

# Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

## Online edition

### FRANÇOIS, Henri-Joseph

Tintigny bpt 25.IX.1746 – Paris 1812

M. François's submissions to the Salon de la Correspondance of 1783 were praised by Pahin de la Blancherie: his pastel tête d'homme was "caractérisée par beaucoup de simplicité et de vérité"; while two years later, the pendants of the painter Degaux and his wife in the 1785 exhibition elicited further praise: "Un style ragoûtant et un beau faire caractérisent ces ouvrages, remarquables aussi par la ressemblance. L'Auteur peint le pastel avec beaucoup de fermeté. Il se distingue également dans la Poésie." The sitter cannot be Gault de Saint-Germain, since he only married in 1788, but is probably Jacques-Jean de Gault (1738–p.1812), rue Saint-Martin, who exhibited at the Salon de Saint-Luc in 1774 and was listed in the *Almanach des peintres* of 1776 as an artist in many genres from miniature to trompe-l'œil cameos.

The pastellist went on to exhibit portraits (medium unspecified) at the official Salons from 1791 to 1806, rue Gaillon, no. 11, he was a pupil of Brenet. The 1796 salon livret give his forenames as Henri-J.

Bellier de Chavignerie identified him as the poet born in Luxembourg, "H.-J. François, peintre", who published between 1792 and 1814 works such as the ode *Aux Français, sur la paix de Tilsitt* (1808). Ratouis de Limay gave his dates as 1759–1851, neither of which can be correct. He is evidently the Henri-Joseph François, peintre, rue du Sépulchre, Paris, on 30.V.1775, when his wife, Anne Dainger, Damgée or Damgé, died (scellés apposées..., AN Y13555); they had married at Saint-Côme, 23.V.1769 (Fonds Andriveau): his parents were Jean-Baptiste François and Jeanne Lalangue or La Langue de La Haye; two sisters were baptised in Tintigny (in Blegium, but near Luxembourg) 1738–39, but Henri-Joseph's baptism was only located in the parish records there in 2021. He was in fact admitted as a pupil in the école de l'Académie royale in Paris, aged 25, "de Luxembourg", under the protection of Brenet. On 21.I.1778, at Paris, Saint-Eustache, Henri-Joseph François was remarried, to a Jeanne Martin, daughter of Claude-Antoine and Marie Mouzé. An 1814 edition of his *Poésies diverses* identifies the author as deceased; in fact Henry-Joseph François, 6 rue Saint-Séverin, whose inventaire après décès was requested by his daughter (by his second marriage), Marguerite-Joséphine-Clémentine (1786–1866), 28.III.1812 (AN MC/RE/VIII/18), shortly before her own marriage, to Pierre Hue (Paris, Sainte-Marguerite, 17.X.1812).

None of François's pastels is known for certain, but a pair signed "François I." seems to display the same characteristically strong features as are found in the engravings after his other portraits.

The "François" who advertised a new composition for pastel in the *Journal des sciences et beaux-arts*, 1778, p. 233, and in 1780 portraits "en deux séances" appears to have been Pourvoyeur (*q.v.*).

### Bibliography

Bellier de La Chavignerie 1865; Bellier de La Chavignerie & Auvray; Bénézit; Jeannerat 1935, p. 221; Ratouis de Limay 1946; Sanchez 2004

### Salon critiques

PAHIN DE LA BLANCHERIE, Salon de la Correspondance

1783, *Nouvelles de la république des lettres et des arts* [Tête d'homme] Ce morceau est caractérisée par beaucoup de simplicité et de vérité, & promet à la nation un Artiste distingué.

PAHIN DE LA BLANCHERIE, Salon de la Correspondance

1785, *Nouvelles de la république des lettres et des arts* [Un religieux:] L'Auteur a prouvé, par cet ouvrage, qu'il voit bien la nature. La tête se détache parfaitement de son fonds & dans un ton clair.

[M. et Mme Degaux:] Un style ragoûtant et un beau faire caractérisent ces ouvrages, remarquables aussi par la ressemblance. L'Auteur peint le pastel avec beaucoup de fermeté. Il se distingue également dans la Poésie.

### Pastels

J.3248.101 M. DEGAUX, peintre [Jacques-Joseph de Gault (1738–)], Salon de la Correspondance, 9.XII.1785

J.3248.102 Mme DEGAUX son épouse, Salon de la Correspondance, 9.XII.1785

J.3248.103 M. JACQUESSON, en habit noir; & pendant: J.3248.104 son épouse, en robe blanche bordée de fourrure, nœud de soie bleu, pstl, 60x46 ov., sd verso "françois I. 1782" (Reims, Hôtel des ventes de la Porte Mars, 19.IV.2009, €1200) [new attr.] øv



J.3248.107 Tête de récollet, pstl, Salon de la Correspondance, .VII.1783, no. 175

J.3248.108 Tête d'homme, pstl, Salon de la Correspondance, .XI.1783