



Eric Slater (1896-1963)

Coastguard Station, Cuckmere Haven (1940)

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Notes

Woodcut, ink on paper Eastg 1489

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Slater's printmaking was revered during his relatively short career, and much admired by Campbell Dodgson, then Keeper of Prints at the British Museum.

Born in London, Slater moved to Sussex at the age of eight. It is thought the print-maker Arthur Rigden Read (1879-1955) was his neighbour in Winchelsea and taught him how to make woodcuts. Rigden Read had been to Japan to study oriental woodcut techniques. Slater spent three years studying at Hastings School of Art, before settling in Seaford in 1929, where he lived for the rest of his life.

Between 1929 and the beginning of the Second World War he produced over 30 colour woodcuts. Slater was admired for his mastery of the woodblock technique and gained an international reputation, exhibiting in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and South Africa, as well as Europe. He was a member of the Society of Graver Printers in Colour and the Society of Print Makers of California.

The Sussex landscape provided inspiration for his work and he depicted many views of the south coast, its coastline, cliffs and seaports. His prints are characterised by a simple and harmonious style and colour scheme, which belie the technical virtuosity of the medium.

