

# Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

## ISABELLE de Bourbon-Parme

Madrid 1741 – Vienna 1763

The granddaughter of Louis XV and wife of Erzherzog Joseph (she married him in 1759 but died before his accession as emperor) was remarkably accomplished as a musician, linguist, embroiderer as well as practising as an amateur pastellist. In 1759 she presented a large pastel of *La carità romana* (described by one source as a “mediocrissima opera”, while another called it “un monument précieux de son goût & de ses talens”) to the Accademia in Parma; the subject was a free copy of Baldighi’s morceau de réception at the Paris Académie in 1756 (formerly in the Louvre, it is now in Angers), and was no doubt executed under his direction as he had returned to the Parma court. Madame Isabelle obtained boxes of pastels from Paris through the banker Claude Bonnet. She is also recorded as having been made in 1789 (posthumously) an honorary member of the Akademie in Vienna. Her *Meditazioni cristiane* were published posthumously in 1764. She was the subject of pastels by Liotard and Lion (*q.v.*); an inscribed copy of the head of the Liotard (*q.v.*) might possibly be from her hand.

### Bibliography

Bédarida 1927, p. 294 Füllli 1806; Joseph de Laporte, *Le Voyageur françois*, 1782, xxv, p. 231; Nagler 1835–52, *s.v.* Elisabeth; Ernest Sanger, *Isabelle de Bourbon-Parme*, 1991

### Pastels

Jeune femme lisant (Vienna, Albertina, 13636)

Tête de jeune femme (Vienna, Albertina, 13637)

Une Vierge en prières, pstl, 65x48.7, inscr.

“Elisabethae principis parmensis Iosephi archiducis austriacae conjugis optima Opus. 1763” (Vienna, Galerie impériale, Cabinet blanc 1781). Lit.: Mechel 1784, p. 142, no. 2; Winckelmann 1796, p. 268

Carità romana, pstl/ppr, 79x59 (Parma, Galleria Nazionale, inv. 537. Don artista: Accademia 1759). Lit.: Corrado Ricci, *La R. Galleria di Parma*, 1896, p. 175f; Giuseppe Massera & Nino Albarosa, *Cantabilis harmonia*, 1985, pp. 32ff *q*



Paesaggio, m/u (Rome, Accademia di S. Luca).

Lit.: *Guida per visitare la Galleria e le sale della insigne accademia romana di belle arti*, Rome, 1882, no. 181 n.r.