

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

MOLIS aîné, Jean-François-Marie

?Paris1755 – ?Toulouse p.1800

Also Mollis; Moly; Molly. Pupil of Suau and Cammas. “Molis aîné” was appointed président of the Assemblée municipale cantonale of Baziège, near Toulouse, in 1796. He signed with this formula when he was married there on 22.IX.1800, to Georgette-Françoise Clerc (aged 58, the widow of Louis-Raymond Desessars), allowing us to identify him as Jean-François-Marie Molis, aged 45, the son of Jean-André Molis de Saint-Laurent (who had been buried in Toulouse, ND de la Dalbade, 6.VI.1789 aged 78) and Marie-Thérèse Labouret (buried there 11.XI.1794, aged 72). They had married in Paris in 1748 (contrat 22.IV.1748, MC/RE/LX/5). Around this time Saint-Laurent, a minor littérateur, was actively involved with the printer and police spy, Louis-François Bonin, and proposed to him some controversial religious texts by jesuit abbés. It is possible this may have led to his leaving Paris for the Haute-Garonne. It is unclear where Molis aîné was born, although his younger brother, the chevalier de Molis de Saint-Laurent (*q.v.*), was born in Paris; a third brother, Jean-André-Antoine-Thérèse Moly, died aged 5 at Baziège, 9.XI.1770, indicating the family’s connections with this commune from at least that date.

Bibliography

Emmanuel Boussuge, “Autour d’un mémoire de Louis-François Bonin”, *La Lettre clandestine*, 21, 2013, pp. 330, 332, 342; Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Sanchez 2004

Pastels

J.5412.101 Portrait, pstl, Salon de Toulouse 1785, no. 114 (M. Dabos le père 1785)

J.5412.102 Portrait, pstl, Salon de Toulouse 1785, no. 116