

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

GLAIN, Mme Léon-Pascal, née Marie-Élisabeth Tanche

Paris c.1742–16.VII.1782

Glain's wife exhibited a portrait of the future Mme Vigée Le Brun at the Salon de Saint-Luc in 1774 under her husband's group of works. The critic was very enthusiastic: "[Le portrait] de Mlle Vigée par Madame de Glain a de très jolis tons, de la vérité, l'attitude, est dessinée mollement et il manque un peu d'effet. On regrette que cette dame n'ait mis que ce portrait. On fait cas de son talent et le public eut été plus à portée de lui rendre justice, si elle eut exposé plusieurs ouvrages." She was listed immediately after Mlle Vigée in the *Almanach des peintres* of 1776 (p. 117; also in 2nd ed., 1777, p. 100), but a misprint omits her address, nor is any other information provided. The connection with the Vigée family is confirmed also in Louis Vigée's inventaire après décès (1767; AN MC/ET/XXIV/835, f° 33/35) where among the deceased's creditors was "La D^{lle} Tanche Peintresse Rue du Vertbois cinquante deux livres." No reason for the debt is recorded, but it seems plausible to suspect that she was employed as a copyist of Vigée's work.

Her marriage to Glain only took place in 1774 (contract of 9.II.1774, AN ET/RE/XLVIII/4; insinuation au Châtelet, 6.VII.1782, Y//465, f° 11 v°). She brought to the marriage the house in the rue du Vertbois she had inherited from her parents as well as annuities (life or perpetual) totalling 471 livres p.a. and cash of 4000 livres; he brought annuities yielding 2370 livres p.a. and cash of 5000 livres.

Her maiden name (Tanche rather than Tanché) is disclosed in her burial notice at Saint-Nicolas-des-Champs, "Marie-Élisabeth Tenche, épouse de Léon-Pascal Glain, peintre de l'Académie de Florence etc.", and as Marie-Élisabeth Tanche in the notarial deed closing her estate (inventaire après décès 26.IX.1782, AN MC/RE/LXXV/10), where it is disclosed that they had a minor surviving daughter, Louise-Élisabeth Glain, to whom a deputy guardian (tuteur subrogé) was appointed, Jean-François Micaud (1734–1811), a former painter at the Sèvres factory who was married to Mme Glain's sister Suzanne Tanche and may have been a neighbour in the rue du Vertbois. According to another document (registres de tutelles), Louise-Élisabeth (who was born the year after her mother's portrait of Louise-Élisabeth Vigée, who may well have been her godmother) was baptised at Saint Nicolas des Champs, 17.XII.1775 (she married the architect Claude-François-Hyacinthe Sobre (1756–) on 15.V.1792 at Paris, Saint-Laurent, and died in Paris 17.VIII.1801): her father is described as "peintre de l'académie de Florence, adjoint à professeur de l'académie de peinture de Paris." Among those named in the document as friends or relations are Christophe Gabriel Allegrain, sculpteur du roi, Jacques-Pierre Julliac, peintre-doreur des bâtiments du roi, Étienne-Simon Deville, marchand horloger and several members of the Bancelin family, wine merchants and cousins of Mme Glain.

Mme Glain was the sister of the decorative painter and engraver Nicolas Tanche (c.1747–1783), a protégé of Vien; his address was also given as rue du Vertbois in his probate document (19.IX.1783) in which Glain again appeared, as tuteur subrogé to Tanche's two minor sons. They were the children of Nicholas Tanche, a marchand de vin.

Bibliography

AN Y5279, inv. p.m. 11.VIII.1782; 15.IX.1783; AN Y5172A, registres de tutelles, 12.XI.1788; Gaetgens & Lugand 1988; Guiffrey 1915, p. 308; *Journal de Paris*, 17.VII.1782; Ratouis de Limay 1946; Sanchez 2004; Trudon des Ormes 1899, p. 122

GENEALOGIES [Glain](#); [Tanche](#)

Salon critiques

Anon., *Lettre à M. le marquis de *** sur les peintures et sculptures exposées à l'hôtel de Jabac en 1774*, par M. J.... de l'Académie de peinture et de sculpture de la ville de ..., La Haye (Paris), 1774, p. 12:

[Le portrait] de Mademoiselle Vigée, par Madame Glain, a de très jolis tons: de la vérité, l'attitude est dessinée mollement; & il manque un peu d'effet: on regrette que cette dame n'ait mis que ce portrait. On fait cas de son talent, & le Public eut été plus à portée de lui rendre justice, si elle eût exposé plusieurs ouvrages.

Anon., "Suite des observations sur les ouvrages de peinture & de sculpture de l'Académie de Saint-Luc", XI.1774, p. 346E

Mademoiselle Vigée, dont le portrait agréable peint au pastel par Madame Glain, a obtenu des éloges, a donné à l'Académie pour son morceau de réception....

Pastels

J.3512.101 Mlle Vigée [Élisabeth-Louise VIGÉE LE BRUN (1755–1842), peintre], pstl, Salon de Saint-Luc 1774, no. 76