

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

HESELL, Lorenz Heinrich

St Petersburg 1756 – Nürnberg 1819

Also Hessel, Heßel; Leon, Leonhard (he seems to have signed most frequently as “Hesfell”). Miniaturist, engraver and draughtsman, working also in oil and pastel. He was born in St Petersburg where his father had been a Kollegien-Assessor. In 1774 he matriculated at the university of Königsberg; two years later he matriculated at Göttingen. He became involved in the manufacture of musical instruments as well as in portraiture. Moving to Berlin c.1780 he met with little success; Chodowiecki explained his departure to Nürnberg to Gräfin von Solms-Laubach (letter, 20.IV.1784): “Ein Pastellmahler Nahmens Hessel kam vor einigen Jahren zu verschiedene Mahlern hier, er kamm aus Petersburg, hatte aber wenig mahlerisches Gefühl.” Many of his miniatures used pastel, leading to cataloguing confusions. He invented a device for taking silhouettes in daylight, the so-called Hessellische Treffer, no doubt a version of the physionotrace (Ernst Christian Specht, *q.v.*, invented a similar machine), with which he produced his characteristic profiles in sanguine or pastel. His miniatures have been described as in the style of Bourgeois. He is also known for his stipple engravings. Some of his profiles were engraved by other artists: for example one of the balloonist Jean-Pierre Blanchard was engraved by Christoph Wilhelm Bock and published (with a legend in French) in Nürnberg in 1787. Bock’s brother Johann engraved some others.

Bibliography

Börsch-Supan 1988; Börsch-Supan 1994; Dirk-Gerd Erpenbeck, “Von Narva to Nürnberg. Lorenz Heinrich Hessel (1756–1819), Kupferstecher, Instrumentbauer, Sprachlehrer”, *Bibliothek und Medien*, xxxiii/1, 2013, pp. 1–8; Grieb 2007; Keil 1977; Anton Kippenberg, “Die Technik der Silhouette”, *Jahrbuch der Sammlung Kippenberg*, Leipzig, I, 1921, p. 134; Le Blanc 1854–90; Nagler 1835–52; Nevill Jackson 1938; Schidlöf 1964

Pastels

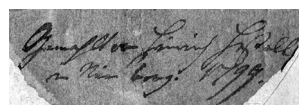
J.3892.021 Hofrat BAUER, Medic, Doctor, Physicus Ordin. Norimbergensis Colleg...; & pendant: J.3892.022 ?spouse, woman in a blue dress, pstl, 16x12 ov., inscr. verso 1796 (Oxford, Mallams, 10.VII.2024, Lot 552 repr., est. £400–600) φv



J.3892.101 Paul Wolfgang MERKEL (1756–1820), pstl, Ø15, 1794. Lit.: A. Mez, *Paul Wolfgang Merkel*, 1983, repr. φ



J.3892.103 Herr Roth, pstl, 15.5x12 ov., sd verso “Gemalt von [Heinrich Hessel] in Nürnberg 1799”; & pendant: J.3892.104 spouse, née Marie Katharina ROTH (1775–1867), pstl, 15.5x12 ov. (Bamberg, Schlosser, 13.X.2007, Lot 384 repr., anon., est. €1000) [new attr.] φδv



J.3892.108 Unknown man, pstl/ppr, 14.5x12 ov. (Stockholm, Nationalmuseum, inv. NMB2255. Legs Carl Fredrik Dahlgren 1894; Dahlgrens samling; transferred 1908)

J.3892.109 Unknown man, pstl/ppr, 14.5x12 ov. (Stockholm, Nationalmuseum, inv. NMDs 2216. Legs Carl Fredrik Dahlgren 1894)

J.3892.11 Man in blue coat, pstl, 16x13 ov. (New Jersey PC; Linden, NJ, Time & Again Auction Gallery, 3.I.2013, Lot 2334 repr., attr., est. \$300–500) [new attr., ?] φav



J.3892.112 Dame, pstl, 31x27, sd verso “L. H. Hessel. p. Nürnberg. 1813” (Aalen PC 2011) φ

J.3892.115 Dame, pstl, 31x27, sd verso “L. H. Hessel, Nurnb 18/17” (Aalen PC 2011) φ

J.3892.117 Dame, pstl, 31x27 (Aalen PC 2011) φ

J.3892.119 Dame in weissem Kleid, pstl/ppr, 13.5x10.8 ov. (Vienna, Albertina, inv. 30733. Vienna, Dorotheum, 23.XI.1948, Lot 142). Exh.: Vienna 1949, no. 221. Lit.: Keil 1977, no. 13 repr. φ



J.3892.121 Unknown lady, pstl/ppr, 13.4x10 ov. (Stockholm, Nationalmuseum, inv. NMB2254. Legs Carl Fredrik Dahlgren 1894; Dahlgrens samling; transferred 1908)

J.3892.122 Unknown lady, pstl/ppr, 14.5x12 ov. (Stockholm, Nationalmuseum, inv. NMB2256. Legs Carl Fredrik Dahlgren 1894; Dahlgrens samling; transferred 1908)

J.3892.123 Unknown girl, pstl/ppr, 15x13 ov. (Stockholm, Nationalmuseum, inv. NMB2257. Legs Carl Fredrik Dahlgren 1894; Dahlgrens samling; transferred 1908)

J.3892.124 Gentleman from Rabenau; & pendant: J.3892.125 lady, pstl, 20.3x15.2, sd verso 1809

(Hannover, Kastern, 29.IV.1995, Lot 411, DM4000)

J.3892.126 Man in a brown coat; & pendant:
J.3892.127 woman in a brown dress, pstl,
12.7x10 ov., sd "Hessell..." "1791" [?] "no.
72" (Amesbury, Massachusetts, John McInnis,
22.II.2014, Lot 173 repr., as sd Hespell 1761,
est. \$500–1000) φv

