



## TECHNICAL SKILLS TRAINING: SEAL ENGRAVING

The Hand Engravers Association of Great Britain is thrilled to announce its first workshop on the topic of seal engraving. There are no courses in seal engraving in the UK, so with thanks to generous support from partner the Goldsmiths' Centre and supporter The Radcliffe Trust, we have developed a community learning workshop to introduce line engravers to the skill of seal engraving.

### Seal Engraving



*Image: Seal engraved by Wayne Parrott*

Traditionally, a seal is a crest or coat of arms that has been negatively cut into precious metal or stone so that when impressed into wax it leaves a positive impression. Seals can be mounted onto wooden handles to make table seals, or there is a revival for seals to be engraved on gold signet rings. Seal engraving requires a different collection of tools and therefore skill set, from traditional line engraving. British hand engravers are some of the best in the world and it is crucial that we preserve this part of our heritage.

The Hand Engravers Association of Great Britain was formed in 2007 to raise the profile and preserve the skills of this specialist craft and its practitioners; encouraging apprenticeships, training courses, promotional events and academic research. It has been running beginners courses for over ten years and from 2019, with the support of the Goldsmiths' Centre, began to develop "focus" courses looking at particular specialisms within hand engraving. There are no seal engraving courses available in the UK. The Association is keen to ensure that these skills are passed on to the next generation. The availability of specialist tutors and Covid-19 restrictions has meant that it was not possible to organise a traditional format training course, however with help of master engraver **Wayne Parrott**, we have developed a unique training opportunity to introduce engravers to seal engraving on metal.



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The Hand Engravers Association is registered with the Charity Commission as  
Charitable Incorporated Organisation number 1175879

[www.handengravers.org.uk](http://www.handengravers.org.uk)

## Seal Engraving Workshop 4-8 April in London and 14 May 2022



*Hand Engraving Summer School participants at the Goldsmiths' Centre, 2019*

This training is aimed at those with at least some experience of line engraving, whether from a professional, apprentice/trainee or skilled amateur background. Students must be aged 16 or over and resident in the UK. It is not suitable for those who have not done any engraving.

Master engraver Wayne Parrott has developed learning resources and three step-by-step projects in seal engraving. He is unable to attend the Goldsmiths' Centre in person, so students will follow one of the step-by-step projects from 4-8 April 2022 at the Goldsmiths Centre under the guidance of Project Coordinator Anastasia Young and Workshop Assistant Andrew Ashcroft, who have both been working with Wayne to create the learning resources. The Goldsmiths' Centre has specialist facilities that students will be able to make use of during the week, including microscopes. The week will include a visit to a local seal engraving business and visits to the course by professional seal engravers. At the end of the week, we will send your engraved seals to Wayne for feedback. He will contact students individually to give constructive advice and support.

A course WhatsApp group for all participants and the Hand Engravers admin staff will be set up, on which participants can ask questions and share work. This will be active for six months after the course.

There is a maximum class size of seven students to enable us, as far as we can, to tailor the course to the needs and level of the students

After the week at the Goldsmiths' Centre, students will be asked to complete another seal engraving project in their own time at home, ready for the online Q&A session planned one month later on 14

May 2022. This course offers hybrid training; a blend of distance learning with the advantage of community working and learning from your peers.

## How to Apply

The course is generously supported by partner the Goldsmiths' Centre and supporter The Radcliffe Trust. Course fees are heavily discounted and only £100, which goes towards tools and materials. Students will need to bring their own square gravers and basic engraving equipment and other gravers and materials specific to the course will be provided which students can keep afterwards.

There are seven places and we ask applicants to complete a form, so that we can select students if the number of applicants exceeds the number of spaces available. Priority will be given to those already on an apprenticeship or training scheme in engraving, those who can show the positive impact the course will have on their career and those deemed most likely to continue seal engraving after the course. The form is available to complete online at <https://form.jotform.com/220416000146336>

For access purposes, if you require the application form in a different format, please email us at [info@handengravers.org.uk](mailto:info@handengravers.org.uk) and include your name and contact phone number and we will do our best to assist you.

Please apply as soon as possible and no later than **1 March 2022**. We will confirm places by the end of the week. Students must be members of the Hand Engravers Association at time of applying and during the course. Not a member? Joining or renewing takes minutes at [www.membermojo.co.uk/handengravers](http://www.membermojo.co.uk/handengravers) and memberships start from £30.

We are keen to encourage applications from backgrounds which are under-represented within the industry. If you have any questions about access within the application process or attending the course please get in touch with the Association Director, Sally Dodson [manager@handengravers.org.uk](mailto:manager@handengravers.org.uk)



*Signet ring with impression, engraved by Megan Rigby, apprentice at Rebus*