

# Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

## Online edition

### DU SIMITIÈRE, Pierre-Eugène

Geneva 18.IX.1737 – Philadelphia brd 10.X.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.

Francis Hopkinson engaged the artist to design the great seal of the state of New Jersey in 1776. 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. He is buried in St Peter's Church, Philadelphia, as was also Charles Wilson Peale.

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

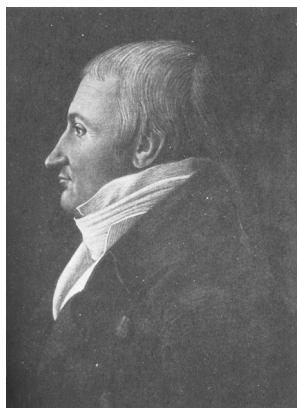
Du Simitière 1985: *Pierre Eugene Du Simitiere. His American museum 200 years after*, Philadelphia, Library Company, .VII.–.X.1985

### Bibliography

Whitfield J. Bell, *The patriot-improvers: biographical sketches of members of the American Philosophical Society*, Philadelphia, 1997, I, pp. 504–13; Bénézit; Bolton 1923; Karel 1992; Martin Levey, "The first American museum of natural history", *Isis*, XLII/1, .iv.1951, pp. 10–12; Potts 1889; Saur

### Pastels

- J.294.101 Miss C.[Christian] AMIEL (1753–1791X1800), [∞ Colonel William Armstrong, of Elizabethtown], crayons, .I.1776  
J.294.102 Captain John DEARBORN [(1738–1830), brother of General Henry Dearborn], pstl, 39.5x29 (Mrs Charles A. Munn, New York, 1922. Ehrlich Galleries, New York; Mrs I. Sheldon Tilney (–1959), New York). Lit.: Bolton 1923, repr. opp. p. 26 [?attr.; costume appears to be later than 1784] Φ?av



- J.294.104 Captain Nicholas BIDDLE, crayons, .XII.1776  
J.294.105 Mr Benjamin DAVIES, crayon, .V.1777  
J.294.106 Mr Stacy HEPBURN, crayons, .II.1777  
J.294.107 John JAY, Esq., of New York, crayons, .IV.1776  
J.294.108 John JAY, minister of the USA to Spain, crayons, .X.1780  
J.294.109 Major John KEPPELE, crayon, .IV.1777  
J.294.11 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"  
J.294.111 Capt. James MILLER lately dead, done from memory, crayon, .X.1774  
J.294.112 Colonel George NOARTH, crayon, the largest done by the artist, .IV.1777  
J.294.113 Sarah Dearborn PAGE (1746–1831), pstl, 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.  
J.294.114 Miss Sukey READ, crayons, .IX.1778  
J.294.115 Miss Suckey READ, granddaughter of James Read, crayons, .XII.1781  
J.294.116 Miss Polly RICHE, crayon, .V.1775  
J.294.117 Captain Charles RIDDLE, crayons, .V.1776  
J.294.118 Mr John SCHENCK, crayons, .III.1777  
J.294.119 ?Williamina SMITH, dau. of the Rev. William Smith of the University of Pennsylvania, pstl, c.1778 (Philadelphia, Library Company). Exh.: Du Simitière 1985, no. 2:9 n.r.  
J.294.12 Princess Sophia [SOPHIE von Hannover, née von der Pfalz (1630–1714)], mother of George I, head, crayons, a/r pnt. belonging to Dr F., .XII.1777  
J.294.121 Old man's head, crayon, a/r oil pnt. belonging to Dr Morgan, .II.1775  
J.294.122 Man, pstl/ppr, 48.2x36.8, c.1775–84 (New York Historical Society 1924.23)  
J.294.123 Unidentified portraits, pstl, c.1778 (Philadelphia, Library Company). Exh.: Du Simitière 1985, no. 2:10–12 n.r.  
J.294.124 Great horned owl of Pennsylvania, crayon, from the living animal, .III.1775  
J.294.125 Our Saviour holding a ?mound, crayons, a/r small bust, pnt. VIII.1775  
J.294.126 The Virgin Mary sitting by a table on which sits the Vhild asleep against her breast holding a snall cross and an apple, the Virgin

reading a book, a candle burning on the table, a/r Italian pnt. belonging to Wm Bingham, crayons, 49.5x39.3, .I.1781

J.294.127 An uncommon species of owl, from life, crayons, .VIII.1782

J.294.128 A tulip, crayons/brown ppr, .VIII.1783