

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastelists before 1800*

Online edition – 2008

LEFÈVRE, Jean-Baptiste

fl. Paris 1743–79

The son of a former directeur de l'Académie de Saint-Luc, Jean-Baptiste Lefèvre was probably the “Lefèvre fils” who executed several religious paintings for Marie Leszczyńska at Versailles in 1741 and 1742 and is presumably the author of four oil portraits in Versailles dating from 1738 to 1768. He is less likely to be the author of the 1791 jeune femme tenant une miniature. Another Jean-Baptiste Lefèvre was *reçu* (par chef-d'œuvre) in 1755, and presumably cannot be the same nor a brother. However, accounts at Chantilly indicate a Lefebvre le Jeune who was paid 762 livres for four miniatures in 1754, and another 336 livres in 1761 for a portrait of the prince de Condé; while his brother, Lefebvre l'aîné, “peintre du roi au pastel”, received 408 livres “pour deux portraits de S.A.S. par luy faits les 22 avril et 15 mai 1761, dont un pour l'abbesse de Conflans”. The 1761 accounts refer to a total for pictures by the brothers “tant en huile que pastel et mignature”.

Lefèvre was *reçu* maître peintre-sculpteur (comme fils de maître et par expérience) 10.IX.1751, conseiller 1756, professeur by 1769. He was listed in the *Almanach des peintres* of 1776 (p. 116), and exhibited oils and pastels at the Salons de Saint-Luc of 1753, 1756, 1762, 1764 and 1774, his address (1753–69) being quai Pelletier, at the stationery shop *A la couronne d'or*. (André-Claude-Martin Lefèvre d'Orgeval, a miniaturist active from the same address c.1751–72, was presumably a brother; his bankruptcy in 1763 revealed unpaid debts from numerous members of the aristocracy.) Lefèvre also exhibited at the Salon de la Correspondance in 1779. He worked in pastel and oil, and was frequently called upon to provide legal reports for disputes at the Châtelet over portraits in oil and miniature.

Lefèvre's work was uneven. His portrait of the marquis de Paulmy shown at the 1774 Salon de Saint-Luc was attacked because it was copied from another painter, and he was dismissed as a mediocre copyist while having some talent in his own right.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Chantilly 2007; Engerand 1901; Guiffrey 1915, pp. 39, 70, 355f; Hofstetter 2008; Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Pappé & al. 2008; Ratouis de Limay 1946; Wildenstein 1921, pp. 97f; Wildenstein 1966

Salon critiques: Saint-Luc 1774

Pastels

AUTO PORTRAIT, pstl, Salon de Saint-Luc 1753, no. 129

M. Belissen [Jean-Paul de BELLISSEN], chevalier, secrétaire général de l'ordre hospitalier du Saint-Esprit [à Montpellier, commandeur de la commanderie de la Fauvette], Salon de Saint-Luc 1753, no. 124 (Paris, 6.XII.1924, F4850)

Auguste-Louis BERTIN de Blagny (1725–), conseiller d'État, trésorier général, associé de l'Académie des inscriptions 1749, pstl, 74x60 (Cailleux 1984. Paris, Drouot, Couturier, de Nicolaÿ, 31.III.1999, Lot 8 repr., éc. fr., est.

Fr15–25,000). Exh.: Paris 1984c, no. 24 repr., as by La Tour [new attr., ?]



Photo courtesy Cailleux

M. BRUNAN, frère de M. de l'Isle, m/u, Salon de Saint-Luc 1756, no. 77

Mme de CHALANGE en Savoyarde, pstl, Salon de Saint-Luc 1753, no. 122

M. CHANDERLOS, pstl, 65x54, Salon de Saint-Luc 1756, no. 70

Louis V Joseph de Bourbon, 8^e prince de CONDÉ (1736–1818), pstl, 1761 (maison de Condé: abbesse de Conflans). Lit.: Chantilly 2007, p. 32 n.r.

Louis V Joseph de Bourbon, 8^e prince de CONDÉ (1736–1818), pstl, 1761 (maison de Condé). Lit.: Chantilly 2007, p. 32 n.r.

Emmanuel-Félicité de Dürfort, duc de DURAS (*Galerie Frederick Chanoit, 2003, as by Jean-Baptiste Lefèvre*) [v. Valade]

M. DURIEUX, m/u, 61x50, Salon de Saint-Luc 1756, no. 71

M. de L'ISLE, jouant de la flûte, m/u, Salon de Saint-Luc 1756, no. 76

Le marquis de PAULMY, protecteur de l'Académie de Saint Luc [Antoine-René de Voyer, marquis de Paulmy d'Argenson (1722–1787), ambassadeur, secrétaire d'État à la Guerre 1751, 1757–58; chancelier de la reine 1775; chancelier de Saint-Lazare 1757; grand trésorier-commandeur du Saint-Esprit 1758; de l'Académie des inscriptions et belles-lettres 1756, de l'Académie française 1748; protecteur de l'Académie de Saint-Luc 1774], a/r Louis-Michel Van Loo, m/u, Salon de Saint-Luc 1774, no. 19

M. de ROZEVILLE, pstl/ppr gr.-bl., 91.5x72.8; & pendant: épouse, née Collignon de Freneuse, pstl/ppr gr.-bl., 91.5x72.8, c.1751 (Louvre inv. RF 29662/29661. Legs Laveissère 1947). Lit.: Monnier 1972, no. 72/71 n.r./repr., as by La Tour; portrait of d'Albepierre repr. by mistake [new attr., ?]



La marquise de VERDELIN, née Marie-Madeleine Brémond (1728–1810), pstl (château de Carrouges). Lit.: Cranston 1991, fig. 11



Homme à la veste brodée tenant ses gants, pstl, 74x60, sd “Lefèvre/1743” (Paris, PIASA, 15.VI.2001, Lot 99 repr., est. Fr30–40,000, Fr28,000)



Homme, pstl, 64.5x54, sd 1746 (Paris, Drouot, Ader Tajan, 15.V.1992, Lot 160 n.r., est. Fr10,000)

Homme, pstl, 73.5x59.5, sd “Lefèvre/pxit 1748” (Geneva, mAH, 1986–11. Don Pierre Mérillon, Thônex, 1981). Exh.: Geneva 1987, no. 26, repr. Lit.: Loche 1996, no. 128



Femme en corsage de velours bleu, bordé de fourrure, tenant un livre, 64x53, sd “Lefebvre p^{stl} 1746” (Mme X...; Paris, Drouot, 1.XII.1926, Lot 5 repr., as sd 1745, Fr7000. Paris, Drouot, Ader Tajan, 15.V.1992, Lot 161 n.r., est. Fr8000; Paris, Drouot, Ader Tajan, 25.XI.1993, Lot 12 n.r., Éc. fr., est. Fr6000. Douai, Patrick Declerck, 16.XI.2003, Lot 258, est. €1100–1500, as sd 1746; Paris, Drouot, Libert, 23.VI.2004, Lot 64 n.r., est. €1200–1500). Lit.: Ratouis de Limay 1946, “assez médiocre”



Mme **, pstl, Salon de Saint-Luc 1753, no. 123
Femme à la robe bleue tenant un livre, pstl, 54x45 (Argenteuil, Regis Thiollet, 6.III.2001, Éc. fr., suivre de Nattier, vers 1760). Lit.: *Gazette Drouot*, 2.III.2001, repr. p. 143 [new attr., ?]



M. de ***, quartinier de la ville; & pendant: son épouse, pstl, Salon de Saint-Luc 1753, no. 121

Homme; & pendant: son épouse, tenant des fleurs, m/u, 61x50, Salon de Saint-Luc 1756, no. 73/72

Jeune enfant, m/u, 55x46, Salon de Saint-Luc 1756, no. 74

Quatre portraits, m/u, Salon de Saint-Luc 1762, no. 35

Plusieurs portraits, m/u, Salon de Saint-Luc 1764, no. 13