

Thomas Bewick



Bewick became the greatest wood engraver in England. He was born at Cherryburn & apprenticed to Ralph Beilby of Newcastle. His first work for Beilby included jobbing work such as bank notes, bill heads etc. Wood engraving was not a feature of the workshops as it was considered a crude form of art.

Bewick perfected his art on boxwood - a hard wood with a close grain which meant he could use metal engraving tools. After his apprenticeship finished, he set up work at Cherryburn. His most famous woodcut is probably that of the Chillingham Bull. In order to draw it one cold Easter in 1789, he had to find a young bull that had been bested by a rival. Moved to Gateshead in 1812 living firstly at Carr Hill and then on West Street.

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