

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

LE COMTE, Mme Jacques-Roger, née Marguerite Josset

Paris 15.IV.1717–22.I.1800

An amateur engraver. Marguerite Le Comte, the daughter of a Paris butcher, married in 1735 Jacques-Roger Le Comte a procureur at the Châtelet. She is best known as the mistress of the amateur Watelet, whom she met in 1746; he installed her in the Moulin-Joli where numerous artists gathered. During her Italian trip with Watelet 1763–64, she was received as an academician at Rome, Florence, Parma and Bologna. After Watelet's death her husband requested the return of "un buste de marbre portrait de Madame le Comte, son épouse, deux portraits d'elle au pastel, un petit portrait d'elle en émail et un en cire, un autre portrait peint en huile." The pastel by La Tour (*q.v.*, for an extended entry) may have been one of these, but the recent suggestion that she herself worked in pastel does not seem to be warranted. Watelet's portrait of her was engraved by Lempereur.

Bibliography

Arquié-Bruley 1998; Charlotte Guichard, "Amateurs and the culture of etching", in New York 2013b, pp. 136–55; Christian Lebrument, "Marguerite Lecomte, une pastelliste au Moulin-Joly", *Amis de Colombes et de son histoire*, 2011, www.histocolombes.fr, pdf consulted 26.I.2020; P&B; Nicolas Schwed, *Dessins anciens et du 19ème siècle*, 2009, s.no.19