

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

LA HOULIÈRE, A. Robert de

1741–London 1800

Also Robert or Rumont; De la Houlyer, de la Houlyere, Delhoulière, de La Houlliere etc. Described as “peintre du prince du Ponts” – presumably Zweibrücken (although the *European magazine*'s obituary has him as “portrait-painter to the Court of Bavaria”) – he exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1789 from no. 30 Poland Street, showing two works in unspecified media. (One of these, a view of Geneva, suggests that he may have been of Swiss origin, but there is also a family in Normandy with this name.) He is mentioned in Danloux's *Journal d'émigration* (6.II.1793) as a fellow émigré, living at St Albans Street, 27 Pall Mall, where he showed Danloux 50 “detestable” pastels, of which two or three were pleasing. He also appears in the accounts of the tobacconists Fribourg & Treyer, no. 34 St James's, in 1798. Given the topographical view of Switzerland and the presence of a signed pastel in Voltaire's former house Monrion, it is tempting to assume a connection with Voltaire's cousin, Mathieu-Henry Marchant de La Houlière (1717–1793; the French commander at Louisberg, lieutenant du roi in Salces, sent to England in 1775 to inspect ironworks in the midlands), but the family name differs if the *European magazine* has given it correctly.

Bibliography

Bénézit; *European magazine*, .VIII.1800, p. 158, as “A. Rumont de La Houlyere”; Graves 1905; Portalis 1910; Ratouis de Limay 1946

Pastels

GEORGE III, in blue coat, white vest and breeches ad white silk stockings, standing with columns and landscape background, pstl/ppr, 81x64, sd “De la Houlyer pt 1791” (London, Sotheby's, 29.IV.1914, Lot 8 n.r., £2/10/-, Norton; London, Christie's, 31.III.1950, Lot 25, with pendant; London, Sotheby's, 16.XI.1989, Lot 3 n.r., £1391). Lit.: Millar 1969, I, p. 36 n.r., as a/r Gainsborough
~ pendant, Queen Charlotte, in white and blue dress, standing, with curtain and landscape background, pstl, 81x63.5, sd 1791 (London, Sotheby's, 29.IV.1914, Lot 9 n.r., £2; Norton; London, Christie's, 31.III.1950, Lot 25). Lit.: Millar 1969, I, p. 36 n.r.
Young lady, pstl, sd “De la Houlyer, 1786” (Monrion, near Lausanne). Lit.: John Meredith Read, *Historic studies in Vaud, Berne and Savoy*, 1897, II, p. 218 n.r.
Lady, m/u, Royal Academy 1789, no. 363
View of the mountains of Savoy and the Lake of Geneva, m/u, Royal Academy 1789, no. 511
Paysans et troupeau sur un pont, pstl/pchm, 80.1x105.6, sd “d.L.H./1792”; & pendant: Personnages au bord d'une rivière, pstl, 80.1x105.6, 1792 (National Trust, Hartwell House. London, Christie's, 8.XII.1987, Lot 173 repr./n.r., as by “Robert de La Houlière”, est. £3–4000, £6000; Historic House Hotels Ltd; don 2008) φ



~?a/r gch., attr. Christian Wilhelm Ernst Dietrich, c.1740 (Hamburger Kunsthalle, inv. 38022). Lit.: Prange 2007, no. 266 repr., pp. 139f

Two landscapes, gch., 81x103, one sd 1790 (London, Sotheby's, 15.X.1952, £42; L. Meier)

River scenes, pstl, 53x67, sd 1790 (London, Christie's, 3.VII.1953, 20 gns; Briganti)

Figures in wooded river landscape, pstl, 47.6x66 (Earl of Durham, Lambton Castle, sale c.1930. London, Christie's, 1988, Lot 163 attr.)

Un rabbin; & La liseuse, pstl, a/r G. Dou, sd “De la Houlyer 1790”, 58.5x48 (sale a.1952)