

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

MOREAU, Robert

fl. end 17th century

A painter called Moreau worked for the maison de Condé at Chantilly, being paid in 1690 for portraits of Louis III de Bourbon and the Grand Condé; he is possibly the same as the Moreau, valet de chambre du roi, listed as an amateur by Gault de Saint-Germain (but presumably not the Moreau, peintre, rue Dauphine who was a directeur of the Académie de Saint-Luc in the 1734 list reprinted in Scott 1995, p. 47, whose first name is given as Simon in Guiffrey 1915). Documents in the Minutier central describe the sale in 1707 to Pierre Gobert of a house in Arcueil by a René Moreau, peintre ordinaire du duc d'Orléans and his wife Marie Nivelon, living "au vieux Louvre".

It is possible that he is the author of the very beautiful pastel which is neither by nor of Robert Nanteuil but bears the name Robert Moreau on the back. Other works of similar quality are awaited before the attribution can be accepted with confidence. The pastel is probably by a follower of Le Brun working around 1683 (Le Brun's own pastels were usually made with harder chalk, although the technique here is close to the pastel of Israel Silvestre); an alternative explanation is that it could be an early pastel by Vivien, of a M. Moreau. The various proposed identifications of the sitter all seem speculative.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Gault de Saint-Germain 1808, p. 50; Rambaud 1971, II, pp. 341f

Pastels

??Robert NANTEUIL/?Louvois (1641–1691), pstl, 57x47, inscr. *verso* "ROBERT MOREAU" (Chantilly, musée Condé, PE 344. Alexandre Lenoir (1762–1839); George Granville Leveson-Gower, 2nd Duke of Sutherland (1786–1861), 1838; Stafford House, London, catalogue 1862, no.23; duc d'Aumale 1876). Exh.: Chantilly 2004a, no. 8 repr. clr, *Éc. fr.*, ?Moreau; inconnu. Lit.: Gower 1874, fol. 111, Nanteuil, Louvois; Gruyer 1899, no. 344, *Éc. fr.*, 2^e moitié XVII^e, J.-B. Quinault, de l'Académie française [Philippe Quinault (1635–1688)]; Lemonnier 1925, p. 71, repr. p. 69, ?Nanteuil, ?Quinault; Macon 1925, no. 282, Nanteuil, ?Quinault; Chatelet 1970, no. 123, Nanteuil, ?Autoportrait; Adamczak 2011, p. 223 n.r. **Φ**



Photo courtesy musée Condé