

SCHÖNCHEN, Gottfried

Arnhem 1740 – Munich 1816

Schönchen, Schöniche or Schoenche, was both pastellist and musician. He served in the French army during the Seven Years' War but was wounded and forced to find a new career. He worked at the courts of Mannheim 1763–72 and, from 1779, Munich where he was Hofmusikus and Oberhoftrumpeter. His large family (including 20 sons and just one daughter) obliged him to supplement his income from music by taking up pastel painting which enjoyed a reputation for their liveliness ("lebensvollen"). The family was protected by the Elector Carl Theodor and his wife Leopoldine who granted them an apartment in the royal palace when their home was destroyed by fire. Six of the sons became musicians, the best known being Karl.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Nagler 1835–52; *Augsburger Postzeitung*, 1861, p. 58; *Neue Münchner Zeitung*, 1851, p. 446

Pastels

J.6632.101 Herr von HECKEL., pstl, 51x39; & pendant: J.6632.102 M. A. Th. Heckel, pstl, 51x39, début XIX^e (Nürnberg, Germanisches Nationalmuseum, Gm 1060/1061)

J.6632.103 PRANGERL., court jester, as a violin-playing nun, 66x53, sd "G. Schönchen p. ad vivum 1794" (Munich, Stadtmuseum 36/861). Exh.: Munich 1980, no. 1210 repr. Φ



Photo courtesy Münchner Stadtmuseum

J.6632.105 Dorothe WENDELIN (1770–), la cadette, chanteuse de la cour de Mannheim, pstl, 1790, par G. Schöngé (Schloss Heidelberg 1838). Lit.: Graimberg 1842, no. 2293

J.6632.106 Joh. Goswin WIDDER, m/u (Mannheim)

J.6632.107 Jeune dame, m/u (Munich, Residenz)

J.6632.108 Herr; & pendant: J.6632.109 Dame, pstl/pchm, 61.5x48, n.s./sd ↗ "G. Schöngé/1788" (Munich, Neumeister, 6.VII.2016, Lot 168 repr., est. €800–1000) Φ