

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

REIFENSTEIN, Johann Friedrich

Ragnit 1719 – Rome 1793

Reifenstein, or Reiffenstein (he is presumably also the Riefstein listed in Bénézit and AKL), antiquary and amateur landscape painter, pastellist, engraver and sculptor. Educated at Königsberg, he spent some time at the court in Kassel before becoming bearleader to the son of Graf Rochus zu Lynar whom he accompanied in 1760–62 on a tour through Germany, France, Switzerland and Italy, eventually reaching Rome, where Reifenstein settled. He became involved with, and acted as Roman agent for many of, the leading figures in the art world, from Winckelmann to Schuvalov, Goethe (who mentions him frequently in the *Italienische Reise*), Grimm and Ernst II. von Sachsen-Gotha-Altenburg, taking them to the studios of the leading artists – among them Angelika Kauffmann, who portrayed him c.1785. He investigated the use of wax pastel applied directly to prepared canvas rather than paper (*Annonces, affiches, avis divers*, 22.II.1757). In 1761 he visited Liotard's studio on behalf of Caroline Luise von Baden (*q.v.*), producing a list of 17 paintings by Dutch and French masters from his collection from which the Markgräfin was to choose five; he describes his pleasure in Liotard's praise of his own works.

Bibliography

Pons-Augustin Alletz, *L'Albert moderne, ou Nouveaux secrets éprouvés et licites*, 1773, pp. 287–90; Bénézit; Cabezas & al. 2008, p. 11; Fiorillo 1818, III, p. 389; Lauts 1977, p. 66; Loche 1980, p. 185; Ratouis de Limay 1946, p. 141; R&L, pp. 96ff

Pastels

Carl Philipp Emmanuel BACH (1714–1788), Kapellmeister in Hamburg, chlk, pstl/ppr, 30x26.5, inscr. "Emanuel Bach von A. F. Oeser" (Anthony van Hobloken, Ascona, 1958. London, Sotheby's, 17.V.2002, Lot 4 repr., £23,900, as by Oeser or Reifenstein). Exh.: Munich 1958, no. 166 n.r., attr. Reifenstein. Lit.: *Musik in Gesch. und Gegenwart*, I, 1949/51; David Schulenberg, "Performing C. P. E. Bach: some open questions", *Early music*, XVI/4, .XI.1988, p. 542 repr., attr. Oeser **Ⓢ**



Photo courtesy Sotheby's

Friedrich Gottlieb KLOPSTOCK (1724–1803), Dichter, pstl, 1770. Lit.: Letter Angelika Kauffmann to sitter, 4.XII.1770, Klopstock, *Werke und Briefe: Historisch-kritische Ausgabe*, Berlin, 2007, v, 175, p. 51

Jacob Friedemann Graf von WERTHERN-NEUNHEILIGEN (1739–1806), pstl, 57x45, sd → "Reiffstein/fec. 1761" (Frankfurt, Goethe-Museum, inv. IV-1951-16. Heinrich Freiherr

von Friesen-Rötha, Wesel; acqu. 1951). Lit.: Michaelis 1982, no. 185 repr. **Ⓢ**

