish register confirms that she was baptised (Jeanne, not Marie-Jeanne) the same day, her parents being absent, but her parrain was her maternal grandfather, Georges Brute, huissier au bailliage de Lunéville. A brother, Ferdinand, was baptised a year later (6.III.1766, also at Saint-Jacques, Lunéville); unlike his sister's entry, this gave his father's profession as "maitre decriture de M^{ss} les pages de feüe Sa majesté le Roy de Pologne".

In 1788 she married in Paris (by contract of 25.VI.1788: AN MC/RE/LXXVII/5), Laurent Dabos (1761–1835), a pupil of Vincent. The contract was signed in Labille-Guiard's home at the rue de Richelieu, and the signatures included Vincent, Suvée, Cochin, as well as Bervic and his wife, Marguerite Carraux de Rosemond, her contemporary and fellow pupil. She went on to exhibit miniatures at the Salon de Toulouse in 1789 (the home town of her husband) and the Paris salons in 1791 and between 1802 to 1835. Under her husband's influence she migrated to genre painting. Her portrait of Marie-Antoinette was engraved by Phelippeaux, while a chalk and gouache drawing of the Dauphin, "par Dabos, dessiné au Temple l'an 1792" was given by the duchesse d'Angoulême to a cousin of Mme Blanchard de Farges (*q.v.*).

A letter to the *Mercur* praised Mlle Bernard's submission to the Salon de la Jeunesse in 1787: "Deux dessins pleins d'esprit et de finesse, un portrait au pastel rempli de grâces et d'expression". No other pastels are recorded (unless she is the "Mlle B" who signed and dated a 1785 copy of Labille-Guiard's Flore Pajou).

She died in Paris, at 85 boulevard Beaumarchais, 9.X.1841, according to her inv. p.m. (AN MC/RE/VIII/21, 17.XI.1841).

Bibliography

Blanc 2006; Chatelus 1991, p. 153; Doria 1934; Greer 2001; Laurentie 1913a, *s.n.* suppl. no. 4 n.r.; Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Passez 1973; Ratouis de Limay 1946; Sanchez 2004; Saur; Voreaux 1998

Salons critiques

Anon., "Lettre à MM. les rédacteurs du *Mercur*...sur l'Exposition ...à la Place Dauphine", *Mercur de France*, 4.VI.1787, p. 186:

Mlle Bernard, dont je vous ai parlé l'année dernière avec éloges en mérite encore cette année. Deux Dessins pleins d'esprit & de finesse, un Portrait au pastel rempli de grâces & d'expression la doivent faire regarder, par celles qui courent la même carrière, comme une rivale redoutable.

Pastels

J.2544.101 Portrait, pstl, Salon de la Jeunesse 1787