

Farmer & Brindley 1851 - 1929

Farmer & Brindley was a firm of architectural and ornamental sculptors. It had its origins in a business established by William Farmer (1825-1879) in London, England in 1851. In 1869 William Brindley (1832-1919), who had worked as a stonecutter for the company for a number of years, became a partner.

In 1905 Farmer & Brindley became a private limited company. Their premises were located on Westminster Bridge Road in Lambeth, London.

Noble examples of the firm's work were architectural carving for the Albert Memorial in London (1863-69), for the University of Glasgow (1864-70), and exterior and interior decorative sculptures for St. Pancras Station, London (1868-77), commissioned by Sir George Gilbert Scott (1811-1878). Farmer & Brindley were Scott's most admired architectural sculptors and of Brindley he observed he is "the best carver I have met with and the one who best understands my views" [quoted in Read p. 265]

Other commissions on which Farmer & Brindley worked included statues for the exterior of Manchester Town Hall (1873) and relief sculptures of flora and fauna for the Natural History Museum in London (completed 1881), both commissioned by Alfred Waterhouse (1830-1905). They also created sculptures for the exterior of Bradford City Hall (1873). In the years following World War One, Farmer & Brindley received numerous commissions to carve war memorials throughout Britain, an outstanding example of which is the Great Eastern Railway War Memorial at Liverpool Street Station in London (unveiled in 1922).

Following Farmer's death in 1879, Brindley became the firm's sole partner. Farmer & Brindley ceased trading in 1929.

Worked in

UK

Works

See: [Historic England](#)

Bibliography

Armstrong, Barrie and Armstrong, Wendy. The Arts and Crafts movement in the North East of England: a handbook. Wetherby, England: Oblong Creative Ltd., 2013

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Brindley, William and Howe, J. Allen. 'Visit to Messrs. Farmer & Brindley's marble works: Saturday, March 13th, 1909'. Proceedings of the Geologists' Association vol.21, no.3, 1909 pp.166-167

Hardy, Emma. 'Farmer and Brindley: Craftsmen Sculptors 1850 - 1930'. Victorian Society Annual 1993 pp.4-1

Read, Benedict. Victorian Sculpture. New Haven & London: Yale University Press, 1982

Links

- Historic England - contains over 60 records of work by Farmer & Brindley
<https://historicengland.org.uk/sitesearch?searchType=site&search=Farmer%20Brindley&>
- Mapping the Practice & Profession of Sculpture in Britain & Ireland 1851-1951
https://sculpture.gla.ac.uk/mapping/public/view/organization.php?id=msib1_1246101417&
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Farmer_%26_Brindley
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Farmer_%26_Brindley
- Glasgow Sculpture Database
http://www.glasgowsculpture.com/pg_biography.php?sub=farmer-brindley
- GilbertScott.org <https://gilbertscott.org/farmer-and-brindley-1850-1937/>
- Victorian Web <https://victorianweb.org/sculpture/farmer/index.html>
- The National Archives
<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C3542135>
- Grace's Guide to British Industrial History
https://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Farmer_and_Brindley
- Westminster Cathedral
http://www.westminstercathedral.org.uk/tour_brindley.php
- Emma Hardy. 'Farmer and Brindley: Craftsmen Sculptors 1850 - 1930'. Victorian Society Annual 1993 pp.4-17
https://issuu.com/artcyprus/docs/farmer_and_brindleybw
- ART UK <https://artuk.org/discover/artists/farmer-and-brindley-active-18511929>
- Wikimedia Commons
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Farmer_and_Brindley