

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

PETIT DE VILLENEUVE, Claude-François-Henri

Troyes 1760–1824

Brother of the artists Simon and Jean-Baptiste Petit (*qq.v.*); it is unclear if they were related to an old-established parlementaire family of this name. By 1790 Petit de Villeneuve was married to a Rosalie Paupe in Paris. A 1790 notarial document (the writing of which is almost illegible) reveals that she was the daughter of Jacques-Nicolas Paupe, négociant à Paris, and his wife, Rose Morlière: he was a friend of Desfriches and an art collector, owning pictures by Greuze, Fragonard, Danloux and Taunay. In particular Paupe was a major patron of Joseph Vernet, commissioning some 20 paintings over ten years: from 1778: his last order was placed on 28.x.1788, while at the Salon de 1789, six Vernets are sent “du cabinet de fue M. Paupe.” Paupe’s carte d’adresse, engraved by Choffard in 1775, indicates that he sold from his shop “Au Cordon Bleu”, rue aux Fers, “toutes sortes de marchandises de soyereries”; these included the insignia of the major orders of chivalry (guaranteeing a clientele of the highest quality). Paupe was a cousin of Barthélémy-Jacques-Joseph-Rémy de Bret (1756–p.1814), a banker, freemason and maire of Villejuif, and of François-Jean-Noël de Bure (1743–1802), who became imprimeur du duc d’Orléans by virtue of his marriage in 1769 to Charlotte d’Houry. The Paupe family also had ties with Troyes: in 1794 a municipal officer there, Billard-Paupe, was probably Paupe’s brother-in-law, the Jean-François Billard married to a Catherine Paupe (their son Nicolas-Jean-François was born in 1775); a celebrated surgeon, Paupe, was a fellow deputy in Troyes with one of Petit’s sitters, Pigeotte.

Petit de Villeneuve exhibited at the Salon de la Correspondance from 1781, including miniatures, copies after Vernet, Moreau l’aîné etc.; his submissions were from 17 rue Neuve Saint Eustache, where he lived with his brothers; by 1783 he was at the hôtel de Lussan, rue Croix des Petits-champs. He exhibited again at the Salons of 1808, 1810, 1814 and 1817. A sale of his pictures took place (prior to his death) on 22–23.vi.1820 at his house, 11 rue des Blancs-Manteaux. He worked in oil and miniature as well as in pastel. Most of the known examples in pastel belong to the early nineteenth century and are of variable accomplishment. A pair of pastel profiles, signed and dated “de Villeneuve 1786”, might be by him, but the attribution is speculative in the absence of other work of the same period or with the same signature: the artist might well have dropped the surname during the Revolution, and may possibly have been prompted to use it to avoid confusion with homonyms (he is referred to as “M. de Villeneuve” in one entry in Pahin de La Blancherie). A Louis Petit also exhibited miniatures at the Salon de la Correspondance in 1781, later (1791–1800) exhibiting oils. A Pierre-Joseph Petit, a student of Hue, exhibited at the Salon between 1791 and 1819. Similarly the 1801 profile signed Petit could be by a homonym.

Bibliography

Archives nationales, registres de tutelles, AN Y5189B, 20.IV.1790, Albert Babeau, *Histoire de Troyes pendant la révolution*, 1874; Bellier de La Chavignerie & Auvray; Bénézit; Lagrange 1864; Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Ratouis de Limay 1946; Sanchez 2004; Schidlof 1964; Thieme & Becker; J. J. Vernier, *Cabier de doléances du bailliage de Troyes*, Troyes, 1909

Pastels

Pierre BAUDEMANT (1729–1808), professeur de dessin à Troyes, pstl/ppr, 68x54, sd → “Petit 1808” (Troyes, mBA, 899.3; RE 619. Mazurier; acqu. Société académique de l’Aube 1899). Lit.: Cat. musée 1911, no. 483 ☐



Photo courtesy musées d’Art et d’Histoire, Troyes

Jean-Jérôme GARNIER (1714–), pstl/ppr, 47x38, sd ← “Petit 1799” (Troyes, mBA, 888.1.5. Don Mme Mitantier 1888). Lit.: Cat. musée 1911, no. 481 ☐



Photo courtesy musées d’Art et d’Histoire, Troyes

Pierre-Grégoire HERLUISSON (1759–1811), bibliothécaire du département de l’Aube, m/u, c.1811 (M. Lefranc; don). Lit.: Henri Courteault, *Bulletin philologique et historique*, 1934, p. 110 n.r.

~grav.: Jean-Marie-Raphael-Léopold Massard (1812–1889)

M. L..., pstl/ppr, 54x46, sd ← “Petit 1810” (Troyes, mBA, 888.1.1. Don Mme Mitantier 1888). Lit.: Cat. musée 1911, no. 477 ☐



Photo courtesy musées d’Art et d’Histoire, Troyes

Mme L..., pstl/ppr, 55x47, sd → “Petit 1810” (Troyes, mBA, 888.1.2. Don Mme Mitantier 1888). Lit.: Cat. musée 1911, no. 478 ☐



Photo courtesy musées d’Art et d’Histoire, Troyes

Homme de la famille L., pstl/ppr, 49x41, sd ← “Petit 1801” (Troyes, mBA, 888.1.3. Don Mme Mitantier 1888). Lit.: Cat. musée 1911, no. 479 ☐



Photo courtesy musées d’Art et d’Histoire, Troyes

Femme de la famille L., pstl/ppr, 49x40.5, sd → “Petit 1801” (Troyes, mBA, 888.1.4. Don Mme Mitantier 1888). Lit.: Cat. musée 1911, no. 480 ☐



Photo courtesy musées d’Art et d’Histoire, Troyes

Jeune fille de la famille L., au bijou, en buste, de face, pstl/ppr, 45x36, sd ↘ “Petit 1799” (Troyes, mBA, 888.1.6. Don Mme Mitantier 1888). Lit.: Cat. musée 1911, no. 482 ☐



Photo courtesy musées d’Art et d’Histoire, Troyes

Jean-Pierre MONNEREAU (1761–1826), chanoine de Faye la Vineuse, secrétaire général de l’archevêché de Tours, pstl, 40.5x32.3, sd → “Petit/1815” (Tours, Société archéologique de Touraine, SAT no. 5113) ☐



Photo courtesy Société Archéologique de Touraine, musée de l'Hôtel Gouin, Tours

Jean-Baptiste PIGEOTTE (?–1803), médecin chef de l'hôpital de Troyes, pstl/ppr, 46x38, sd ← “Petit 1802”; & pendant: épouse, avec une croix pectorale, pstl/ppr, 45x37, sd → “Petit 1802” (Troyes, mBA, 07.4.1/2; RE 1070.1/2. Don M. Huguier-Truelle, arrière petit-fils du modèle, pharmacien à Troyes, 1907). Lit.: Cat. musée 1911, no. 484/485 ◊



Photo courtesy musées d'Art et d'Histoire, Troyes

Le jeune tambour, pstl, 45x37, sd ← “Petit 1801” (Troyes, mBA, 92.9. Paris, Drouot, 23.x.1992, Lot 102, F18,000; don de l'Association des Amis des musées de Troyes). Lit.: *Chronique des arts* 1993, no. 62 repr. ◊



Photo courtesy musées d'Art et d'Histoire, Troyes

Homme de profil, pstl/ppr, 17x12 ov., sd “Petit/1801” (Vendôme, Cheverny, 1.ii.2010, Lot 390, Éc. fr., est. €100–200) [attr., ?; ?homonym] ◊



Homme, pstl, 54x45, sd → “Petit/1810” (Neully, Aguttes, 12.xii.2006, Lot 52 repr., éc. fr., est. €800–1000) ◊



Homme, pstl, 58.5x48, , sd ← “Petit 1817” (Bath, Gardiner, 14.iii.2003, Lot 109 repr., est. £500–700. London, Sotheby's Olympia, 20.iv.2004, Lot 150 repr., attr., est. £3–4000 Paris, Christie's, 17.iii.2005, Lot 185 n.r., est. 1500–2000, b/i; London, Christie's South Kensington, 2.xii.2008, Lot 431 repr., est. £600–800) ◊



Photo courtesy Sotheby's

Homme (New York art market 2005; Salon du Dessin 2006) [v. L.-F. Aubry]

Femme en buste, vue de face, pstl, 54.5x44.5, s “C. Petit de Villeneuve” (Paris, Drouot 10, 22.iii.1991, Lot 143 repr.) ◊



Portraits, pstl, Salon de 1817, no. 609

Jeune officier en uniforme bleu, col rouge; & pendant: jeune fille au chignon orné de fleurs, pstl/ppr, 16x12 ov., sd montage “De Villeneuve delin 1786” (Georges Bemberg; Paris, Artcurial, 20.vi.2012, Lot 456 repr., as éc. fr., est. €500–800) [new attr., ?] ◊



2 petits portraits, pstl, s, début XIX^e (Versailles PC 2003)