

# Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

## Online edition

### LAMBERT, Jean-Louis

France 1699–p.1742

The pastel with a somewhat cryptic inscription (which may imply that the artist died in 1742) is apparently a self-portrait. It offers a direct – and immediate – homage to La Tour, uniting features from the lost *autoportrait au chapeau de clabaud* shown a month earlier at the Salon de 1742 and the well-known *autoportrait à la toque d'atelier*, thought to date from the same period. Lambert's pastel displays a directness rarely found in portraiture of this era, although entirely suited to the pastel medium. There are echoes of some of the pastels attributed to Mérieux (*q.v.*), as well as of Philippe Mercier's self-portrait, and the striking effect of the striped robe de chambre may have emboldened the marquis de Bonnac to pose similarly for Louis Vigée (*q.v.*; Salon de Saint Luc 1752). A curious pastel formerly considered to be a self-portrait by La Tour (Uffizi; *olim* Charles Blanc; *v. Éc. fr.*) could perhaps be by the same artist.

This Lambert is evidently not to be confused with the much younger Michel Lambert (*q.v.*), although Ratouis de Limay describes both under the heading Jean-Baptiste-Ponce Lambert, an early nineteenth-century miniaturist who does not seem to have produced pastels. It is speculation as to whether he is the “Lambert le Romain” indicated in the Cottin sale catalogue, a figure included by Constant-Viguiier as among some forty of the principal French miniaturists.

#### Bibliography

Stév.-F. Constant-Viguiier, *Manuel de miniature et de gouache*, Paris, 1836, p. 18; Ratouis de Limay 1946

#### Pastels

?AUTOPORTRAIT, en robe d'intérieur de soie rayée, pstl, 61x51, inscr. *verso* “Joannes Ludovicus Lambert etatis suae 44<sup>o</sup>/Delineavit et traxit Domina domina ferret/anno 1742 mensis 7<sup>bris</sup>” (Paris, 3.III.1937. Galerie Alexis Bordes, cat. 2010, no. 18 repr.). Lit.: Ratouis de Limay 1946, p. 183 n.r.; *Connaissance des arts*, .III.2010, repr. ♪



Femme couchée, pstl, a.1758 (Blondel de Gagny). Lit.: Duvaux 1873

Onze têtes, parmi lesquelles des sujets célèbres, pstl (Cottin, banquier; Paris, Grignard, Helle

& Glomy, 26.IX.1758 & seq., Lot 86, [18 livres; Gaillard]/[?72 livres 16; de Paulney]