

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

LA ROCHE, Jean-Philippe de

Marseille 4.XII.1705 – Versailles 1.VI.1767

“M. Delaroche” was the purchaser of pastels from Jean-Nicolas Vernezobre (*q.n.*), recorded in the 1760 account book as owing six livres. It seems probable that he was the brother of Nattier’s wife, Marie-Madeleine de La Roche (c.1698–1742), who was known as a copyist in the Cabinet du roi. His relationship to Nattier is revealed in a letter from Jeurat to Marigny (VI.1761, AN O¹ 1908^B). Noble, he was the son of Pierre de La Roche, mousquetaire du roi (who appears in the 1704 autoportrait of Robert Le Vrac de Tournières: Caen, mBA). Contrary to the date inferred from his age at death, he was in fact born in Marseille in 1705 and baptised the same day at Saint-Ferreol. On 23.I.1754 at Versailles, Notre-Dame, he married Marie-Louise Tessier (Charles Prévost, another copyist from the Cabinet du roi, was a witness). A tutelle for their son, Jean-Baptiste, aged 10 in 1767, included among family friends Nattier’s sons-in-law Tocqué, Challe and Brochier.

Two religious paintings made by him for the tribune of the chapel at Versailles were assigned by the king to Mme de Pompadour, 25.IX.1753; he also worked with Coqueret, Frédou and Prévost at the Cabinet du roi on chinoiserries for the queen’s apartments in Versailles in 1761. He was no doubt the La Roche responsible for some oil portraits (one of Nivelles de La Chaussée was engraved by Miger).

Bibliography

Aubaret 2013; Engerand 1901, pp. 103, 268f