DU SIMITIÈRE, Pierre-Eugène
Geneva 1737 – Philadelphia 1784
Also Du Cimitière. Naturalist, topographical artist and map-maker, he is also known for numerous portraits of Washington, and was drawing master to Jefferson’s daughter Martha. He lived in the West Indies from 1756 to 1765 before travelling to New York and (1766) Philadelphia. He briefly returned to New York, advertising in the New-York gazette and weekly mercury, 31.VII.1769:

Mr. Du Simitiere, Miniature Painter, Intending shortly to leave this City, and it being uncertain whether he will return again, if any Gentlemen or Ladies should incline to employ him, he is to be found at his lodgings, in the House of Mrs. Ferrara, in Maiden Lane.

Du Simitière opened his “American museum” of natural history specimens, coins, and printed ephemera to the public in 1782; most of the works on paper were acquired by the Library Company of Philadelphia in the auction after his death.

A series of 13 drawings of American patriots, mostly profiles, were engraved. In addition to some portraits, Du Simitière also made flower pictures with chalk and oil pastel on coloured paper. Potts 1889 reproduces the artist’s notebooks covering the years from 1774, with a work list; this shows that the preponderance of his work was in miniature or black lead, but he used a wide range of techniques applied to an equally varied range of subjects.

Monographic exhibitions

Bibliography
Whitfield J. Bell, The patriot-improvers: biographical sketches of members of the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, 1997, 1, pp. 504–13; Bénézit; Bolton 1923; Karel 1992; Potts 1889; Saur

Pastels
1.294.101 Miss C.[Christian] AMIEL (1753–1791x1800), [6 Colonel William Armstrong, of Elizabethtown], crayons, t.1776
1.294.102 Captain John DEARBORN [[1738–1830], brother of General Henry Dearborn], pastel, 39.5x29 (Mrs Charles A. Munn, New York, 1922. Ehrich Galleries, New York; Mrs I. Sheldon Tilney ( –1959), New York). Lit.: Bolton 1923, p. 27 n.r.
1.294.103 Miss Polly Riche, crayon, v.1775
1.294.104 Captain Nicholas RIDDLE, crayons, XII.1776
1.294.105 Mr Benjamin DAVIES, crayon, v.1777
1.294.106 Mr Stacy HEPBURN, crayons, II.1777
1.294.107 John JAY, Esq., of New York, crayons, IV.1776
1.294.108 John JAY, minister of the USA to Spain, crayons, x.1780
1.294.109 Major John KEPPLE, crayon, IV.1777
1.294.110 Colonel Isaac MELCHER (1749–1790), Barrack-Master-General of the Revolutionary Army, crayons, IX.1778, “begun last month”, delivered 18.X.1778 to Col. Melcher’s “negro man Mug”
1.294.111 Capt. James MILLER lately dead, done from memory, crayon, x.1774
1.294.112 Colonel George NOARTH, crayon, the largest done by the artist, IV.1777
1.294.113 Sarah Dearborn PAGE (1746–1831), pastel, 39.5x28 (Augustus F. De Forest, New York; Keeler Art Galleries, 4.V.1922, Lot 20, $210; Charles Allen Munn, New York, 1922). Lit.: Bolton 1923, p. 27 n.r.
1.294.114 Miss Sukey READ, crayon, IX.1778
1.294.115 Miss Suckey READ, granddaughter of James Read, crayons, XII.1781
1.294.116 Miss Polly Riche, crayon, v.1775
1.294.117 Captain Charles RIDDLE, crayons, x.1776
1.294.118 Mr John SCHENCK, crayons, v.1777
1.294.120 Princess Sophia Sophe von Hannover, née von der Pfalz (1630–1714), mother of George I, head, crayons, a/r small bust, painted VIII.1775
1.294.121 Old man’s head, crayon, a/r oil pint. belonging to Dr F., XII.1777
1.294.122 Man, pastel, 48.2x36.8, c.1775–84 (New York Historical Society 1924.23)
1.294.124 Great horned owl of Pennsylvania, crayon, from the living animal, III.1775
1.294.125 Our Saviour holding a mounds, crayons, a/r small bust, pint. VIII.1775
1.294.126 The Virgin Mary sitting by a table on which sits the child asleep against her breast holding a small cross and an apple, the virgin reading a book, a candle burning on the table, a/r Islain pint. belonging to Wm Bingham, crayons, 49.5x39.5, t.1781
1.294.127 An uncommon species of owl, from life, crayons, VIII.1782
1.294.128 A tulip, crayons/brown ppr., VIII.1783