

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

GRAINCOURT, Antoine-Noël-Benoît

Corbie 17.III.1748 – Champeaux 26.XII.1823

Copyist in miniature and pastel. According to his autobiographical letter, his parents forced him to study law which he practised in Paris from 1769 until the suppression of the Grand-Conseil when he returned to Corbie and taught himself to draw. He then enrolled in the école de l'Académie royale in 1778, and was then taught by Pierre and Doyen, and, living in the hôtel de Luynes, was supported by cardinal de Luynes, abbé de Corbie. He was living in Paris, hôtel de Bourbon, rue des Deux-Écus by 4.VII.1775 when he filed a complaint over the theft of his cane from a restaurant. On 17.III.1795 he married Élisabeth-Genève Bernard, from Bologne, in Champeaux.

Deciding to devote himself to portraiture, he developed a technique for drawing miniatures in pencil on ivory. He made an oil copy of Chardin's pastel self-portrait in 1779, and he exhibited a pastel copy after Rigaud (the original is uncertain, possibly P.1347 in James-Sarazin 2016) at the Salon de la Correspondance of 1779, where he is described as Peintre et pensionnaire de M. le cardinal de Luynes, rue de la Jussienne, vis-à-vis la rue Verderet. By 1782, when he exhibited three more oil portraits after Rigaud, Drouais père and Drouais fils, he was living at 117 rue Saint-Martin: the sitters were naval officers from a series commissioned for the marine dépôt at Versailles (where a large collection of paintings by him from earlier images remains today). It is difficult to work out which of the many portraits he left was in pastel or in other media, as he practised painting, miniature and drawing in pencil.

Bibliography

Autobiographical letter, 1783, in Louis-François Daire, *Histoire civile, ecclésiastique et littéraire du diocèse de Foulloy*, 1911, pp. 230ff; Bellier de La Chavignerie & Auvray; Bénézit; J. Guiffrey & E. Campardon, *Courrier de l'art*, 1.VI.1882, p. 261; Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Ratouis de Limay 1946; Sanchez 2004

Pastels

J3566.101 Jean JOUVENET (1649–1717), peintre, pstl, a/r Rigaud, 45.9x45.9, Salon de la Correspondance, .VII.1779