

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

SAINT-JEAN, Jacques-François de

Versailles .XII.1735 – Montrouge 31.I.1817

The miniaturist of the Académie de Saint-Luc (who exhibited a dozen miniatures in 1774) was also the author of the pastel “de facture un peu sèche mais habilement dessiné” noted by Ratouis de Limay in 1941. The *Almanach des peintres* of 1776 noted that his miniatures shown at the Académie de Saint-Luc in 1774 were applauded, alongside those of d’Armancourt and Bornet; the 1777 edition records him as a peintre en miniature in Place de la rue de l’Échelle. Legay records an investment made by him in 30.XI.1781 of 6000 livres, from rue du Petit-Carrousel (AN MC/ET/XCII/837). In 1760 he was witness at a marriage in Versailles (between Antoine-Paul Ramond de La Croisette, commis du comte de Saint-Florentin and son of a banker, and Antoinette Mollin, at Saint-Louis, 2.VI.1760); his signature corresponds to that on a pastel discovered in 2023. His biographical details were also published here in 2023: “Jacques-François Desaintjean” died, unmarried, aged 81 years and 2 months in a maison de retraite in Montrouge; his burial certificate shows that he was born in Versailles to Michel de Saint-Jean and “Louise Duquet”; Michel de Saint-Jean (1697–1746), marchand fripier (son of Michel and Françoise-Marguerite Legrand), and Claudine-Louise Ucay had been married in Versailles, Saint-Louis, on 12.I.1735. (The artist’s baptismal entry has not been located.) He may have been related to a family of goldsmiths of this name, but if so the relationship was not immediate. A pair of Greuzian genre scenes, one signed De St Jean, may be by the same artist.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Guiffrey 1915, p. 448; Marie-Laure Legay, “De Dijon à Paris: réseaux d’argent et finance bourguignonne dans les emprunts du roi (1778–1783)”, *Histoire, économie et société*, 2003/3, p. 377; Le Brun 1776, 1777; Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Ratouis de Limay 1946

Pastels

J.6468.1008 Homme tenant un livre, pstl, 58x50, sd ← 1764 (Paris, Drouot, Lair-Dubreuil, Féral, 15.XI.1913, Lot 9 n.r.)

J.6468.101 Homme en habit orange, sd “de Saint-Jean 1764” (Paris, Drouot, .III.1941). Lit.: Ratouis de Limay 1946

J.6468.1015 Homme en habit brun, écrivant, pstl, 60x48, sd ↘ “de Saint-Jean” (Paris, Daguerre, 29.IX.2023, Lot 23) φ



J.6468.102 Vieillard le verre à la main, & tenant une cruche entre ses bras, pstl (Paris, Boileau, Le Brun, 22.I.1787 & seq., Lot 362)

J.6468.103 Les adieux d’un milicien, dessin colorié, Salon de Saint-Luc 1774, no. 205 bis

J.6468.105 Deux scènes de genre, pstl, 50x59, sd → “De St Jean” (Doullens, Denis Herbet, 5.V.2024, Lot 50 repr., est. €2–3000; Chinon, Christophe Herbelin, 12.VI.2024, Lot 12 repr., est. €1500–2000) [attr.]φαν

