

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

FRANCE, Mesdames de

fl. Versailles c.1740–52

The five pastels catalogued as in the duc de Saint-Aignan's sale as by Mesdames de France may be a confusion. No examples have survived of the pastels by the royal princesses, although we know they were taught drawing by Mlle Basseporte (*q.n.*). After the early death of Madame Henriette (1752) and the marriage of Madame Infante, the remaining princesses were Marie-Adélaïde, Madame Adélaïde (1732–1800); Marie-Louise-Thérèse-Victoire, Madame Victoire (1733–1799); Sophie-Philippine-Élisabeth-Justine, Madame Sophie (1734–1782); and Louise-Marie, Madame Louise (1737–1787). A tabatière with miniatures by Dailly (Baltimore, Walters Art Museum, repr.) combines various portraits by Liotard (executed c.1750–52), in one of which Madame Adélaïde is shown drawing Madame Victoire in chalk or pastel. A chalk sketch of Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne modeling the bust of Madame Adélaïde, drawn on a sheet bearing the royal arms, was inscribed in the sculptor's hand "Par M^{me} Adélaïde de France, 1770" (Yves Le Moyne sale, Paris, 5.II.1912, Lot 31). We know too from the duc d'Aumont's letter to La Tour of 19.II.1740 that Madame Adélaïde herself, just eight at the time, borrowed one of his portraits for several days, and had promised to take good care of it; she may well have copied it.

Bibliography

Hugues 2004; Réau 1927, p. 50

Pastels

J.3234.101 Cinq dessins & pstls, faits par Mesdames de France (duc de Saint-Aignan; Paris, Florentin, Lebrun, 17.VI.1776, Lot 312, 24 livres)

J.3234.102 =?cinq Portraits des Dames de France, tant à l'huile qu'au pastel, couverts de glaces, dont un sans bordure (duc de Tallard; Paris, Grignard, Remy, 22.III.1756 & seq., supplément, Lot 204 part; 392 livres)