

Archibald John Stuart Wortley 1849-1905

Archibald John Stuart Wortley was said to have the insight of an artist combined with the eye of a sportsman. This Victorian society man lived for painting and shooting, both occupations well suited to his family background.

Eton, Oxford and the Slade School of Art brought Archibald into contact with John Everett Millais whose informal pupil he became and who shared his passion for shooting.

Born in London in 1849, he was a frequent visitor to the country house of his parents, Wortley Hall, South Yorkshire and he attended events in South Yorkshire, notably Doncaster Races and talks at the Cutlers Hall Sheffield organized by Barnsley artist Ernest Moore.

He married actress Nelly Bromley in 1884 and his career flourished. He was in demand as a portrait painter and completed a portrait of W.G. Grace which still hangs in the Long Room at Lords cricket ground. Angered at the Royal Academy not welcoming portrait painters, he founded the Society of Portrait Painters in 1891. This is now the Royal Society of Portrait Painters.

Archibald died in 1905. His later years were less happy and artistically productive. Nelly survived him by thirty four years living on Lord Montagu's estate at Beaulieu.

copyright Barnsley Art on Your Doorstep 2024