

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

FAVRAY, Antoine de

Bagnolet 8.IX.1706 – Malta 9.II.1798

Little is known of Favray's early training, but by 1738 he had become a pupil of Jean-François de Troy whom he accompanied to Rome. He remained there as a pensionnaire of the Académie royale for six years, where he overlapped with other French painters such as Carle Van Loo and Subleyras. He left Rome for Malta in 1744, where he spent most of his career, nevertheless retaining ties with Paris: he was *reçu* by the Académie royale in 1762. In the 1760s Favray made an extended trip to Constantinople, where Vergennes supported him. Here he made numerous paintings of Phanariots (Greeks living in the Phanar quarter), in contrast to the Levantines and Franks (European and Christian Levantines) portrayed by Liotard twenty years previously. The artist's most important portrait was that of the Grand Master of the order of Malta, Emanuel Pinto de Fonseca, of which the primary version was executed in oil in 1747. Among numerous replicas is a bust-length version in pastel, a medium which Favray is said to have pioneered in Malta. Although it is possible that his period in Malta overlapped with that of Pierre Bernard (*q.v.*; his full-length oil portrait of Fonseca predated Favray's by a few years), Bernard does not seem to have used pastel at that stage, so it is much more likely that Favray learned the technique in Rome.

Bibliography

Bellier de La Chavignerie & Auvray; Bénézit; Raphael Bonnici Cali, "A personal view of Favray's art", *The times (Malta)*, 15.VI.1982, p. 7; Boppe 1989; Degiorgio & Fiorentino 2004; London 1913a; J. Patrice Marandel, in Grove 1996; Mariette 1851–60; Ottawa 2003; Paris 1984b; Sanchez 2004; Saur; Toffolo 1988; Valletta 1970

Pastels

J.3094.101 Dom Frei Manuel PINTO DA FONSECA (1681–1773), grão-mestre da Ordem de Malta, pstl (Malta PC). Lit.: Degiorgio & Fiorentino 2004, p. 33, fig. 2.17 ☐



~cop., pnt., 78x66 (MV 3870)

J.3094.104 Femme levantine, pstl, 44.3x29 (London, Sotheby's, 2.VII.1997, Lot 81; London, Sotheby's, 7.VII.1999, Lot 230 n.r., attr., est. £3500) ☐



Photo courtesy Sotheby's

Unspecified pstls (Marchesi; Bonnici Cali, other Maltese PC). Lit.: Bonnici Cali, *op. cit.*