

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

PLOOS VAN AMSTEL, Cornelis

Weesp 1726 – Amsterdam 1798

Ploos Van Amstel was a timber merchant by trade, and a partner in the firm of Bontekoning & Aukes. But throughout his life his real love was for art, learning drawing from the age of 12 and becoming a printmaker and publisher, draughtsman, and illustrator. He was also one of the most important collectors and connoisseurs of his day. In 1758 he married Elizabeth, daughter of Cornelis Troost (*q.v.*), whose quick pastel sketch of him (1746) is in the British Museum. It is unclear why the reciprocal light-hearted sketch in coloured chalks should depict his prospective father-in-law in clerical costume, but humour and masquerade were part of the art that both men relished.

Bibliography

Bénézit

v. Genealogy, Ploos van Amstel

Pastels

Cornelis TROOST, pstl, 28.2x21.8, sd “C. Troost ad viv/Ploos Van Amstel/F1749” (Lexington, University of Kentucky Art Museum, inv. 77.53.2. Legs Gertrude E. Straus). Exh.: Lexington 1979, no. 55 *q*

