

Lorenzo Greuter

Italian painter
(1620-1668)

Son of Johann Friedrich and Virginia Bucci, he was born in Rome on April 17. 1620. Unlike his father and grandfather, both engravers, he was a painter; but his personality is little known due to the limited number of works identified.

He lived with his paternal family in the parishes of S. Marcello and S. Eustachio until 1642 and again in 1650, while there is no information on where he resided in the years 1643-49. It has been suggested that he stayed in Naples from 1634 to 1649. In 1654 he was already enrolled in the Academy of S. Luca and the following year he too entered the Congregation of Virtuosi al Pantheon. In the first institution he was chamberlain from 1667 to his death.

He married Francesca Morelli (about 1655) with whom he lived in via Laurina, in the parish of S. Maria del Popolo; with her he had his sons Giuseppe, Nicola Basilio (born in 1658) and Antonia Martina (born in 1661). He was left a widower in 1661.

To date, the only known pictorial works are the frescoes in the church of S. Maria Porta Paradisi, whose exact chronology has been ascertained on the basis of unpublished documents. This building, annexed to the hospital of S. Giacomo al Corso, benefited from an important testamentary bequest of the doctor M. Caccia (died in 1644) which allowed the decoration of the entire interior, completed well after 1645, as is commonly believed, when PP was paid Naldini, author of the frescoes in the dome. In fact, in 1659 Greuter painted the two side frescoes of the main chapel, depicting the Birth and Presentation of Mary, and had 40 scudi. In 1662, for an amount of 62 scudi, in the central room of the church he frescoed the four lunettes with stories of the Virgin and two over doors, where he faked two funeral monuments in monochrome, with reclining figures and pairs of cherubs, to visually balance the two existing monuments above the other two doors.

Most likely in 1658 he participated in the construction of the apparatus for the canonization of St. Tommaso da Villanova, working on the banners displayed in the apse of S. Pietro with Greuter Brandi and F. Biani.

Recent documents clarify that Greuter did not work in the church of S. Lorenzo in Lucina, as stated by some ancient guides.

Greuter died in Rome on May 30, 1668. At the time of his death, the inventory of his possessions recorded in his house over forty paintings, partly sketches, probably works by him, mainly of sacred subjects, but also with allegorical themes and still lifes. The presence of some expensive furnishings, such as wallpaper with corami, suggests a decent economic level of life.

by Maria Barbara Guerrieri Borsoi - Biographical Dictionary of Italians - Volume 59 (2002)

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