

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

GRIBELIN, Isaac

Blois – a.1661

Isaac Gribelin was a maître orfèvre from 1618, and a gifted practitioner of the art of enamel. He was based in Paris from at least 1638, staying in the Île du Palais with the banker Thomas Cantarini, whom he sued for the return of 25 gold mounted watches for the papal nuncio Mgr de Mazarini (AN MC/VIII/648, 16.VI.1638). Probably the son of Simon Gribelin, horloger and Rebecca Maupas, he seems to have married three times: before 1625, before 1629 and finally in 1634, to Anne Cuper (a relative of Jean Petitot). Two of his daughters, born in 1632 and 1640, married clockmakers; Gribelin was dead by the second marriage, in 1661. He was a pupil of Jean Toutin, of Châteaudun, and an “admirable portraitiste en pastel, crayon et esmail” according to Bernier 1682, who noted his “génie si particulier pour les portraits”. Félibien mentions that he produced portraits in pastel as well as genre pictures known from engravings, and that “[il] estoit assez en vogue quant il est mort”. Gault de Saint-Germain gives his initials as A. E. He is confused with several other members of this family from Blois. Simon Gribelin (1661–1733), an engraver of watch cases, moved to London c.1680 (where he married Anne, daughter of Samuel Mettayer, ministre à l’église à Spittalfields, while his sister Marie married Paul Bertrand; their son, also Paul, was a toyman in Bath); Simon produced mediocre reproductions of Raphael and other masters. Isaac Gribelin (c.1667–1697), son of Jacob, was an engraver. The pastellist is also confused with Simon Guillaïn (*q.v.*).

Bibliography

“Documents inédits concernant Jean Toutin et les premiers peintres sur émail français (1593–1686)”, *Archives de l’art français*, II, 1908, pp. 221–52; Jean Bernier, *Histoire de Blois*, Paris, 1682, p. 74; Bouchard-Lemoine 2008; Bryan 1816; Félibien 1705, pp. 163, 336; Foster 1908, p. 75; Gabburri, *Vite di pittori*, p. 1502-III-C250V; Gault de Saint-Germain 1808, p. 43; Lagneau 2005, p. 22; Michel de Marolles, *Le Livre des peintres et graveurs*, ed. Georges Duplessis, p. 113

Pastels

J3612.101 Trois portefeuilles de portraits en pastel de Janet, de Dumoutier, Gribelin, Nanteuil et autres maîtres (Boullé; inv. après l’incendie de 1720). Lit.: A. L. Lacordaire, *Archives de l’art français*, IV, 1856, p. 346