



CUT IN
THE Hand Engravers Association
of GREAT BRITAIN
CLERKENWELL

Bradley Tallett

Engraver

Interviewed by Chris Rowley

Interview took place in March 2013

Now in his mid 30s, Brad Tallett is acknowledged to be one of the finest engravers in the country.

“I was born in 1975 and as a child was always drawing and painting, especially enjoying small detailed work. I also had an interest in firearms like my father and I had been encouraged to shoot from a young age. I did not realize that there would be a career that would encompass both of these interests until my father started engraving, firstly as a hobby and then professionally.

When I was fourteen, I started taking notice of what was on the gun rather than the gun itself. I remember being fascinated by a book of Italian gun engraving and was particularly taken with the engraving of Pedretti and Fracassi with their incredibly detailed bulino style engraving. When my father was taken on by Nigel Beaumont at James Purdey and Sons, I had the opportunity to see guns engraved by master engravers like Ken Hunt, Phil Coggan and the Brown brothers and at the age of fifteen I decided that I wanted to become an engraver. I started by doing practice pieces with instruction from my father and managed to get a five year apprenticeship at Purdey’s under Tim Rawson, training as a standard fine engraver, working along side my father for a while before he started working from home.

Whilst I was at Purdey’s, I had an excellent opportunity to study some of the finest engravings that had been executed at that time, and their designs and detailed execution inspired and enthused me. This style and level of engraving was not covered under my apprenticeship. So I began practicing in the evenings and at weekends trying to emulate the amazing engravings I had seen at work, my father would offer advice and most importantly constructive criticism. I also very luckily had one day a week at the Sir John Cass School of Art, attending an engraving class run by Wayne Parrott. This was the ideal environment to develop the more intricate and creative aspects of engraving under Wayne’s excellent guidance.

After four years of work and practice at the age of nineteen, Nigel Beaumont felt my work was of a sufficient quality and offered me the opportunity to work for Purdey’s from home on large scroll and game scene work, which for me was a dream come true.

Eighteen years on and I still love engraving, starting work at 6am and working through to 6pm week days. There is still much to learn and I constantly improve and refine my design and

execution. I do a wide variety of work from traditional through to very elaborate projects involving engraving, carving and gold work. I currently work for all the major Bespoke English gun making companies and have work scheduled years ahead."

Examples of Work



Engraving for sports gun for J. Purdey & Sons



Sporting Scene gun engraving for J. Purdey & Sons