

**SWAGERS, Mevr. Frans, née
Élisabeth-Geneviève Mérie**

Paris c.1775–12.VI.1837

Recorded in most secondary sources as Méri, but *recte* Mérie (Mery and Merij also appear). Painter, draughtsman and miniaturist; pupil of Pajou, Labille-Guiard and Augustin; professeur de dessin at Écouen. She married the Dutch landscape and animal painter Frans Swagers or Zwagers (1756–1836) from Utrecht at Paris, Saint-Laurent, 26.V.1789 (her name was entered as Merie; the date suggests that her birth may well have been earlier than the c.1775 given by Schidlof, but her youngest child was born in 1808); they must have moved to Utrecht soon after, as a daughter, Elisabet Paulina, was baptised on 12.VII.1790 (Het Utrechts Archief). They returned to live in Paris (his carte de sûreté gives his addresses as faubourg Saint-Denis, then rue d'Orléans in the 18 months up to 18.X.1792 when it was issued). Subsequently she taught drawing at the Maison d'éducation de la Légion d'honneur at Écouen, and set up her own drawing school. A son, Charles (1792–), was professor of painting at Dieppe in 1840. Among her daughters Caroline Swagers was also an artist; Zoé-Charlotte was born in Paris, 28.VIII.1808, and Élisabeth-Pauline was married in 1816. The Zuylen pastel may be a copy after La Tour; the uncertainty in the identification is exacerbated by the confusion over dates and ages and lack of clear resemblance with the likely candidates. Some chalk drawings and miniatures are recorded.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Schidlof 1964–65

Pastels

J.703.101 Pierre-Joseph BOUDIER DE VILLEMERT (1716–1801), avocat au parlement de Paris, journaliste, dessiné par Mlle ÉL. Mérie
~grav. Willemin. Lit.: Jules Renouvier, *Histoire de l'art pendant la révolution*, Paris, 1863, p. 212 n.r.

J.703.103 ?Willem Rene van TUYLL van Serooskerken, heer van Zuylen en Westbroek (1743–1839), lid en president Utrechtse Ridderschap, gedeputeerde ter vergadering van H. H. M., lid Eerste Kamer der Staten-Generaal [*olim* ?Hendrik Willem Jacob van Tuyll van Serooskerken (1713–1800)], pstl, 44x37, sd *verso* “peinte par El. G. Mecie/femme Swagers/1790”, inscr. *verso* “Wh. J. van Tuyll van Serooskerken/lyyt. generaal van de cavelery/coliepropatair (?) van een reg. Ruyters/1790” (Slot Zuylen, inv. S22). Lit.: Staring 1947, ?cop. a/r La Tour; Dubois & Dubois 1993, p. 226 repr., as of H. W. J. van Tuyll; Goes & de Meyere 1996, no. 128, repr. pp. 107, 116; rKD repr. p. 8



J.703.105 Jeune femme au foulard bleu, pstl, 28x22.5 ov., sd ✓ “Elisa/Swagers 1823” (Paris, Cornette de Saint-Cyr, 24.V.2000, Lot 18 n.r., est. ff5–7000, b/i)