

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

WERTMÜLLER, Adolf Ulric

Stockholm 18.II.1751 – Delaware, USA
5.X.1811

The Swede Wertmüller was a pupil of Vien at the Académie royale in Paris from 1772 to 1775, under the protection of his cousin Roslin (he attended the funeral of Mme Roslin at Saint-Germain l'Auxerrois on 1.IX.1772, giving the same address as Roslin, rue des Petits-Champs). He followed Vien to Rome around 1775, returning in 1779. Between 1780 and 1782 he was in Lyon, before returning to Paris where he was *agrégé* 1783 and *reçu* 1786. He was named *peintre du roi de Suède* in 1787, but continued his travels – Bordeaux 1788–90; Madrid 1790; Cadiz 1791; Philadelphia 1793; New York 1797, returning briefly to Stockholm before resuming his American wanderings. Although Bénézit describes him as a pastellist, this is probably based on the copy of his *Marie-Antoinette et ses enfants*; no pastels by his hand have been identified with certainty (one plausible example appeared in 2025).



Bibliography

Bénézit; Benisovich 1956; Bordeaux 1989; Gaechtgens & Lugand 1988, p. 344; Grove; Herluisson 1873, *s.v.* Roslin; Laës 1921; Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Lundberg 1970a; Gunnar W. Lundberg, *Le Peintre suédois Adolf Ulric Wertmüller à Lyon, 1779–1781*, 1972; Ottawa 2003; Paris 1994a; Sanchez 2004

Pastels

J.786.071 Homme en habit bleu, pstl/pchm, 56x46 (New Milford, Connecticut, The Auction Barn, 28.IV.2025, Lot 228 repr., est. \$50–1000) [attr.] φαν



Anon. related pastels

MARIE-ANTOINETTE, reine de France (1755–1793), et ses enfants, pnt. (Stockholm 1996, R96,000)

J.786.101 ~cop., pstl/ppr, 191x132, inscr. √ “A. Wertmuller Svedois/Paris 1785” (London, Sotheby’s, 6.V.1964, as by Wertmüller, £1100. London, Phillips, 9.VII.2001, Lot 64 repr., est. £4–6000, £15,500) φσ