

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

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SIMONET, Pierre

fl. Paris 1760–67

According to contemporary police reports in 1763, the maître des requêtes Louis Le Pelletier de Mortefontaine (1730–1799) made arrangements with a very pretty young Mlle Dubois, actrice de la Comédie-Française (presumably Marie-Madeleine Blouin (1746–1779), daughter of the famous actors Louis Blouin, dit Dubois and Mlle Clairon; according to the reports, she had previously had an impressive list of clients); she was already involved with a young man called “Simon, peintre en pastel de sa profession et assez habile. Mais il vient de se marier et l’a laissée en lui abandonnant l’appartement [rue des Vieux-Augustins] qu’ils occupaient conjointement.”

“Simon” is probably the Pierre Simonet whose portraits of actresses were engraved by Jean Devaux. Simonet was reçu at the Académie de Saint-Luc 5.v.1760, rue de La Harpe, vis-à-vis celle du Foin. An entry in the registre de clôtures d’inventaires après décès (AN Y5277, 23.X.1767) reveals that his widow was Marie-Catherine Jeannot, chez le banquier Tourton, rue des Deux-Portes et paroisse Saint-Sauveur; there was a minor son, Pierre-Jean.

Bibliography

Journal des inspecteurs de M. de Sartines, ed. Lorédan Larchey, Paris, 1863, p. 319; Guiffrey 1915

Portraits in unspecified media

Mme DUBUS-PREVILLE, née Madeleine-Angélique-Michelle Drouin, (1734–1794), actrice, en *Deaton*, dans *l’Écossaise*

~grav. Devaux (FD 393)

Mme Jean-Louis LARUETTE, née Marie-Thérèse Villette (1744–1837), actrice, en *Babet*, dans les *Sabots*

~grav. Devaux (FD 394)