

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

ROUSSEL, Jean-Judde

Paris 1705–1767

Agréé to the Académie de Saint-Luc in 1752, the Roussel who exhibited portraits in pastel and oil in 1752 and 1753 from Cloître Saint-Jacques l'Hôpital must be the same as the Jude Rousselle, *reçu* 1758, from the same address. His biography has been pieced together from numerous legal documents; his year of birth was only published here in 2023. Jean-Judde Roussel, peintre, made his will 27.VI.1767 (although his estate was renounced by his sister Marie-Louise Roussel, Mme Pierre Racine). “Sr Judde Roussel, peintre de l’Académie Royale”, living in the rue Saint-Denis, witnessed a document (AN MC/ET/LXXXII/235, 9.II.1740) concerning Jean-André Raux, émailleur, another relative. An Avis of 19.IV.1721 (AN Y4346, registres de tutelles) confirms that Jean-Judde [sic] was the second of the five minor children of the deceased Honoré-Gérard Roussel, bourgeois de Paris, and his widow, Marie-Anne Croquet, marchande maîtresse linière filassière; they had married in Paris, Saint-Sulpice, 16.I.1702; she had remarried, to a Louis Jacquemain, probably in 1721. Her sister Magdelaine Croquet was married to Jean Raux, émailleur, before 1706. Marie-Anne Croquet confirmed the closure of her first husband’s inventaire après décès on 17.X.1720 (insinué 4.I.1721, AN Y5334) in her own name and on behalf of her children, giving Jean-Judde’s age as 15.

“Sr Jean Judde Roussel bourgeois de Paris, cloître et paroisse St Jacques de l’Hopital” was named in the liquidation of the estate of Maxime-Nicolas Dejean, 24–25.V.1751 (AN MC/LXII/322); Roussel, whose signature appears on the document, had been subrogé tuteur to a member of this well-connected family of financiers.

Was the child with a cat from the 1753 exhibition influenced by Boucher or Perronneau? The only surviving work, an oil conversation piece, suggests that Roussel may have been responsible for several pastel group portraits for which no satisfactory attribution has so far been proposed. Three such works, tentatively attributed to Pougin de Saint-Aubin (J.6.142, J.6.147 and J.6.177), may well be by Roussel.

Bibliography

Bellier de La Chavignerie & Auvray; Bénézit; Guiffrey 1915, p. 444; Lazard 1906; Ratouis de Limay 1946; Sanchez 2004

Pastels

J.632.101 M. Barbant de Colmier, capitaine au régiment royal des cuirassiers [Alexandre-Denis BARBAUT DE COLMIER (1727–1788), capitaine au régiment d’Aquitaine, interdit pour démence en 1784], pstl, Salon de Saint-Luc 1752, no. 261

J.632.102 Les deux enfants du comte de DRESSEU en habits de hussards, 2 pstls, 61x50, Salon de Saint-Luc 1753, no. 159

J.632.103 M. [Guillaume de] VILLEFROY, abbé de Blazimont [ou Blasimont (1690–1777)], censeur royal, secrétaire de feu duc d’Orléans, [professeur en langue sainte au Collège royal,

aumônier du duc d’Aquitaine 1754], m/u, Salon de Saint-Luc 1752, no. 259

J.632.104 Abbé de ***, m/u, Salon de Saint-Luc 1752, no. 260

J.632.105 M. de ***, pstl, Salon de Saint-Luc 1752, no. 262

J.632.106 Dame, pstl, 55x46, Salon de Saint-Luc 1753, no. 160

J.632.107 Jeune enfant, pinçant l’oreille d’un chat, pstl, Salon de Saint-Luc 1753, no. 161

Portraits in other media

M. de LA MARINIÈRE, pnt., 162x129.6, Salon de Saint-Luc 1753, no. 156

Le concert familial, pnt., 100x132, sd Roussel 1766 (Paris, Drouot Estimations, 11.VII.1997, Lot 50 repr., Fr140,000)