

# Giovanni Antonio Carosio

## (Carossio, Carrosio, Carosi, Carisi)

Italian painter  
(c.1606-1667)

Born in Genoa around 1606, there is no news about his training and his first activity. Probably when he was very young he moved to Rome where his name is mentioned in a document dated 1628, when a complaint was filed against him by the painter Nicolò Bizesi.

A payment dated 1631 testifies to his participation of him in the works in St. Peter's in the Vatican; it is not known exactly what Carosio has painted, since the document speaks generically of "painting for the altar under the altar of Sant'Andrea" (therefore for the Vatican crypt) for which Gian Lorenzo Bernini received 620 scudi, to be shared among the various artists who had taken part in that decoration: Carosio was entitled to 60 scudi.

Around 1632 he married the Genoese Girolama (b. in 1616) and in the family status of 1656 is remembered as poor, living in via Condotti with nine children aged between 22 and 2. A member of the Congregation of Virtuosi al Pantheon, Carosio is also registered among the academics of S. Luca starting from 1628. From documents in the archive of the Academy, his participation in the activities and sessions of the Academy is testified since 1630. On 28 Dec. 1640 his name was proposed for election as principe, but he was not elected; on May 28, 1645 he was appointed assistant; in the meeting of 15 Nov. 1654 he was chosen to be elected rector for the following year, but he did not get a sufficient vote. His name is still remembered until March 12, 1656. In 1657 Carosio dated and signed the fresco depicting the Assumption of the Virgin in the dome of the chapel of the Madonna delle Grazie, in the church of S. Rocco.

This work, which was erroneously assigned by the sources generically to a "son" of , was subsequently considered performed by a hypothetical Anselmo Carosi. The restoration of the fresco, bringing to light the signature, has definitively canceled the error and has, at the same time, returned to the attention of the critics an otherwise unknown personality, but undoubtedly interesting for the cultural developments in Rome around the middle of the century, of the classical component of Emilian taste.

The sources also attributed to the painter a painting of the Death of St. Joseph painted for the chapel of the same name in the Pantheon. Carosio dictated his will on 1 February 1667 and presumably died in Rome shortly after this date. The artist is also remembered as an engraver.

by Antonella Pampalone - Biographical Dictionary of Italians - Volume 20 (1977)

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