MESCHIN, Mme

fl. Toulouse 1779–82

Also Méchin, Meschyn; associé-artiste-étrangère at the Académie de Toulouse in 1780, académicienne the following year. Her address appears to be given as rue du Petit-Versailles in Baour's 1782 *Almanach historique de la ville de Toulouse*: "Mad. Mechin, Peint. *rue pet. Vers.*" (p. 198); however, in the 1786 edition, the description is "peint à l'huile & en migniature, à Versailles", suggesting the earlier entry may have been a misprint. Her morceau de réception, a highly competent oil portrait of the sculptor François Lucas (1736–1813), is at the musée des Augustins. She exhibited oil and miniature portraits, and one pastel is recorded. The subject, also an amateur minaturist and probably her husband, is identified only as "chevalier Meschin".

They are probably members of the old established naval family, based in Rochefort (which perhaps explains the "étrangère" suffix), and numbering several chevaliers de Saint-Louis. However in 1780 (assuming the portrait is not posthumous) it can only refer to Armand-Antoine-Jérémie de Meschin (no doubt a chevalier de Malte, as he is already referred to as "chevalier" in the 1768 edition of La Chesnaye des Bois). His wife was Jeanne de Maillard (1757–), from Périgord; they were married in 1778. She was the daughter of Philippe-Paul, marquis de Maillard de La Faye, a family that included numerous chevaliers de Malte.

Alternatively, the chevalier might refer to Jean-Pierre Meschyn, chevaler de l'ordre de l'Eperon d'or, son of Jean-Baptiste Meschyn, from a family in Aux-Aussat (not very far from Toulouse) and Jeanne d'Aymad; he married Annibale-Charlotte Langlade on 27.IV.1769.

Although the most likely identification, the possibility that the artist was another wife in the family cannot be excluded.

Bibliography

Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Sanchez 2004

Pastels

J.5336.101 Le chevalier [?Armand-Antoine-Jérémie de] MESCHIN [(1759–)], miniaturiste, pstl, Salon de Toulouse 1780, no. 9