

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

CELLIER, Geneviève

Paris 1722–30.IV.1793

A Mlle Sellier (also Cellier), peintresse, was *reçue* 30.VIII.1773 by the Académie de Saint-Luc, her address given as chez M. Cochin, galeries du Louvre. She was evidently the Mlle Sellier, de l'Académie de Saint-Luc, au bain de la Seine, rue Guénégaud, près le Pont-Neuf, Paris recorded as the vendor of materials for the oil pastel procedure invented by Pellechet (*q.v.*). The 1773 address allows us to identify her with Cochin's cousin, Mlle Cellier, of whom we have only a little information (from four letters of Cochin to Descamps, .VII.1781, 18.III.1788, 31.VIII.1788, 20.IX.1789): she joined his household after the death of his mother in 1767, and seems to have taken over the business of selling his prints. In 1787 she broke her right arm near the shoulder, and a year later broke it a second time; this, together with the gout from which she suffered, made it very difficult for her to look after herself, much to Cochin's consternation; he employed Eisen's widow to take care of her.

She is very likely to be the Geneviève Sellier to whom Charles-Nicolas Cochin, cousin paternelle, was appointed tuteur in 1731, on the death of her father, Arnoult-Antoine Cellier, maître-sculpteur à Paris (she was the daughter of his first wife, Marie-Anne Boucher); she was then aged 9. Antoine's niece Marie-Anne, Mme Daniel Horthemels was Cochin's mother-in-law; the Horthemels and Cellier families were both prominent dynasties of booksellers in Paris, and were connected with several artists' families, notably the Tardieu and Belle.

Her death is given erroneously as 1789 in one source, but is given in her inventaire après décès, taken between 16.V.–24.VIII.1793 (AN MC/ET/XC) at the request of her aunt and sole heir, Jeanne-Francoise Bouché, veuve de Charles-Nicolas Hotin. There is nothing in the contents of the single room she occupied (in a house in the rue des Postes, section de l'Observatoire, of which the principal tenant was a Citoyen Maillard) to reveal her background beyond the list of annuities in the papers, in which Cochin's name figures. Evidence was given during the inventaire by Euphrosine-Josèphe Dilly, Mme Claude Chastin, described as Mlle Cellier's gouvernante.

A Mlle Cellier, 66 rue Saint-Honoré, was still supplying colours in 1805–7 (*Almanach du commerce*). She was presumably related to Louis Cellier (1740–p.1802), marchand de couleurs, rue Saint-Honoré, recorded as a commissaire de section in the *Almanach général du département de Paris pour 1791* and as a member of the Feuillants. Louis Cellier was no doubt the marchand de couleurs recorded in the *Tablettes*, 1786 “vis-à-vis rue Neuve des Bons-Enfants, les couleurs et les vernis pour les peintres et le bâtiment.” He was recorded there as occupant again in 1788 (when the building was no. 563 rue Saint-Honoré) and 1798 (renumbered to no 6 from 1791 on).

Bibliography

Chatelus 1991, p. 70f; Guiffrey 1915; S. Frère, “Charles-Nicolas Cochin le fils”, *Précis analytique des travaux de l'Académie des Sciences, Belles-lettres et*

Arts de Rouen, 1916, pp. 877ff; A.-M. Lottin, *Catalogue chronologique des libraires et des libraires-imprimeurs de Paris*, 1789; Michel 1993, pp. 103, 164; Registres de tutelles AN Y4472, Sellier 6.X.1731

GENEALOGIES [Cellier](#)