



Stipple-engraved portrait.

JEAN DOMINIQUE CASSINI II

Jean. Domin. Cassini. Geb. d.30 June 1748 auf dem Observatorium zu Paris.

Author

WESTERMAYER, C[onrad] [after] CLESS, [Jean Henri]

Publication date

c1808].

Publisher

Friedrich Justin Bertuch,

Publication place

[Weimar,

Physical description

Stipple-engraved portrait.

Dimensions

140 by 90mm. (5.5 by 3.5 inches).

Notes

Jean-Dominique Cassini (1748 -1845) was the last in the line of prominent French astronomers originating with his great-grandfather, also named Jean-Dominique Cassini. Born at the Paris Observatory, Cassini was raised to be an astronomer. In 1770, Cassini published an account of a voyage to America that he had undertaken 1768 in order to test Pierre Le Roy's watches at sea. In 1783, he made a proposal to the Royal Society for a trigonometric survey connecting the

observatories of Paris and Greenwich for the purpose of better determining the latitude and longitude of the latter. His proposal was accepted, and the results of the subsequent Anglo-French Survey were published in 1791. As well as fulfilling his inherited role as director of the observatory, Cassini also completed his father's map of France, which served as the basis for the 'Atlas National' (1791), showing France in departments. Hostilities from the National Assembly led to Cassini's resignation in 1794 before a seven-month stint in prison, from which he luckily escaped with his head.

Cassini appeared alongside some of his forebears in an issue of Zach and Bertuch's 'Allgemeine geographische Ephemeriden' in 1808, with his portrait similar engraved by Westermayer after Cless. Showing Cassini is a short powdered wig with ponytail, and smartly dressed with a lace cravat, the engraving also notes his date and place of birth.

Bibliography

Provenance

Price: £300

Inventory reference: 17731