

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

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.

Monographic exhibitions

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

Bibliography

Bénézit; Bolton 1923; Karel 1992; Saur

Pastels

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] **◆**



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.

?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.

Man, pstl/ppr, 48.2x36.8, c.1775–84 (New York Historical Society 1924.23)

Unidentified portraits, pstl, c.1778 (Philadelphia, Library Company). Exh.: Du Simitière 1985, no. 2:10–12 n.r.