# François de Troy

**François de Troy** (9 January 1645 – 21 November 1730) was a French painter and engraver who became principal painter to King James II in exile at Saint-Germain-en-Laye and Director of the Académie Royale de peinture et de sculpture.

## Contents


**Early life**
**Career**
**Work**
**References**
**Notes**
**Gallery**
**External links**


## Early life

One of a family of artists, Troy was born in Toulouse, the son of Antoine Troy (28 July 1608 (baptised) - 15 September 1684), a painter in that city,[3] and Astrugue Burdes. François Troy and was the brother of the painter Jean de Troy (4 April 1638 - 25 June 1691).[3] Troy was taught the basic skills of painting by his father, and perhaps also by the more worldly Antoine Durand.[3][4]

François de Troy is not to be confused with his son, the portrait painter Jean-François de Troy (1679–1752), who studied under him.[5]

## Career

At some time after 1662, Troy went to Paris to study portrait painting under Claude Lefèbvre (1633–1675) and Nicolas-Pierre Loir (1624–1679).[6] A. P. F. Robert-Dumesnil states that this occurred when Troy was aged twenty-four.[2]

In 1669, Troy married his master Nicolas-Pierre Loir's sister-in-law, Jeanne Cotelle.[6]

In 1671, he was approved (*agréé*) by the Académie Royale de peinture et de sculpture. In 1674, he was received into the Academy as a history painter, with a reception piece (*morceau de réception*) entitled *Mercure coupant la tête d'Argus* ('Mercury cutting off the head of Argus').[2][6]

Troy's early known works include tapestry designs for Madame de Montespan, one of the many mistresses of Louis XIV of France, and paintings with religious and mythological subjects.[6]

In the 1670s, he became friendly with Roger de Piles, who introduced him to Dutch and Flemish painting, and after the death of Claude Lefebvre in 1675, Troy changed his direction to become a portrait artist, aiming at commissions from Lefebvre's former clients. In 1679 he was commissioned to paint a portrait of the Swedish ambassador Nils Bielke, and in 1680 that of Maria Anna Victoria of Bavaria, shortly after her marriage to Louis of France, Dauphin of France, the heir to the French throne, on 7 March 1680.[6] Troy became a successful painter of fashionable single and group portraits.[6] His clients included Madame de Montespan, her son by the king, Louis Auguste, Duke of Maine, and his wife Louise Bénédicte de Bourbon.[6]

As a result of such commissions, Troy was able to work continuously in court circles for almost fifty years. He was admired for his ability to capture the upper classes and their preoccupation with manners and fashion.[6] Perhaps more importantly, he was said to have the ability to make any woman look beautiful, which made him sought after by all women.[7]

In the 1690s, Troy became the principal painter to the court of King James II in exile at Saint-Germain-en-Laye, where he was the master of Alexis Simon Belle.[8]

By the years 1698 to 1701, a period of peace between France and Great Britain, Jacobites could cross the English Channel carrying portraits of James Francis Edward Stuart and his sister Princess Louisa Maria. Troy was then James II's only court painter and needed the help of Belle, his best student, to produce the many portraits commissioned from him.[8]

In 1698, he was appointed a Professor of the Académie Royale, and in 1708 became its Director.[9]

Troy was an engraver as well as a painter. Among his engravings is one of the funeral in 1683 of Maria Theresa of Austria, the wife of King Louis XIV.[2]

Apart from his son, Jean-François, Troy's other students included André Bouys[2] and John Closterman.

He died in Paris at the age of eighty-five.[2]

**François de Troy**

François de Troy by his student Alexis Simon Belle

| | |
|---|---|
| **Born** | François de Troy<br>9 January 1645<br>Toulouse, France[1] |
| **Died** | 21 November 1730<br>Paris[1] |
| **Nationality** | French |
| **Known for** | Painter |
| **Patron(s)** | Courts of James II of England and James Francis Edward Stuart in exile, French court |