

**DUPRÉ de GENESTE et de  
RETONFEY, Jean-Baptiste-  
Nicolas-François**

Vilosnes 12.x.1714 – Longevill-Lès-Metz  
14.iii.1800

Little known as an artist, but his genealogy and military career are well documented. His godmother was Louise-Françoise Laurent, wife of Philippe Vassal, huissier du cabinet du roi. He was commissioned lieutenant en second in 1735 and retired as capitaine au régiment de Montmorin, infanterie, in 1761, having served in campaigns in Westphalia, Bohemia and Bavaria. He was at the battles of Rocoux and Lawfeldt, and the sieges of Berg-op-Zoom, Mons, Charleroy. He received the Saint-Louis 12.i.1750. He was married to Jeanne Dilleny de Vévins.



A notice in the *Mercure* describes his invention of a method of subdivision of irregular plots of land, for which the duc d'Orléans was cited as patron: in exchange perhaps Dupré made a copy of a lost Liotard portrait of the duc when duc de Chartres, presumably from a version in the Palais-Royal.

Dupré was an academician at the Société royale des sciences & des arts at Metz (*Almanach des trois-évêchés pour 1788*); his brother Henri Dupré de Geneste was secrétaire perpétuel.

**Bibliography**

La Chesnaye des Bois; *État nominatif des pensions*, 1790; *Mercure de France*, .vii.1773, pp. 166ff; Emmanuel Michel, *Biographie du parlement de Metz*, Metz, 1853, p. 142

**Pastels**

J.2913.051 Louis-Philippe, duc de Chartres, puis duc d'ORLÉANS (1725–1785), pstl, 57x49, inscr. verso "Peint par Dupré de Retonfey ... à Paris en Juin 1773" (Rouen, Normandy Auction, 5.vii.2020, Lot 311 repr., éc. fr., Louis XVI, est. €800–1200); PC; Versailles, Osenat, 18.iv.2021, Lot 124 repr., est. €1200–1500). A/r Liotard, J.49.2167 φv



J.2913.101 Femme en robe bleue, pstl/ppr, 49x43, sd verso "Peint par Dupré de Geneste, capitaine au régiment de Montmorin, 20 octobre 1754, Haguenau" (Vernon, Lydie Brioult, 18.vi.2016, Lot 196 bis, est. €200–300) φv