

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

SPENCE, Byne, Mrs Thomas Beale

London bpt 18.XI.1716 – 26.VIII.1761

Byne Spence was the daughter of John Spence of South Malling and Ledbury Manor and his first wife, Byne Walker (c.1682–1721), the daughter of Sir George Walker, 1st Bt, of Bushey Hall and his wife, née Susannah Byne. Her brother was Luke Spence (1721–1800) married a daughter of Sir Thomas Frederick. In 1740 she inherited £3000 from her father's estate; the following year she with six siblings and half-siblings (issue of the second marriage of John and Gratiana) sued her brother Luke Spence (1716–1800; he married a daughter of Sir Thomas Frederick). At Dulwich College, 20.I.1742, she married Thomas Beale of Heath House, Lantwardine, Shropshire. His will of 1.VI.1773 was proved 10.II.1776. They had three children: Thomas, Henry and Byne, who married a John Oakley in Leintwardine, Hereford, 11.III.1773 and moved to Newry, Co. Down. (Thomas and Byne gave their address as Red Lion Street when they joined the Lilliputian Society in 1765.) She died 26.VIII.1761 and was buried in St Thomas's, Southwark on 2.IX.1761, as Binah Beale.

The 1911 exhibit is therefore a self-portrait (assuming the attribution is not simply a confusion with the sitter's maiden name); it is probably the pastel of her sold as by Cotes in 1901

Bibliography

National Archives; *Memorial Inscriptions, South Malling Church, Leves*

Pastels

J.6894.101 Mrs Thomas BEALE, in white dress, with bunch of flowers, pstl, 60x44, 1742 (London, Christie's, 14.XII.1901, Lot 18 n.r., as by Cotes, 28 gns; A. Smith. Miss Margaret P. Gould 1911). Exh.: Paris 1911, no. 157