

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

MELLING, Joseph

Saint-Avold 27.XII.1724 – Strasbourg
23.XII.1796

Pupil of Boucher (whose influence is evident in the comparison of Bellamina with the Carnavalet foot) and Carle Van Loo. He was awarded the second (1749) and first (1750) grand prix by the Académie royale in Paris. From 1757 he was court painter at Karlsruhe, where he guided the work of Caroline Luise (*q.v.*), and seems himself to have been influenced by Liotard. In 1774 he moved to Strasbourg, where, in 1776, he founded and became first director of an école de dessin. In 1784 he helped prepare the posthumous inventory of Caroline Luise's collection after her death in Paris. In 1792–93 he decorated the palais de Rohan in a neo-classical style far removed from his previous work.

A pastel of Lili Schöнемann (*v. Frey*) has been attributed to Mellan on the assumption that it is the portrait referred to in a letter from the sitter's mother: "coment se porte donc vôtre portrait fait par Mellin, j'esoère que vous y avez laisse faire quelque corection encore, car je languis de l'avoir bien ressemblant acompagnies de celui de vôtre cher fritz,...", but there is nothing here to suggest that that work was in pastel.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Boucher 1986, p. 291; Karlsruhe 1983; Karlsruhe 2015; R&L p. 350; Voreaux 1998

Pastels

Frau von TÜRCKHEIM, née Anna Elisabeth (Lili) Schöнемann (1758–1817), l'amie de Goethe, pstl, ov., 1779 (château de Dachstein; PC 2000). Lit.: Aus dem Alltagsleben einer Frankfurter Goethe-Freundin: unveröffentlichte Briefe der Anna Elisabeth Schöнемann geborene d'Orville an ihre Tochter Lili in Strassburg, 1778–1782, 1997, p. 130; Christine Ivanovic, Das Gedicht im Geheimnis der Begegnung, 2000, p. 700 repr.; Goethe et Lili, variante inédite du poème Zurichseefahrt, 1775, Strasbourg, BNU, 2000, repr., both as by Melling, citing letter by Mme Schöнемann mère [v. Frey]

J.5292.102 Bellamina, Caroline Luises Schoßhündchen, pstl/ppr, 54.5x45, s \ "Melling", c.1770 (Karlsruhe, Staatliche Kunsthalle, inv. 2940. Caroline Luise; inv. p.m., 29–30.VI.1784, no. 17; Prinz Friedrich von Baden. Swiss PC 1983). Exh.: Karlsruhe 1983, no. 67, repr. p. 61; Karlsruhe 2015, no. 84 repr. Lit.: Lauts 1984 408

