

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

BECKWITH, Thomas

Rothwell, near Leeds 1731 – York 1786

Yorkshire genealogist and antiquary, draughtsman and occasional portraitist in oils of “indifferent” quality according to Waterhouse. The *Morning chronicle*, 1.VIII.1781 recorded “a grant to Thomas Beckwith, of York, Painter, for his new-invented method of making crayons.” (The patent no. 1301 was issued on 28.VII.1781 for “making crayons for drawing and other purposes”.) It is not known if he used them, but his crayon pencils were licensed to George Riley (*q.v.*). A description of these appears in the *Chelmsford chronicle*, 30.IX.1785, noting their suitability for painting on various surfaces from vellum and paper to silk or gauze, with no danger of mould or damage from rubbing. Sets were priced at £1 11s. 6d.

Bibliography

Waterhouse 1981