

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

DRAGUE, Nicolas

fl. Berlin 1788–1828

Also Dragues; pastellist active in Berlin. According to the review of the 1788 exhibition in the *Journal von und für Deutschland* (1789, p. 318), Drague was born in Berlin, and was a self-taught “Mahler von vielen Talenten” who had shown himself already to be a skilful draughtsman. In 1805 “Herr Drague” (perhaps the artist or a relative) appeared in the Berlin *Adres-Kalendar*, as the resident “Oekonomus” at the Maison française, 61 Friedrichstr., a poorhouse; this suggests that his family were Huguenot refugees. In a street directory of 1808 the artist was listed as Miniatur- und Pastellmaler sowie Gemälde-Restaurateur at 12 Leipzigerstr., Berlin. He (or a homonym) appeared in Lyon advertising portraits in oil and pastel as well as drawing lessons (24.VI.1812). It is likely that the 1828 pastel of Baron d'Arbaud de Jougues was executed in Dijon where the sitter resided; as this is signed “N. Drague”, it cannot be by the “peintre Jean-Jacques Drague”, born in Berlin on 17.IV.1780, who applied for naturalisation when living in Autun, 9.V.1832 (Archives nationales, BB/11/333, dossier 1195 B8; granted by royal ordonnance, Saint-Cloud, 15.VII.1832). Jean-Jacques may well have been Nicolas's son; he is probably the “M. Drague, peintre d'Autun” who, c.1840, acquired in exchange for two of his pictures, a relict known as the épée de saint Émilien (although in fact a 17th century sabre) from the curé de Saint-Émilien; he then attempted to pass it off as the sword of Julius Sacrovir. Another source describes the “professeur de dessin au collège d'Autun, originaire de Nîmes”, who ran an antiques business. Jean-Jacques was probably the father or possibly brother of the dramatist Joseph Drague, a former pupil at Autun.

Bibliography

Audin & Vial, 1918, I, p. 286; Bénézit; J.-G. Bulliot, *Mémoires de la Société éduenne*, 1887, XV, pp. 318ff; Harold de Fontenay, “Observations sur...saint Émilien et les Sarrazins”, *Mémoires de la Société éduenne*, 1872, I, p. 433; Saur; Georg Troesch, *Kunst- und Künstlerwanderungen in Mitteleuropa, 800–1800: Bd. Deutsche Kunst und Künstler in der französischen und in der niederländischen Kunst*, Baden-Baden, 1953, p. 82

Pastels

[Joseph-Charles-André] d'ARBAUD DE JOUQUES, baron de l'Empire, préfet des Bouches-du-Rhône, pstl, 63.5x46.5, sd ✓ “N. Drague/1828” (Paris, Drouot, Ricunier, 28.XI.2011, Lot 63 n.r., est. €600–800) φ



Herzog FERDINAND von Braunschweig [?](1721–1798), Feldmarschall, pstl, Berlin 1789, no. 159

Herr Kommandator von KLEIST, pstl, Berlin 1789, no. 160

LOUIS XVIII, en buste, de ¾, pstl, 63x52.5 ov., sd ✓ 1816 (Paris, Ader-Tajan, 3.IV.1992, Lot 39 n.r.)

Kopf eines Mannes a/r Mengs, pstl, Berlin 1789, no. 161

Ein junges Manns-Portrait nach der Natur, pstl, Berlin 1797, no. 108

Ein junges Manns-Portrait nach der Natur, pstl, Berlin 1797, no. 109

Mannsportrait, Bruststück, Lebensgröße, pstl, Berlin 1798, no. 147

Junge Mannsportrait, pstl, Berlin 1798, no. 148

Junge Mann in dunkelblauem Rock, pstl, 35x29.5, sd 1818 (Munich, Hartung & Hartung, 9.V.1996, Lot 4034)

Officier, pstl, gch./ppr, 51.8x40.7, sd ✓ 1825 (Paris, Beussant-Lefèvre, 23.VI.2006, Lot 9 repr., est. €500–700, €450) φ



Frauzimmer-Bildnis, pstl, Berlin 1788, no. 169

Frauzimmer-Portrait nach der Natur, pstl, Berlin 1797, no. 110

Dame in schwarzem, dekolletiertem Kleid mit kurzen Spitzenärmeln, pstl/ppr, 31x23, sd 1809 (Berlin, Leo Spik, 9.X.2008, Lot 55 n.r., est. €600, b/i)

Die Tragödie [?Pyramus und Thisbe], pstl, 37x49, s ✓, c.1800 (Rudolstadt, Wendt, 6–7.III.2009, Lot 3642 repr., est. €250) φ

