Neil Jeffares, Dictionary of pastellists before 1800

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1

FABRE D'EGLANTINE, Philippe-François-Nazaire

Carcassonne 28.VII.1755 – Paris 5.IV.1794

The playwright and Revolutionary politician Fabre d'Églantine appears to have passed through Geneva on his way to Paris. Here, in the Feuille d'avis on 21.VI.1783, he advertised that he painted "le portrait en pastel" and that readers could "le faire appeler ou l'aller trouver à Chatelaine où il passera la belle saison". As Mme Buyssens points out, however, Fabre's notoriously chronic shortage of funds does not indicate that he met with much success. He was himself the subject of one of Greuze's pastels. In 1789 Fabre d'Eglantine complained that Nicolas-François-Roland Foucquet-Dulombois, or Dulomboy, ancien capitaine de cavalerie, whose wife, was the actress Marie-Élisabeth Joly, was Fabre's mistress; allegedly they had attempted to disrupt the première of Fabre's Présomptueux ou l'heureux imaginaire: conspiring with "le sieur Ducreux, peintre" to obtain his free entrance to the performance (Campardon 1879, p. 167).

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