

**BESCHEY, Jozef Hendrik, *alias*
Francis Lindo**

Antwerp 2.I.1714 – Isleworth 8.III.1767

Also Joseph Henri; Bescheij. Portraitist in oil and it is said crayon (although no example in pastel is now known with certainty), mainly known for his work in Aberdeenshire in the 1760s. While most of his oil portraits are conventional, a few smaller examples have a quirkiness that no doubt suggested the attribution of two pastels from the Countess of Seafield's collection.

Some confusion surrounds his background, resulting from his use of a Jewish pseudonym: he was a member of the Flemish family of artists and a brother of Balthasar Beschey (*q.v.*). In 1730 he was awarded first prize in the Antwerp school (his brothers Karel and Balthazar had won this in 1727 and 1730 respectively). He was in England soon after; a James Chapman was apprenticed to him for seven years in 1733 as a history painter, but applied for release in 1739 (on grounds that he had not been taught or housed). A son, also Balthazar was born in 1738 from his marriage to a Catherine Ritveld. Further light on the family relationships is given in the will of Joseph's brother, Jan Frans or Jean-François Beschey, of which a translation was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in 1788. A relative included a diamond polisher.

Two weeks after Joseph's death administration was granted to his widow "Arabella Beschey otherwise Lindo"; she was remarried, to a John Bowyer, a few months later (allegation, 17.VII.1767).

Bibliography

F. Jos. Van den Branden, *Geschiedenis der Academie van Antwerpen*, 1867; *Transactions of the Jewish Historical Society of England*, XVIII–XIX, 1958, pp. 109ff; Alfred Rubens, letter, *Country life*, 7.V.1953; Waterhouse 1981; Wright 2006; *Gentleman's magazine*, .III.1767

Pastels

J.1517.151 Man; & pendant: J.1517.161 woman, pstl, 41x34.3 (Countess of Seafield 1956). Attr. φα

