

# Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

## Online edition

### GRASSON, Jean-Pierre

Montélimar 1746–1825

As conjectured in 1919, the painter appearing in Le Puy-en-Velay in 1775 is indeed the same as the Jean-Pierre Grasson cited as a member of the Société des arts de Genève. In 1774 he was in Saint-Agrève, where he married an Anne Blache, daughter of a local négociant; his deceased father, also Jean-Pierre, was described as a “peintre”, a profession shared by a number of members of the family, including the brothers Louis and Pierre in 1701. The pastellist was the eldest of 17 children of Jean-Pierre and Marguerite Aubert. He was greffier du tribunal de Montélimar in parallel to his career as an artist. His brother Joseph, also a painter, was better known as a journalist.

A pastel of a magistrate from a château near Chambéry suggests that he travelled widely in the south-east, as far as Savoy. He is recorded as founding the masonic lodge La Paix in his native Montélimar in 1787 after his return from Switzerland and Romans in the Dauphiné, where he had belonged to two lodges. He immediately incurred opprobrium for having unselectively divulged a secret codeword: “Il le donne même à des femmes”, according to his accusers. His lodge came under renewed criticism from the masonic network in 1789, where it was asked “Quels sont les orientes que le Sieur Grasson prétend faire venir à son secours? Ira-t-il en chercher à Grenoble à 22 bonnes lieues de sa demeure?”

Two of Grasson’s sons were also freemasons: Jean-Jacques-Joseph, lieutenant-colonel de cavalerie, and Jean-Bapstie-Louis-Casimir, avocat à Grenoble.

#### Bibliography

Bénézit, René Favier, “Le mouvement des idées et la sociabilité des Lumières”, *De pain et d'espérance. 1788–1988, Grenoble et le Dauphiné à la veille de la Révolution*, Musée dauphinois, Grenoble, 1988, p. 144–165; *Intermédiaire des chercheurs et curieux*, 1919, 447; L.P.R., “Sur quelques loges du Bas-Dauphiné”, *Revue historique de la révolution française*, III, 1912, pp. 58ff, 415 & *passim*

#### Pastels

Joseph-Antoine de GALLIER, sgr de Châlons (1747–1802), officier de dragons de Condé, capitaine de cavalerie, chev. Saint-Louis, pstl, 47x34, sd ✓ “grasson pinxit”/ ✓ “1788” (Paris, Artprecium, 23.VI.2011, Lot 31 repr., est. €1500–2000) φ



Homme au gilet brodé rose, pstl, 59x49 ov., sd ✓ “GRASSON / pinxit / 1781” (château de Caramagne, Savoie. Lyon, Anaf, 11.IV.2006, Lot 75 repr., est. €2000–2800, €2000) φ



Young lord, pstl/ppr, 61.5x46 ov., sd “Grasson, 1781” (New Orleans Auction, 13.VI.1998, Lot 1075 repr., English sch., est. \$1400–1800) φ



Officier subalterne portant la croix de Saint-Louis, n.s., n.d.; & pendant: épouse, pstl, sd 1778 (Saint-Étienne, Carlier & Imbert, 10.X.2009, Lot 111 repr., est. €1800–2000) φ



Homme en habit noir; & pendant: Femme au chien, pstl, 66x49.5, sd ✓ “Grasson Pinxit”, ✓ “1787” (Paris, Drouot, Coutau-Begarie, 3.VI.2009, €2–3000) φ



~versions, pstl, 65x47 ov., cadres à palmettes (Doullens, Denis Herbet, 26.VII.2009, Lot 47 repr., éc. fr., inconnus, est. €3500–4000) φ



Portrait, pstl, sd “Grasson pinxit 1778” (Grenoble). Lit.: Gaston Joubert, *Dictionnaire biographique de la Haute-Loire*, 1982, p. 193 n.r. Homme; & pendant: Femme, pstl (Paris, 9.III.1942, fr750)