

# Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

## LE BARBIER, Jean-Louis, le jeune

Rouen 1743 – p.1789

Jean-Louis Le Barbier was the brother of a more famous artist, Jean-Jacques-François l'aîné (*q.v.*). Jean-Louis learned drawing in Rouen under Descamps and then moved to Paris, to the workshop of the engraver, Le Bas. Apart from a print entitled the *Bienfaisance du roi*, showing the king honouring Boussard, the heroic pilote of Dieppe (the profits from which the artist donated to seamen), he seems not to have been particularly visible as an artist. He wrote a play, *Asgill, drame en cinq actes et en prose*, published in London and Paris in 1785, which he read to the *Comédie-Italienne* in 1783 (according to the *Mémoires secrets* (XXVII–XXVIII, 1786, p. 112f, the actors' guarded response to this "homme de lettres" was "indécente, insolente même"; the subject of the play was the diplomatic incident in 1782 when Louis XVI intervened on behalf of Sir Charles Asgill, a British prisoner of war held by the American rebels chosen by ballot to be executed in retaliation for a loyalist murder). An oil portrait of the marquise de Villeneuve-Flayosc (Ackland Art Museum), dated 1789, shows striking similarities of composition to the 1786 pastel.

### Bibliography

Jeune 1988; Edith A. Standen, "Jean-Jacques-François Le Barbier and two revolutions", *Metropolitan Museum journal*, XXIV, 1989, pp. 255–74

### Pastels

FRIEDRICH FRANZ I. von Mecklenburg-Schwerin (1756–1837), pstl, inscr. *verso* "Peint à Paris en 1783 par Le Barbier le jeune" (Schwerin, Staatliches Museum). Lit.: Standen 1989, n.r.

Jeune femme au chapeau fleuri, pstl, 74x60 ov., sd → "J. L. Le Barbier/le jeune 178[6]" (Paris, Tajan, 24.III.2004, Lot 139 repr., est. €4–6000, €4813) **Φ**

