

# Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

## Online edition

### HESELL, Leonhard Heinrich

St Petersburg 1757 – Nürnberg 1830

Also Hessel; Leon. Miniaturist, engraver and draughtsman, working also in oil and pastel. He moved to Berlin from St Petersburg, but met with little success; Chodowiecki explained his 1779 departure to Nürnberg to Gräfin von Solms-Laubach (letter, 20.IV.1784): “Ein Pastellmahler Namens 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.

#### Bibliography

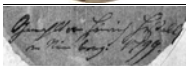
Börsch-Supan 1988; Börsch-Supan 1994; Keil 1977; Anton Kippenberg, “Die Technik der Silhouette”, *Jahrbuch der Sammlung Kippenberg*, Leipzig, I, 1921, p. 134; Le Blanc 1854–90; Nagler 1835–52; Schidlof 1964

#### Pastels

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



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



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

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

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

Dame, pstl, 31x27, sd *verso* “L. H. Hessel, Nurnb 18/?17” (Aalen PC 2011) ♀

Dame, pstl, 31x27 (Aalen PC 2011) ♀

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. ♀



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

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

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