

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

DU PARC, Anne-Marie-Élisabeth

Rossa, dite La Francesina

France ? – Hammersmith 1778

Mrs Du Parc, crayon painter, known only from the 1766 exhibits, sent from Mr Williamson's, Princes Street, Leicester Fields, is probably the same as the Mrs Du Part who exhibited portraits at the Free Society in 1763; it seems rather improbable that either can be identified with the genre painter Françoise Duparc (*q.v.*) as has been suggested. However she may be the Sig.ra Francescini who sent a pastel head to the Society of Artists in 1762 as an honorary exhibitor. Élisabeth du Parc or Duparc, a French soprano (and granddaughter of the Anne Duparc who played in Molière's troupe), was trained in Italy, and adopted the stage name of La Francesina (spelt in various ways). She came to London in 1736 and became Handel's leading soprano over the next decade, continuing to appear on the London stage until 1752. Her portrait (medium unknown) by Knapton was engraved by Faber (1737). By 1769 she was living in Chiswick, when she was left the painting materials of the pastellist Joseph Goupy (*q.v.*) in his will; she may well have been his pupil (both had known Handel well). Nine years later she died unmarried and was buried in the cemetery at Hammersmith Chapel (the stone could not be located in 2010). In her will, written in French (only the English translation has survived, where she appears as Anna Maria Elisabeth Rossa, otherwise La Francesina; the name Duparc is absent), she nominates her cousin, Margherita de La Forest, known as Gogo, as her executor.

Bibliography

Greer 2001; Daniel Lysons, *The environs of London*, 1810, II, p. 268; *New Grove dictionary of music and musicians*; Waterhouse 1981, *s.v.* Du Parc, Francescini

Pastels

Gentleman, pstl, Society of Artists 1766, no. 113
Lady, pstl, Society of Artists 1766, no. 112
Child, pstl, Society of Artists 1766, no. 114
A head, pstl, Society of Arts 1762, as Signora Francescini