

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

RENOU, Antoine

Paris 1731–13.XII.1806

History and religious painter; pupil of Pierre and then Vien, premier peintre du roi Stanislaw 1760–66; author, playwright and critic. His portrait by Lenoir (medium unknown) was shown at the place Dauphine in 1760. He was *agr  * 1766, *re  * 1781 at the Acad  mie royale, of which he became secr  taire-adjoint in 1776 and secr  taire perp  tuel in 1790; his duties included the production of the annual Salon livrets. From 1777 he published a series of letters in the *Journal de Paris* under the pseudonyms Marin, Kergol   etc.; these criticised the relationship between artists and dealers. He was also a member of the academies of St Petersburg, Philadelphia, Richmond and Rouen.

The son of Pierre Renou and Agn  s Desmoulins, in Paris he married Louise-Toinette Lucas, an engraver (the marriage is registered on 23.VI.1798, although their daughter's birth was recorded in 1795; this may have been a repetition following a complicated law case concerning the legitimacy of Louise-Toinette herself connected with her father's estate). He was a cousin of Gilles-Pierre Barbier (*q.v.*), and through him was consulted by Sir Joshua Reynolds. A nephew, Simon-Pierre Renou, was a pupil at the Acad  mie de l'Architecture in 1790.

He appears in the Toulouse livret as Renaud. These pastels may have been in the Revolutionary confiscations made in 1796. No other pastel is known, but in 1780 he published a booklet on the *Secret pour fixer le pastel*, a description of the Lorient process. Diderot dismissed him as "un mauvais artiste".

He is unconnected with the old master collector-dealer, abb   Louis-Joseph Reynoard (*v.* COLLECTORS), whose name was variously misspelt in contemporary sources as Renou, Reynoard etc. Nor is there any relationship with Jean-Julien-Constant Renout (1725–1783), secr  taire du duc de Gesvres and a playwright.

Bibliography

Mesuret 1972; Sanchez 2004; *Dictionnaire des journalistes 1600–1789*, online edition, 2011

Pastels

J.6158.101 Portrait, pstl, Salon de Toulouse 1770, no. 33 (marquis de Mirepoix 1770)

J.6158.102 Portrait, pstl, Salon de Toulouse 1770, no. 34 (marquis de Mirepoix 1770)