

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

BONINGTON, Richard

Nottingham 1768 – London 1835

Bonington succeeded his father as governor of Nottingham county gaol in 1789, but resigned in 1797 to devote himself to art, becoming a drawing teacher and portrait painter. He made numerous oil or pastel portraits of prominent persons in Nottingham from 1797 on, exhibiting at the Royal Academy in 1797 and 1808 and at the Liverpool Academy in 1811 and 1813. He married Eleanor Parkes of Birmingham at St Paul's, Covent Garden in 1801; their son was the well-known artist Richard Parkes Bonington (1802–1828). Richard Bonington and his wife ran a girls' school and an artists' suppliers in Nottingham until in 1817 economic distress forced them to move to Calais where they set up a lace-making factory, moving to Paris before returning to England.

Bibliography

AKL; Bénézit; Robert Mellors, "Richard Parkes Bonington", *Transactions of the Thoroton Society*, XIII, 1909; Oxford DNB