

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

VOLAIRE, Jacques-Antoine, chevalier

Toulon 1729 – Naples a.1802

Jacques-Antoine (as he often signed), or Pierre-Jacques (as he appears on his baptismal record), Volaire, or Volère, trained in the family workshop in Toulon, set up by his father – a painter originally from Nantes, believed to be Jacques-Auguste Volaire (1685–1768). After working as an assistant to Joseph Vernet, who came to Toulon in 1754 to paint the ports of France, Volaire travelled to Rome around 1763, becoming a member of the Accademia di San Luca. He specialised in landscapes and, after his move to Naples in 1767, in views of Vesuvius. The popularity of his nocturnal pictures was no doubt enhanced by the eruption of 1771. Among the confusions about this artist are the two *Marines*, medium unspecified, offered for sale at the Salon de Toulouse in 1752, which Mesuret suggests may be the pastels at Agen; if so they may be by the father.

Bibliography

Émilie Beck-Saiello, *Le Chevalier Volaire: un peintre français à Naples au XVIII^e siècle*, Naples, 2004; Émilie Beck-Saiello, *Pierre Jacques Volaire: 1729–1799*, Paris, 2010; Bellier de La Chavignerie & Auvray; Bénézit; Grove; Mesuret 1972; Paris 2005b; Sanchez 2004; Warsaw 2009

Pastels

Une Marine; & une autre Marine, m/u, Salon de Toulouse 1752, no. 35/36 (atelier de M. Volaire, à vendre)

=?Deux vues des bords de la méditerranée, groupe de pêcheurs; pstl, 52x64, s ✓ “A. Volaire”/“J.-A. Volaire” (Agen, hôtel de la préfecture. Château d’Aiguillon. Duc d’Aiguillon, château d’Aiguillon; vente 1790; acqu. duchesse d’Aiguillon, not paid; seized). Lit.: “Ancienne collection d’Aiguillon”, *Revue universelle des arts*, XIII, 1861, pp. 197f, “bien conservés, remarquables par la beauté des ciels”; *Inventaire général des richesses d’art de la France*, 1891, V, p. 286 n.r.; “Artistes de Toulon”, *Archives de l’art français*, X, 1894, p. 356 n.r.; Mesuret 1972, p. 28

Scène maritime, 53x65, s “J. A. Volaire” (Hermitage OR-18866). Exh.: St Petersburg 2001, no. 7 repr. Lit.: Каменская 1960, no. 22 repr. φ



Scène maritime, pstl/ppr, 53x65, s “J. A. Volaire”, 1774 (Hermitage OR-18867. Gostorg Office, Leningrad; acqu. 1929). Exh.: St Petersburg 2001, no. 8 repr. Lit.: Каменская 1960, no. 23 repr. φ



Quatre paysages & marines, bien peints, pstl, 54.1x65 (Paris, Chariot, Paillet, 30.XI.1778 & seq., Lot 177, ?divided into two sets of pendants; 394 livres; Olive)

Pêcheurs au bord de la mer, 2 pendants, pstl/ppr, 53.2x65, one s ✓ “J A Volaire” (Lady Cavendish. New York, Sotheby’s, 14.I.1992, Lot 99 repr./n.r., est. \$15–20,000, \$15,000) φ



Photo courtesy Sotheby's

Figures watching the eruption of Vesuvius at night (London, Bonhams, 8.VII.1993, circle) φ



Pêcheurs au clair de lune, pstl, 51.5x62, s ✓ “J. A. Volaire” (Paris, Drouot, Tajan, 26.XI.1996, Lot 196 repr., attr., est. fr20–30,000) φ



Sailors embarking for America; & pendant: Sailors returning from America, pstl, 53.5x63.5 (New York, Christie’s, 24.I.2001, Lot 130 repr., est. \$20–30,000, \$26,000) φ

