

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

BROCKMER, John

fl. Bath, London 1758–75

Miniaturist working in Bath, where he advertised in the *Bath journal*, 25.IX.1758 and the *Bath chronicle*, 16.X.1758, offering to sell his “small collection of pictures done by an eminent hand, chiefly fancy pieces...brought here by John Brockmer, Miniature Painter...to be seen at his lodgings at Mrs Guest’s in the Abbey Green where portraits are painted for bracelets”. Between 1762 and 1776 he exhibited at the Society of Artists from London addresses, and he advertised repeatedly in various newspapers. This notice—

MINIATURE PAINTING performed in a very elegant manner, and striking likenesses for enamel pieces, bracelets, rings &c., by J. BROCKMER, at the Golden-head, seven doors below York-street, in Bridges-street, near Katharine-street, in the Strand. Also in crayons on reasonable terms.

appeared in the *Gazetteer and new daily advertiser*, 3.VII.1765; and was repeated *St James’s chronicle*, 23.I.1765. He was still at the same address in 1770, but in 1772 he was back in Bath. By 2.II.1775 he reappeared in the *Gazetteer and new daily advertiser*, noting that he was “recovered from his long indisposition”. The advertisements cease in 1776.

Walpole described one of his miniatures as very bad. No pastel is known.

John Brockmer married a Ann Hankinson on 10.VII.1735 at St Sepulchre, Holborn. Their son, also John, was born 19.VI.1742 and baptised 24.VI.1742 later at their home in Salisbury Court according to Moravian service, and recorded the following day at the Fetter Lane chapel. These records describe the father as a “gold watch-chaser” and name him fully as John Paul Brockmer. The younger John, who also appears as John Paul Brockmer in later records, married twice, in Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire in 1771 and 1784, and died in 1804, but the miniaturist was surely his father. The death was announced in the *Gazetteer and London daily advertiser*, in Rolls-buildings, Chancery Lane, of “the wife of Mr Brockmer, an eminent miniature painter” (13.V.1759); she was evidently the “Anne Brockmer of St Dunstons” (the parish in which Rolls-buildings was situated), buried 13.III.1759 in St George’s, Bloomsbury.

The Moravian connection allows us to identify the artist as the host of Emanuel Swedenborg in London in 1744. John Wesley later recorded some anecdotes about Swedenborg’s eccentric behaviour which he had from Brockmer himself.

Brockmer’s dates remain unknown but it is likely that he was born c.1710 and died c.1776.

Bibliography

Keri Davies, *Swedenborgians in eighteenth-century London*, 2013; Foskett 1987; Nevill Jackson 1938; Index of Bath artists