

**THREE ESSAYS ON ART HISTORY AND RESTORATION
IN A MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY BOOK BY
BRITISH ARTIST THEODORE FIELDING**

Fielding, Theodore. *T.H. Fielding on the Knowledge and Restoration of Oil Paintings: The Modes of Judging Between Copies and Originals: and a Brief Life of the Principal Masters in the Different Schools of Painting*. London: Ackerman and Co., 1847. Hardcover. 233 pages.

Three essays on art history, connoisseurship, and restoration by British artist and professor Theodore Henry Adolphus Fielding (1781-1851). The essays are entitled “On the Knowledge and Restoration of Old Paintings”, “The Modes of Judging Between Copies and Originals”, and “A Brief Life of the Principal Masters in the Different Schools of Painting”. In the mid-nineteenth century, when Fielding was teaching art at the East India Military Seminary at Addiscombe, the fields of art connoisseurship and restoration were in their infancies, and art history was not yet recognized as a legitimate field of study separate from art in British academia. This would have made Fielding, who also wrote other works on these subjects, something of a pioneer in this area. The book has dark green board covers with embossed borders gilt lettering. It is in good condition for its age, though the spine strip is completely gone and the book is coming unbound. It comes in a later protective case. The volume was signed by an unidentified person (not the author) in 1920.

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