

# Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

## Online edition

### **HONNETTE, Jean-François**

Blâmont 28.XII.1733 – Frankfurt am Main  
13.VII.1802

Also Honnête; Johann Franz etc. Self-taught pastellist and miniaturist. The son of a marchand mercier Georges Honnette and Marie-Thérèse Masson, he moved from his native Lorraine to Frankfurt am Main in 1762 where he married a Maria Catharina Schniders in the Evangelisches Kirch on 22.IV.1764 and became a citizen. In 1763 he made several trips to Vienna to make portraits of members of the imperial family and other nobles. He also worked in Mainz and Bruxelles (1782). An advertisement in the *Gazette de Liège* on 19.III.1783 was placed by a bookseller, F. J. Desoer, asking “M. Honnette, Peintre en miniature” to make contact to receive information, suggesting contacts there; three years later, the *Liste* at Spa for 27.VII.1786 recorded his visit there:

Le Sr Honnête, Peintre de Portraits en Mignature et Pastel, a l'honneur d'offrir ses services: il vend aussi des assortiments de crayons pour le Pastel d'une nouvelle composition, recouverts de manière à ne point se salir les Mains en peignant. S'adresser chez Carrée, Parfumeur et Confiseur à la Reine d'Hongrie, rue de l'Assemblée.

Subsequently he visited The Netherlands. Nagler, followed by all later sources until corrected here (2025), reports that he died in Frankfurt in 1793. However he was evidently the “Johann Franz Xaver Honnette, Galanteriehändler” who died in Frankfurt 13.VII.1802 and was buried two days later, aged 70 years 6 months (parish records and notice in the *Frankfurter Frag- und Anzeigungs-Nachrichten*, 20.VII.1802).

Faber, following Hüsgen, credits him with the invention of wax pastel. One of the two known examples is similar to the work of a fellow Lorrain, Huin (*q.v.*).

#### **Bibliography**

Bénézit; Biehler 1861; Börsch-Supan 1988; Brieger 1921; Johann Heinrich Faber, *Topographische, politische und historische Beschreibung der Reichs- Wahl- und Handelsstadt Frankfurt am Mayn*, Frankfurt, 1788, I, p. 422; Füßli 1806; Gwinner 1862, p. 296; Hüsgen 1780, p. 198; Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Nagler 1835–52; Schidlof 1964–65

#### **Pastels**

J.403.101 CAROLINE Felicitas von Nassau-Usingen, née Gräfin von Leiningen-Dachsburg (1734–1810), pstl, 48x41.1, sd v “Honnête Hort 1770” (Eichenzell, Schloß Fasanerie, inv. 511) φ



J.403.101 EMMERICH JOSEPH Freiherr von Breidbach zu Bürresheim Kurfürst und Erzbischof von Mainz 1768 (1707–1774), pstl/ppr, 51.5x38, sd r “f. honnete” (Düsseldorf, Hargesheimer, 15.III.2025, Lot 3561 repr., attr., est. €800–1600) [in a frame matching others from the Kgl Sächsische Secondogenitur, Schloß Pillnitz] φα

