

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

HUÉSCAR y Arcos, duquesa de, née Mariana de Silva Bazán y Sarmiento

Madrid 14.X.1739–17.I.1784

The daughter of the marqués de Santa Cruz, the widowed duquesa de Huéscar married the XVI. conde de Fuentes (a diplomat, and knight of the Toisón de Oro, Santiago and Saint-Esprit orders) in 1775 before being widowed a second time the following year. In 1778 she married her third husband, the marqués de Ariza. The subject of a celebrated painting by Mengs, she presided over an Enlightenment salon in Madrid, numbering among its stars the maverick Pablo Olavidè (later exiled to France, charged with blasphemy), who described his muse's abilities: "The Duchess writes perfectly with either hand, composes excellent verses, and translates tragedies and many other works from the French." In becoming an honorary member of the Real Academia de San Fernando in .VII.1766, the duquesa, who was already an honorary member of the Académie impériale des Arts de Saint-Pétersbourg, established a tradition of honorary aristocratic membership, followed by pastellists such as the marquesa de Santa Cruz, María Luisa Carranque and María Lucía Gilabert (*qq.v.*). In the duquesa's case, she was also appointed director of the painting section and allowed to vote at meetings. She presented her miniatures and drawings to the Academia.

Bibliography

Smith 2006; Soubeyroux 2006

GENEALOGIES [Álvarez de Toledo](#); [Silva](#)

Pastels

J.4082.101 Tête crayonnée (lost)