



A General History of Quadrupeds: The Figures Engraved on Wood

Thomas Bewick

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In the late eighteenth century, the British took greater interest than ever before in observing and recording all aspects of the natural world. Travelers and colonists returning from far-flung lands provided dazzling accounts of such exotic creatures as elephants, baboons, and kangaroos. The engraver Thomas Bewick (1753–1828) harnessed this newfound interest by assembling the most comprehensive illustrated guide to nature of his day.

A General History of Quadrupeds, first published in 1790, showcases Bewick's groundbreaking engraving techniques that allowed text and images to be published on the same page. From anteaters to zebras, armadillos to wolverines, this delightful volume features engravings of over four hundred animals alongside descriptions of their characteristics as scientifically understood at the time. *Quadrupeds* reaffirms Bewick's place in history as an incomparable illustrator, one whose influence on natural history and book printing still endures today.

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