

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

DUVIVIER, F.

fl. Philadelphia 1796–97

It is not known if the firm of F. Duvivier & Son was associated with the graveurs de médailles (*v. infra*); Duvivier père claimed to be a member of the Académie royale of Paris), with Mlle Aimée Duvivier (*q.v.*) or with the Savonnerie factory, but they worked as painters on silk as well as portraitists and teachers. They advertised in the *Aurora* (25.v.1796, from 112 Race Street) and the *Pennsylvania packet*, 23.v.1797, where their Academy of drawing and painting was first advertised: it had moved from North Second Street to 12 Strawberry Street, Philadelphia. A notice appeared in Claypoole's *American daily advertiser* (31.x.1797, p. 3) for pupils for the reopening of the Academy at Strawberry Street. Ladies and gentlemen were taught separately. Duvivier's secret method of painting on fabrics, patterns, tapestry etc. are mentioned at some length. The only evidence that either father or son worked in pastel is however the pair of portraits of Hazard and his wife, the basis of the attribution of which is unclear.

In 1798 the firm moved to Baltimore, and advertised the academy under the name "F. Duvivier & Son From Philadelphia". A museum was opened in 1799. A miniature profile of a little boy, signed F. Duvivier, appeared at auction in Boston (Freeman's, 13–14.xi.2013 (Lot 419).

"Duvivier, limner" appears at 26 North Gay Street in the Baltimore Directory for 1799 (with Duvivier & Son, removed to 22 North Gay street in the supplement); F. Duvivier, painter appears at the same address for 1800–1; F. G. Duvivier, painter appears at 24 Union Street in 1804, while the subsequent descriptions of J. F. Duvivier as a glazier, house and sign painter at various addresses until 1808 presumably indicates the firm's lack of success with its original objectives.

Broglin 2017 identifies the firm with the graveur Pierre-Simon-Benjamin Duvivier (Paris 5.xi.1730–11.vii.1819) and his son, Charles-Adrien-Benjamin Duvivier (Paris 13.iii.1773–13.xi.1797). The father, himself a son of Jean Duvivier (1687–1761), graveur des médailles du roi and brother of Thomas-Germain-Joseph Duvivier (*q.v.*), was educated at the collège Mazarin, becoming a member of the Académie royale in 1774, and purchasing the office of graveur général ds monnaies which he held until 1791. His son enrolled as an élève in the école de l'Académie royale in Paris on 13.x.1792, aged 18½. Broglin's identification follows Karel's tentative suggestion, based on the Académie royale claim (such puffs were common); but it is not in Advielle's comprehensive biography, nor is the initial F. explained, nor the fact that the son died in Paris in 1797.

A Peter Duvivier, merchant, from Tours, son of another Peter Duvivier of the same place, arrived in Philadelphia in .v.1792 from Cap François. He was probably the Pierre Duvivier who died in New London, Connecticut, 24.xii.1800, aged 33.

Bibliography

Bolton 1923; Broglin 2017, II, p. 1810f; Karel 1992; Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Prime 1932, II, p. 47; article in The Schwarz Gallery, Philadelphia, catalogue, 2003

Pastels

J.2952.101 Ebenezer HAZARD (1744–1817), postmaster general, founder of the Insurance Company of North America; & pendant: J.2952.102 spouse, née Abigail Arthur (1759–1820), pstl, 1796 (Rev. F. E. Vermilye, New York, 1892). Lit.: Bowen 1892, repr. pp. 156, 51; Bolton 1923, n.r.