

CUT IN *THE Hand Engravers Association* OF GREAT BRITAIN CLERKENWELL

Barry Green

Hand Engraver



Interviewed by Lucy Moseley
in Barry's home in Rayleigh, Essex
19 October 2012

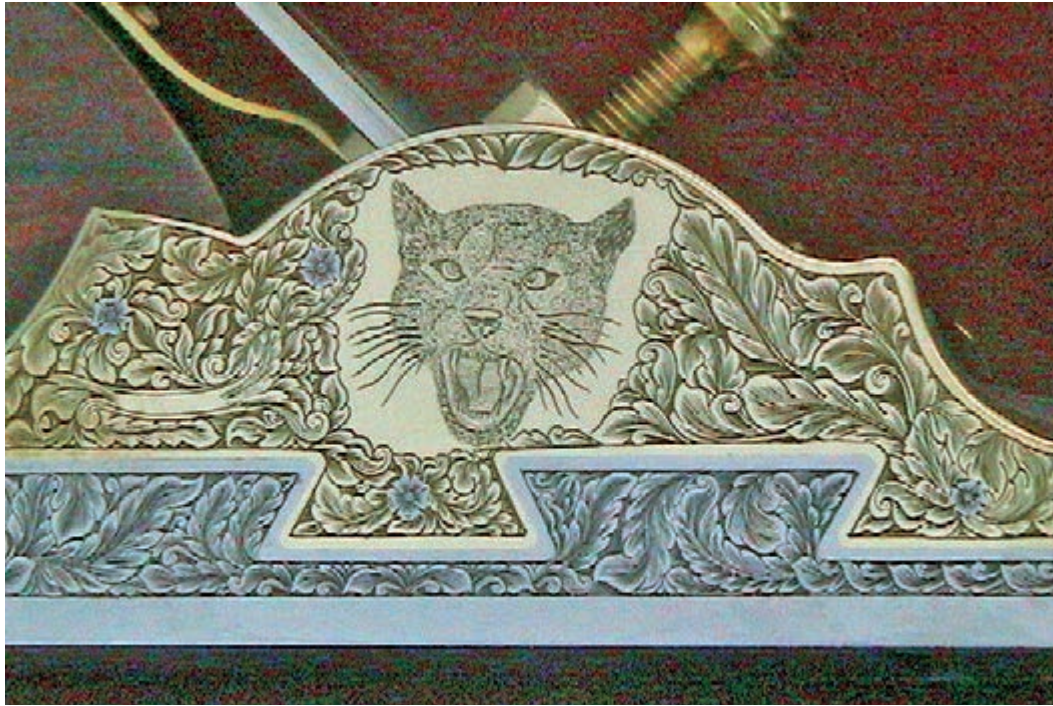
Statement

'I have been engraving for about ten years and was taught my craft by Wayne Parrott when he was head of the Engraving Department at London Guildhall University (previously the Sir John Cass School of Art and now London Metropolitan University). I am qualified to National Diploma and City and Guilds standards and also have various awards from: J J Bergin, the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths, the British Jewellers' Association and David Morris. I have also worked for the prestigious gun makers Holland & Holland. I now run my own engraving studio and work predominantly on shotguns (scroll, acanthus leaf and carving). I also take on other commissions in jewellery and silverware as well as engraving on more down to earth items. Some of my work is on permanent exhibition in North America. I have also had work exhibited in Russia and Abu Dhabi.'

Barry Green



Battle honours engraved on the steering wheel of HMS Indefatigable



A wood plane engraved for Mr Sindlar, a furniture producer.
Five of these, engraved by Barry, are on permanent display in Ohio



Milk churn engraved for display on a 1936 horse-drawn milk float
which was part of the Golden Jubilee procession for the Queen in 2012



Two examples of Barry's work made for the Paperweight Collection, as part of Cut in Clerkenwell project 2012 -13

Date and place of birth and early years:

24 June 1971 in Rochford, Essex.

Barry did not have any early awareness of hand engraving or art and craft in general but became interested later.

Where did you learn to hand engrave?

Barry began a silversmith and jewellery course in 1997 at London Guildhall University (now London Metropolitan University and previously the Sir John Cass School of Art) where he was first introduced to hand engraving.

Barry felt inspired to pursue engraving further by his teacher, Wayne Parrott, after completing his BND diploma and began an engraving course. After two years study Barry achieved a City and Guilds in Craft and Advanced Level Engraving.

Also inspired by engravers such as the Brown brothers and Ken Hunt, Barry felt drawn to gun engraving and took a job at Holland and Holland gun makers in 2000.

Barry then became self-employed and set about building up a client base from his home in Essex.

How have you passed on your knowledge and skills to others and to whom?

He has passed on his knowledge and skills to his niece Lianne Green and given some tuition to trainee engraver Lucy Moseley.

He has also helped the general public to learn more about engraving both at gun shows and at the Cut In Clerkenwell workshops and exhibition organised by the Hand Engravers Association of Great Britain and held at Craft Central in Clerkenwell in July 2012.

Types of hand engraving undertaken and materials worked on:

Barry is primarily a gun engraver but is pleased to undertake other types of commissions: he does new work; restoration work; and bespoke and unusual engraving.

He primarily works on steel but also engraves on precious metals.

As a gun engraver, Barry works on parts of guns, which are then assembled into the finished product by other professionals.

Memorable projects or collaborations with other engravers:

Barry has worked with many engravers whilst representing the engraving profession at gun shows including Duncan Baird-Murray, David Bedford, Harry Forster-Stringer, Steve Kelly and Simon Lytton.

Barry met Alan Craxford and teacher Wayne Parrott through the London Guildhall University.

He does most of his work alone from a luxurious home studio and occasionally undertakes joint projects with his niece Lianne Green.

He fondly recalls engraving a milk churn that was displayed on a 1936 horse-drawn milk float in Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee procession in 2012.

He is also proud of his engraving on a motorbike and on the steering wheel of HMS Indefatigable, which can be traced back to Nelson's fleet of ships.

What difficulties have you encountered? How did you overcome them?

Barry has encountered some difficulties in his career as a hand engraver, primarily finding a customer base when he was first starting out with his own business. He overcame this problem by writing letters offering his engraving services to gun companies and jewellers in nearby counties (Essex, London, Suffolk and Hertfordshire).

He introduces himself to prospective clients face to face both in the local area and at gun fairs around the country.

What motivates you to continue what you are doing?

Whilst working Barry says he thinks about little but the job at hand. He is usually just engrossed in the work and tries to enjoy it from start to finish.

He keeps his motivation up for engraving by thinking about the satisfaction of completing the job he is doing and knowing that he is creating something that will outlive him.

Have you received recognition? How and where?

He has won first prize awards from J J Bergin, the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths, the British Jewellers' Association and David Morris.

During 2010 he featured as artist of the month in the Shooting Times and has received mention for his engraving in the motorcycle magazine Back Street Heroes.

He has also restored a rifle which is due to be feature soon in Sporting Gun Magazine.

Looking back over your career would you join the profession again?

Looking back over his career Barry thinks he would definitely join the profession again.

Links now or in the past with the Clerkenwell and Hatton Garden areas. Have you trained, worked, had clients, exhibited and/or sold work in establishments in the area?

Barry has had clients in Clerkenwell and buys his tools from Hatton Garden.

Views or thoughts on the future of the hand engraving profession and on your particular area of hand engraving:

Barry feels that the Hand Engravers Association needs to continue to exist and thereby help ensure the future of the profession of hand engraving.

He thinks that there should be more training and public awareness of engraving and that it would be a good idea to reintroduce qualifications in hand engraving like those he was able to achieve.

However Barry thinks that high end work, and the future of gun engraving, is probably secure. He feels that technology has developed to help this kind of work and in particular sees his engraver's block and Gravermax as invaluable for gun work and steel projects.

He thinks the Steve Lindsay tool will prove useful in the future. This is a pneumatic graver which is good for steel and uses the pressure of the palm of the hand rather than a foot pedal.





Motorbike engraved by Barry 'Blessed by Demons', the name of the bike, is engraved in Latin on the engine, and 77, the name of Chris Ball's motorbike club division, on another part of the bike