DRAGUE, Nicolas

fl. Berlin 1788–1830

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 françoise, 61 Friedrichstr., a poorhouse; this suggests that his family were Huguenot refugees. In a street directory of 1808 the artist was listed as Miniatür- 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); connections between Lyon and Berlin must have existed with the Huguenot silk-weavers operating in Köpenick from the early eighteenth century, who no doubt included the incompletely identified M. Guillemain. 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 was a student at the École des beaux-arts in Paris, admitted 20.V.1806 under Barthélémy (he was then living at the hotel de Lyon, 40 rue Saint-Jacques). He applied for naturalisation when living in Autun, 9.V.1832 (Archives nationales, BB/11/333, dossier 1195 B8; granted by royal order, 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 exhange 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-Emiland; 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. There are no doubt numerous confusions between their work: only one example is known with the signature "J Drague". 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; France Nerlich, *1793–1843: Ein Lexikon zur Ausbildung deutscher Maler in der französischen Hauptstadt*, 2013, I, pp. 58, 330, *s.v.* Jakob Drague; Saur; Georg Troescher, *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

Salon critiques

Journal von und für Deutschland, VI, **1789**, p. 318:
Von Drague, einem gebornen Berliner und Mahler von vielen Talenten, der sich selbst zu verkennen scheint, indem er ein tüchtiger Zeichner ist und es weit bringen könnte, wenn er mehr Thätigkeit zeigte, ein Frauenzimmerbildniß in Pastell.

Pastels

J.2812.101 [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, Rieunier, 28.XI.2011, Lot 63 n.r., est. €600–800) φ

J.2812.103 Herzog FERDINAND von Braunschweig [?(1721–1798), Feldmarschall], pstl, Berlin 1789, no. 159

J.2812.104 Herr GUILLAMAIN, Seidenfabrikant, mit eine Rolle mit Seidenstoff, an der ein Etikett mit der Bezeichnung "Fabric de Cöp[?]", sd "N. Drague pinx"; & pendant: J.2812.105 seiner Frau, pstl, 34x26 (Köln, Lempertz, 25.IX.2013, Lot 146 repr., est. €800–1000) φ

J.2812.108 M. JAUBERT (1730–p.1817); & pendant: J.2812.109 son fils, notaires à Arles, pstl, 63x51, sd 1817/1816 (Antiquités Carles 2 Bergada, Montpellier, 2013) φ

J.2812.112 Herr Kommendator von KLEIST, pstl, Berlin 1789, no. 160

J.2812.113 LOUIS XVIII, en buste, de ¾, pstl, 63x52.5 ov., sd ↘ "Drague f/1816" (Paris, Ader-Tajan, 3.IV.1992, Lot 39 n.r., €1296. Galerie Morand Collection, Châtellerault, 2014). A/r Robert Lefèvre pnt. φ

J.2812.115 Kopf eines Mannes a/r Mengs, pstl, Berlin 1789, no. 161

J.2812.116 Ein junges Manns-Portrait nach der Natur, pstl, Berlin 1797, no. 108

J.2812.117 Ein junges Manns-Portrait nach der Natur, pstl, Berlin 1797, no. 109

J.2812.118 Mannsportrait, Bruststück, Lebensgröße, pstl, Berlin 1798, no. 147

J.2812.119 Junge Mannsportrait, pstl, Berlin 1798, no. 148

J.2812.122 Junge Mann in dunkelblauem Rock, pstl, 35x29.5, sd 1818 (Munich, Hartung & Hartung, 9.V.1996, Lot 4034)

J.2812.123 Gentilhomme en habit noir, pstl/ppr, 47x37, sd → "Drague ft/1819" (Salon de Provence, Dame Marteau, 1.III.2016, Lot 8 repr., est. €200–300) φ

J.2812.125 Officier, pstl, gch./ppr, 51.8x40.7, sd ↙ 1825 (Paris, Beaussant-Lefèvre, 23.VI.2006, Lot 9 repr., est. €500–700, €450) φ

J.2812.127 Homme en habit bleu, pstl, 46x38, sd → "Drague" (PC 2014) φ

J.2812.129 Frauenzimmer Bildnis, pstl, Berlin 1788, no. 169

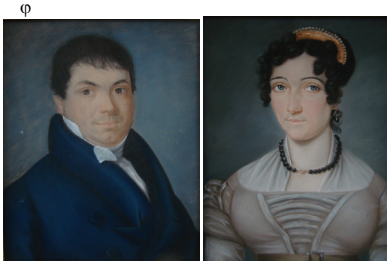
J.2812.13 Frauenzimmer-Portrait nach der Natur, pstl, Berlin 1797, no. 110

J.2812.131 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)

J.2812.132 Dame, pstl, 53x42, sd ← "Drague f/1830[?]" (eBay 2014) φ

J.2812.133 Homme en redingote, pstl, 54.5x41; & pendant: J.2812.1331 femme, pstl, 48.5x38, sd →"Drague f/1816" (Paris, Drouot, Delvaux, 28.VI.2018, Lot 86 repr., est. €500–700) φ

J.2812.134 Homme; & pendant: J.2812.135 femme, pstl, sd "N Drague/1824" (Narbonne PC 2015) φ



J.2812.138 Homme en habit noir; & pendant: J.2812.139 femme, pstl, sd → "Drague/1824" (Lincoln, Golding Young, 27.I.2016, Lot 104, est. £200–400) φ

J.2812.142 Die Tragödie [?Pyramus und Thisbe], pstl, 37x49, s ↘, c.1800 (Rudolstadt, Wendl, 6–7.III.2009, Lot 3642 repr., est. €250) φ