

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

FIELDING, Nathan Theodore

Sowerby, near Halifax 1747 – 1819

In the *Leeds intelligencer*, 4.III.1783, appeared a prominent advertisement from “N. T. Fielding, History, Portrait, and Landscape Painter in OIL and CRAYONS”, informing the people of Leeds and its vicinity of his availability, promising “correctness and elegance”, offering to match the low prices of competitors, “so that he will engage to do PORTRAITS at any Price from *Five Shillings to Twenty Guineas*, both inclusive.” Sign painting and apprenticeships were also offered, while specimens of his work might be seen “at his house in Kirkgate, three doors below the End of Call-Lane”.

Fielding had already exhibited at the Free Society, showing a “dog’s head” in chalk in 1776. The address given, Mr Leignes’ Northumberland Street, was that of the watchmaker whose two children, John and Magdalen (*q.n.*), exhibited as prodigies in the same year. Perhaps Fielding had a hand in their training.

On 16.III.1780 Fielding married Betty Barker, in Rochdale. The birth in Halifax of a son, Anthony VanDyke Copley Fielding (1787–1855), may indicate influences on his father. Four more sons all became artists.

Waterhouse has more on this portrait and landscape painter, including a somewhat provincial oil self-portrait; he progressed from the precise portraiture of old subjects, for which he was called “the English Denner”, to the genre of landscape, in which he was followed by four sons. He was based in London from 1788, exhibiting at the Society of Artists in 1791. By 1804 he was in Keswick and from c.1807 Liverpool. No pastel is known.

Bibliography

Foskett 1987; Oxford DNB; Waterhouse 1981