

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

SPROTE, Marie-Françoise, Mme Augustin Leschevin de Précourt

Paris 1746–1818

Mlle Sprote sent pastels and miniatures to the place Dauphine in 1767, mentioned only by the German critic. The following year, the *Avant-Coureur* (p. 386) noted that “Mlle Sprote donne aussi des espérances flatteuses de son talent pour la miniature”, but pastels are not mentioned again. She is surely Marie-Françoise Sprote. Her grandfather was Dominique Sprote, a maître tailleur d’habits in 1714, naturalised in 1715. By 1760, when he was asked to make an inventory after the death of the jeweller Lazare Duvaux, he was conseiller du roi, marchand mercier and bijoutier. His son, Louis-Dominique Sprote (–1789), conseiller de l’élection de Paris since 1775, also lived in the rue Saint-Honoré, where Marie-Françoise was born on 18.v.1746. After her brief career as an artist, she disappears from trace, following her marriage in Versailles in 1768 to Augustin Leschevin [Léchevin] de Précourt (1732–1793), premier commis du contrôle de la Maison du roi; he also held office in the maison du comte d’Artois. Louis XVI awarded Leschevin and his wife pensions of 2400 livres and 600 livres respectively on 1.x.1788. They had three sons born before 1777; the eldest and only surviving child, Philippe-Xavier (1771–1814), had as godparents the comte d’Artois and Madame Clotilde. Leschevin was executed in 1793; his son was imprisoned for five months before he was released through his mother’s efforts. He became a distinguished chemist. Her posthumous inventory was conducted 31.xii.1818 at 148, rue Saint-Antoine (AN MC/RE/LXXXIII).

Bibliography

Claude-Nicolas Amanton, notice nécrologique, *Magasin encyclopédique*, IV, 1814, p. 349ff; Anna Bellavitis & al., *Mobilité et transmission dans les sociétés de l’Europe moderne*, 2009, p. 92; Füßli 1771; Michaud, *s.v.* Leschevin; Wildenstein 1921, p. 65

Salon critiques

Anon., Exposition, Place Dauphine, *L’Avant-Coureur*, 29.vi.1767, p. 403:

Mademoiselle Sprote réussit également dans le Pastel, & dans la Miniature.

Junius, Exposition, Place Dauphine, 1767, *Neue Bibliothek der schönen Wissenschaften und der freyen Künste*, v/1, 1767, p. 166:

Der Demois. Dore Köpfe haben viel Geist und Character: nicht weniger haben der Mdlle Sprote sowohl Pastell- als Miniaturgemälde gefallen.