

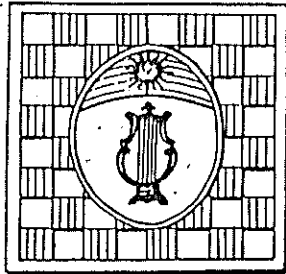
ASSUMED PORTRAIT OF FRANCOIS ANDRE DANICAN PHILIDOR  
2-1/8"h x 1-3/4"w 5.8 cm x 4.4 cm  
in blue velvet case

Attribution is INCORRECT. See letter dated November 8, 1988 to Mrs. Alice N. Loranth from M. Jean-Francois Dupont-Danican, a descendant of the Philidors, and General Secretary of La Société d'Etudes Philidoriennes, Paris:

"There is nothing in this face bearing the features of members of the family, features which still exist in several offspring."

Discourage researchers from attributing Portrait to Philidor in publications.

PHILIDOR  
 D'ÉTUDES I  
 SOCIÉTÉ ENNES



Siège Social:

63 Bd Raspail - 75006 Paris

Mrs Alice N. Loranth, Head Fine Arts and  
 Special Collections Department.

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La Mailleraye sur Seine FRANCE

Paris, le

Dear Mrs Loranth,

It is from a letter sent by a Mr Lucas Bernard (or Bernard Lucas) that I have your address. This young gentleman is a keen collector of chess items, as I suppose, from what M. Georgy, one of our administrators has told me. It is all about a miniature published in THE WORLD OF CHESS, by A. Saïdy and N. Lessing. As soon as we had the book in hand, that is some years ago, we tried to explain to the Editors that the portrait published at page 79 had nothing to do, absolutely nothing, with my ancestor EA. Danican, Philidor, of whom we know so many other portraits. The Editors could not say much, or refused to give explanations. I understand, from what the young gentleman says that a M. John G. White bought it. We suppose there is an inscription mentioning the name of Philidor at the back of the miniature, but when one knows the family was composed of many people at the time, one can imagine it is the portrait of one of them. The only thing I can say, is: There is nothing in this face bearing the features of members of the family, features which still exist in several offspring. My own paternal grand-mother, who was the last of the family by name (together with a bachelor cousin now deceased) had the same profile, her father and uncles too, who were the sons of the eldest son of the Chess Player. That is to say I can say what these features were. There are young members of the family, of whom we say: She is, or he is, a real Philidor! A fair complexion, blue eyes, round face, rather fair hair, and a very special little nose. This nose can be seen on all portraits of Philidor, except one by Bartholozzi, where the artist has not insisted on this particular feature, may be to please the Chess-player. Another thing: The young man represented on this miniature has the hair and a mode of vestment posterior to the time of Philidor's life. Certainly the last portrait of Philidor is what you can see on page 74, a very cruel caricature, but so real! I understand this drawing is dated 1814, but it represents a scene of 1794. Cruiksbank, the author must have done it with sketches from his father, who was a good drawer himself. The room is the same as page 78. In 1814, the Club had ceased to exist. In 1795, that was the end. And Philidor died soon afterwards, he was 69 years of age.

I hope you will excuse this long dissertation, but when you look at other portraits of Philidor, you cannot hesitate, comparing with the miniature on page 79. This major error had to be denounced, and editors should be more careful. I note that they did not recognise the Chess Player, on the caricature. Everybody here found it so real, and my wife exclaimed it was so much like my own father's brother, the 8th André in the family. André (or Andrew) is the reference to our Scottish forebears.

CHES PLAYERS (INDIVIDUAL)  
 PHILIDOR, ANDRE DANICAN

We have kept many souvenirs of Philidor in our family, his chess board and pieces, musical partitions and 138 autograph letters. His portrait, a sculpted by Pajou is the best testimonial of his features; Pajou being a friend of his and practically the best sculptor of his time, with Houdon.

We have founded a philidorian Society with two well known musicologists as President and Vice-President, the Honorary president being the best known musicologist in France. There is a representation of the Chess World and several members of the family in different branches, those who were really interested in the history and works of the numerous Philidors (14 musicians of whom 7 were composers). This society is interested in publishing what we think necessary and promote the playing of the music. We were glad to learn an editor had re-printed the Analysis of Chess, and he invited members of the Comité to the launching of the book. They had chosen the 1803 edition, because it was the nearest to the 1790 edition (the last one revised by Philidor) but made in modern (algebraical) notation. It is only 16x11 cm (the 1777 edition, which was Philidor's own copy, is 20x12 1/2 cm.) If you are interested it is published by J.J. Pauvert and Neumann 2bis rue Hénard 75014 Paris (Ph. 45.41.36.46). It is in the form of a pocket-book and is cheap. Fortunately there are coloured plates and lettering (green and red). The original had been printed in Strasbourg by J.A. Fischer and sold by A. König in Strasbourg and Paris in 1803.

As the general secretary of the Société d'Etudes Philidoriennes, I am ready to give you all information you want. I have already published 5 numbers of a Chronique Philidorienne for family members only, we are numerous now, but all in female line. Being the nearest relative (next of kin) to the Chess Player, I feel I should do so. One of our administrators is a US citizen, Dr C.M. Carroll, from St Petersburg, Florida. His thesis for his doctorate was on Philidor and we consider him as an authority on the subject, as he has read everything about his subject and studied all the music in a professional way. His address is 1701 80th Street North - ST Petersburg, Florida 33710.

Hoping to hear you are interested in the subject, I am sincerely yours

J. P. DUPONT-DANICAN

*K.B. I am reading some portraits included in this letter.*

Lucas Bernard  
22,rue Jean Jaurès  
02100 Saint Quentin

Mrs Alice,

Thank you for your answer, United States are a key in knowledge of  
Philidor: -the only book about Philidor was "The life of Philidor",George Allen  
Philadelphie 1858

-CM Carrol wrote a thesis:"Philidor,his life and dramatic art (univ.  
Florida 1960)

The latter is the best specialist of Philidor,he meet several times Mr Dupont-  
Danican (his adress):

Cdt Jean- François Dupont-Danican  
Le Torps  
76940 La Mailleraye sur Seine  
FRANCE

( Tel. 35.37.10.90)

I wrote to Mr Dupont-Danican about this miniature portrait.His answer was:  
-He is a youg man end XVIII or beginning XIX,at that date, Philidor was old.  
-The man on the portrait has a long face and a straight nose.Philidor had a baby  
face and a turned up nose ,like all descendings of Philidor.

It's clear that it is not a portrait of Philidor,then,why was it purchased  
by Mr Jhon G. White ? an engraving in your collection from the sporting magasine  
1794 " Philidor playing blindfold at Parsloe's" show Philidor with a long face,  
like the miniature portrait...

The real look of Philidor in 1794 was Georges Cruikshank's caricature (1814)  
Curiously, Georges Cruikshank was born in 1792 in London,but his father,Isaac  
Cruikshank was a famous caricaturist in 1796.

Mr Dupont-Danican has recognised the features of the older brother of his  
father,his legs were swelled by gout,his clothers are blue,white and red,like  
french patriots in England in 1794,he had no teeth and wore a wig.

Much more data than the portrait,the two are tied;What was the real look of  
Philidor ? the best representation is a bust by Pajou in 1783.

Mr Dupont-Danican would certainly help you to indentific some documents, he was  
depository of letters of Philidors and other recollections.  
He has founded an association "Societe d'études Philidoriennes." and can read  
in english tongue.

I am a lover of history of chess ,almost Philidor because he his unknowed;  
have you a catalogue of illustrations and a photo service ?

Sincerely yours



PHILIDOR, FRANÇOIS ANDRÉ DANICAN

CARTE COMMÉMORATIVE  
FESTIVAL EUROPE-ÉCHECS  
Le Havre 1966



CHESSPLAYERS (INDIVIDUAL)

PHILIDOR, FRANÇOIS ANDRÉ DANICAN

(Rec'd from J. F. Dupont-Danican, a descendant of the Philidors,  
Sec. Gen. of La Société d'Études Philidoriennes, Paris,  
Nov. 28, 1988)