

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

HUBER, Jean

Chambésy 1721 – Lausanne 1786

A soldier, he served in Kassel and Piemonte between 1738 and 1746, when he returned to Geneva and entered Swiss politics. His life changed in 1754 when Voltaire arrived in Geneva; thenceforth he devoted himself to illustrating the life of the great master. Boswell was taken to see him in 1764: “a man of great variety of talents, in particular an amazing art of cutting paper.” Gibbon encountered him in 1762, taken by Lord Mountstuart to see “quelques tableaux...qui ne sont pas grand chose”. He was then living in Plainpalais; in 1776 he moved to Collogny. If the pastel of the naturalist Charles Bonnet, a friend of Huber, is indeed by him, his portraiture must be considered more seriously than as that of an eccentric iconographer. Huber’s son Jean-Daniel (1754–1845) was a landscape painter and printmaker.

Bibliography

Ann Arbor 2003; Apgar 1995; Jean Aubry, “Le démon de Genève”, *Revue de Paris*, 1, 15.VI.1936; Baud-Bovy 1903, pp. 45–74; Bénézit; Boswell 1953, p. 278; Boswell 2008, p. 314f; BuysSENS 1988; Georges Alfred Bonnard, *Le journal de Gibbon à Lausanne, 17 août 1763 – 19 avril 1764*, Lausanne, 1945, p. 270; Grove; Herdt 1978; Rigaud 1849, pp. 80–86

Pastels

AUTO PORTRAIT devant son chevalet, pstl, 61.5x49.5, c.1760 (Geneva, Société des Arts. Don Mme Trembley-Jaquet 1826). Lit.: Apgar 1995, pl. xii φ



AUTO PORTRAIT, pstl/ppr, 63x50, c.1773 (Geneva, mAHI, inv. 1890-7; dep.: Les Délices. Galerie Morganti; acqu. 1890). Lit.: Baud-Bovy 1903, pp. 45–46, pl. III; Brun 1908, II, p. 94; Jean-Aubry 1936, p. 602; BuysSENS 1988, no. 151; Apgar 1995, repr. φ



~version, pstl, 65x51, c.1760–70 (Lausanne, musée historique, inv. I.32.Huber Jean.1). Lit.: Apgar 1995, pl. xi φ



Charles BONNET (1720–1793), naturaliste, pstl, 62x51 (Saladin 1924). Lit.: Baud-Bovy 1924, pl. xii, attr. φ



François-Marie Arouet, dit VOLTAIRE (1694–1778), pstl/ppr, 63x52, c.1765 (Geneva, mAHI, inv. 1938-1; dep.: Les Délices. Jean-Jacques de Sellon, Geneva?; de Loriol, Geneva? Antiquaire Laurent Rehfoos; acqu. 1938). Lit.: BuysSENS 1988, no. 152 φ



~version, Voltaire lisant Sophocle, pstl, 63x53 ov. (Paris, Drouot, Delorme, Collin du Bocage, 21.III.2007, Lot 53 repr., est. €12–18,000; Paris, Drouot, Delorme, Collin du Bocage, 23.XI.2007, Lot 10 repr., est. €10–15,000, b/i; Paris, Drouot, Delorme, Collin du Bocage, 12.XII.2008, Lot 584 repr., est. €5–8,000; Paris, Drouot, Delorme, Collin du Bocage, 16.XII.2009, Lot 5 repr., est. €3–4,000) φ



VOLTAIRE et Jean-Jacques Rousseau jouant aux échecs avec leur ami Paul-Claude Moultoy (1731–1787), pasteur à Genève, lisant, pstl, 61.7x48.6, c.1770 (Lausanne, musée

historique, inv. I.32.collectif.2). Exh.: Lausanne 1987, no. 95. Lit.: Jeffares 2009 φ

