

AGAINST THE GRAIN

AGAINST THE GRAIN: A PROJECT BY RUTH EWAN

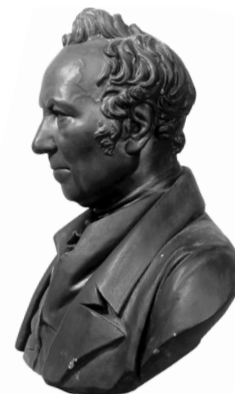
TCMIS SPENS

THOMAS SPENCE



TCMIS BUİK

THOMAS BEWICK



2017 Over 60,000 bodies exhumed in London for HS2 development, Spence is thought to be amongst them

2020

2000

1980

1960

1940

1920

1900

1890

1880

1884 Isabella, Bewick's daughter dies and the last of his belongings are sold off

1870

1860

1855

1850

1845 Chartists propose a statue of Spence for Newcastle's Monument

1845

1840

1835

1833 Slavery Abolition Act

1830

1828 Bewick dies

1825

1822 On holiday in Tynemouth, Bewick begins his memoir

1820

1820 The Cato Street Conspiracy

1819 The Peterloo Massacre

1818 Publication of *The Fables of Aesop*, and others, with designs by Bewick

1815

1817 Spencean clubs and societies outlawed by British Government

1816 Inspired the Spa Fields Riots. Referenced in The Bussa Rebellion of Barbados

1815 Society of Spencean Philanthropists formed

1814 Published *Giant Killer* or *Anti-Landlord*. He dies later that year

1810

1807 Abolition of the slave trade

1805 Produces *The World Turned Upside Down*, a world map with the hemispheres reversed

1805

1804 *A History of British Birds*, Vol. II *Water Birds* published

1800

1801 Imprisoned for seditious libel for *The Restoration of Society*, publishes *The Trial of Spence before Lord Kenyon*

1798 Arrested on suspicion of involvement with United Irishmen, publishes *The Constitution of a Perfect Commonwealth*

1797 Publishes *The Rights of Infants*. His son William dies

1796 Publishes *The Meridian Sun of Liberty* and *The Rights of Swine*

1794 Habeus Corpus suspended. Spence imprisoned for 7 months on charge of High Treason

1793 Spence opens his shop The Hive of Liberty and republishes *The Real Rights of Man*. Imprisoned three times that year

1792 Opens bookstall in Chancery Lane. Imprisoned for seditious libel

1791 Marries Ann Lambole

1790

1797 Publishes *A History of British Birds*, Vol. I *Land Birds*, partnership with Ralph Beilby ends

1794 Considers emigrating to the United States

1793 Newcastle Literary and Philosophical Society founded

1792 Signs the petition for the abolition of the slave trade

1790 Publishes *A General History of the Quadrupeds*. Moves workshop to 16 St Nicholas Churchyard

1785

1786 Marries Isabella Elliott

1785 Begins to cut 199 four-legged animal illustrations for the *General History of Quadrupeds*

1780

1778 Partners with Beilby and begins to plan a book on animals. Joins Swarley's Club AKA The Newcastle House of Lords

1777 Returns to Newcastle following 8 months in London

1776 Bewick's trip to Scotland, via Haydon Bridge where he spends two days with Spence

1775 Spence and Bewick together sign petition against the outbreak of American Revolutionary War

1770

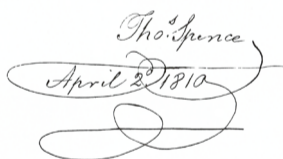
1771 Work picked up by children's book publisher Thomas Saint Newcastle

1765

1760

1750 Thomas Spence born Quayside, Newcastle

1753 Thomas Bewick born Cherryburn, Northumberland



Pigs' Meat newspaper

Employed as a school teacher in Newcastle

French Revolution

American Revolutionary War

Apprenticed to Ralph Beilby

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Against the Grain is a digital project by artist Ruth Ewan, commissioned by Newcastle University and National Trust working in partnership with the Bewick Society. A podcast, song and poster accompany these sleeve notes and can be found at ruthewan.com/againstthegrain

The project explores the friendship between Thomas Bewick and Thomas Spence who met in 18th century Newcastle. The podcast considers both men as innovative artists; one whose legacy was protected, the other whose ideas were obliterated. It invites listeners to refresh their image of Bewick as a political animal and discover the obscured figure of Spence, an essential and provocative voice from our past with currency in our present.

CREDITS

Against the Grain is commissioned by Newcastle University and National Trust working in partnership with the Bewick Society.

Against the Grain: written by Ruth Ewan featuring readings by Keeley Forsyth alongside extracts of interviews with Alastair Bonnett, Hamish Ewan Griffiths, Órla Fennessy, Rachel Hammersley, Norma Meers, Shamira Turner and Bob Browell, courtesy of the Bewick Society.

Thomas Spence: song by Ed Pickford, reimagined by Keeley Forsyth and Ross Downes

Sound design and editing: Ross Downes

Poster: Ruth Ewan based on work by Thomas Spence

Design and typography: Krusonian typeface and sleeve notes by Imogen Ayres

Digital design: Romulus Studio

IMAGES

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