

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

SILVESTRE, Marie-Louise- Maximilienne de

Paris 14.XII.1707 – Versailles 3.II.1798

Daughter of Louis de Silvestre and Mme, née Marie-Catherine Hérault (*q.v.*), by whom she was taught from an early age, soon becoming active as a copyist in pastel and miniature in her father's studio until prevented from pursuing art full time by becoming drawing teacher and lectrice to Marie-Josèphe de Saxe (*q.v.*); the religious pastel made by the princess was no doubt executed under her guidance. Alone of her servants she was permitted to follow the princesse to France in 1747 after she became dauphine (Maurice de Saxe praised the “sages conseils de Mlle de Silvestre, qui a la confiance de [la Dauphine]”, letter of 26.VIII.1748.) In correspondence with the comte de Wackerbarth from Versailles she kept the Dresden court apprised of her charge's progress as well as of her health. She brought Rotari to the Dauphine's attention; the Italian painter was reported as having seen “de vos ouvrages au pastel en différents endroits, et les a beaucoup estimés.” (letter of 31.VIII.1751). By 1763 her salary for teaching Mesdames was “250 livres par quartier des nourritures conservées” (Newton 2020, p. 4996).

It is possible that Mlle Silvestre was the author of a group of pastels of the sisters of Marie-Josèphe de Saxe from the collection of Graf Brühl seem in Schloß Pforten in 1904, but hung too high to confirm an attribution to La Tour; only one of the dauphine's sister went to France (Marie Christine), so the series cannot be by La Tour.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Fanon 1886; Greer 2001; israel.silvestre.fr; Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Lüttichau 1985; Gustave Muller, “Les De La Tour de la galerie de Dresde”, *Le Guetteur de Saint-Quentin*, 27.IX.1904, p. 2 n.r., “plusieurs pastels des sœurs de la dauphine, ?La Tour, accrochés trop haut pour les examiner soigneusement”; Roettgen 2003, p. 89; Silvestre 1869

GENEALOGIES [Hérault](#); [Silvestre](#)

Pastels

J.678.101 FRIEDRICH AUGUSTE II. Kurfürst von Sachsen, König August III. von Polen 1733 (1696–1763), pstl, 59x43 ov. (Munich, Residenz). Lit.: Lüttichau 1985, p. 1870, fig. 1b. A/r pstl, Mengs, 1745 φ



J.678.103 MARIA JOSEPHA Kurfürstin von Sachsen (1699–1757), pstl, 59x43 ov., p.1743 (Munich, Residenz). Lit.: Lüttichau 1985, p. 1871, fig. 2a. A/r pnt. Louis de Silvestre, 1743 φ



J.678.105 Carlo GOLDONI (1707–1793), commediografo, dessin (Versailles, Bibliothèque municipale. Don Mme André, petite-nièce de l'artiste). Lit.: Silvestre 1869, p. 87 n.r.

J.678.106 MARIE-JOSEPHE de Saxe (1699–1757), pstl, p.1743 (Munich, Residenz)

J.678.111 Saint Jacob l'ancien, pstl, 82x63, sd verso “Peins par Marie [?]Sophie Maximilienne Silvestre à Dresde 1731” (Hannover, Landesmuseum, inv. KM 17). Lit.: Gert von der Osten, *Katalog der Gemälde alter Meister...*, 1954 φ

