

GAUTIER-DAGOTY, Jacques-Fabien

Marseille 1711 – Paris 1785

Gautier-Dagoty (or Gauthier d'Agoty) was the son of Gaspard Gautier and Marie-Madeleine Dagotty, born in the parish of Les Accoules, Marseille. Trained as an engraver, he came to Paris in 1735 and came under the influence of Père Louis-Bertrand Castel, an opponent of Newton's colour theories. Gautier-Dagoty worked briefly as assistant to Jacob-Christoph Leblond, the inventor of a three-colour printing process. Gautier-Dagoty took over the business on Leblond's death in 1741; his main technical contribution was the addition of a fourth plate (black) to the three colours Leblond used; Leblond's heirs contested the royal warrant he received. Gautier-Dagoty's work on anatomical engravings gave him the opportunity to collaborate with the renowned anatomist and demonstrator Duverney, and resulted in the production of three lavish volumes from 1745. After Duverney's death Gautier-Dagoty himself took over anatomical dissections and demonstrations. He travelled to Nice (1760), Dijon and London, and became a member of the Académie des sciences & belles-lettres de Dijon, as well as being "anatomiste pensionné du roi."

Between 1745 and 1785 he published more than a dozen illustrated works on anatomy or physics including a number of ridiculous challenges to Newtonian theory. But his work also included some interesting art criticism in his *Observations sur l'histoire naturelle, sur la physique et sur la peinture* issued in 18 parts (1752–55); these included critiques of the 1751, 1753 and 1755 salons (on the title page he appears as). In the 1755 critique (overlooked until 2015) the author made some interesting comments on the role of glazing in pastels, and revealed that he had seen La Tour's Mme de Pompadour in the studio before it was framed.

Five of Jacques-Fabien's sons by his wife Marie-Anne Moreau were involved in the colour printing business (of a total of ten children, most of whom died before their father). Distinguishing their non-reproductive work is difficult. On 17.XI.1767 at Versailles, Gautier-Dagoty, assisted by one of his sons, printed an engraving of the king his His Majesty's presence in six minutes, finished in all its colours (the news was reported in the *London evening post*, 26.XI.1767 etc.). The following year the sons alone performed a similar demonstration in Brussels for prince Charles de Lorraine (*London Gazetteer*, 14.V.1768). Jacques-Fabien exhibited a portrait of Marie-Antoinette at the Salon de la Correspondance of 1779.

According to the *Dictionnaire des sciences médicales: biographie médicale*, 1821, IV, p. 362f

Il était membre de l'Académie de Dijon, mais ayant été rayé de la liste des membres de sa compagnie, par les intrigues de son secrétaire Muret, il mourut en 1785, à Paris, dans un âge très-avancé, du chagrin que lui causa la lecture d'une gazette dans laquelle un malin ennemi avait fait publier cette nouvelle désagréable.

Bibliography

Baltimore 1984; Madeleine Barbin, in Grove 1996; Bellier de La Chavignerie & Auvray; Bénézit; Sanchez 2004; Boris Terk, "Jacques Fabien Gautier d'Agoty, graveur, anatomiste. Une figure d'étrangeté", *Revue d'orthopédie dentofaciale*, XXXVII/2, 2003, pp. 201–16; Thieme & Becker

Pastels

J.3406.101 DELAVERDI [?Clément-Charles-François de l'Averdy (1723–1793), conseiller au parlement de Paris, contrôleur général des finances 1763, pstl (Richard de Lédans; Paris, Benou, Regnault-Delalande, 3–18.XII.1816, Lot 520 n.r. with 11 others) [?JBA or JF]

J.3406.102 M. MONTILLET, commandant de la gendarmerie des Chasses du roi, pstl (Paris, 28.V.1931, H920)

J.3406.103 Deux enfants de Mme de TOURZEL [?Henriette-Adélaïde-Joséphine du Bouchet, plus tard duchesse de Charost (1765–1837)], pstl, 59x48, s. r.; & pendant: J.3406.104 [?Charles-Louis-Yves, marquis de Tourzel (1768–1815)], pstl, 59x48 (Saint-Germain-en-Laye, Loiseau-Schmitz-Digard, 22.VI.1997, Lot 23 repr., as by Gautier-Dagoty, est. H60–70,000, H82,000) Ⓞ



J.3406.109 Homme tenant une lettre et une miniature dans ses mains, 40x29 (Paris, PIASA, 6.II.2002, Lot 88 n.r., attr., est. €1500–1800)



J.3406.107 Jean-Baptiste WILLERMOZ (1730–1824), francmaçon, fabricant de soie à Lyon, pstl, 80x60, s. "Gautier, pensionnaire du roi, 1766" (mentioned in subject's will). Lit.: Émile Dermenghem, *Les Sommeils de Jean-Baptiste Willermoz (1730–1824)*, Paris, 1926, repr., attr. Ⓞ