



The Unknown History of Arching (part 1)....

I was asked the other day some interesting questions; “When and where was the first bow created and by whom?” Well after much extensive research, I can now reveal that the first bow was made in Britain...Ah! That shook you didn’t it! You thought it was made over 4000 years ago by some, Middle of Near Eastern bloke. No, I’m sorry it goes back much further than that. Allow me to take you back to the ancient Rock Age, a short period between Gravel & Stone Age.

Enter our hapless Rock Age hero Harry, whose tribe had been challenged to a fight by the Freng, who outnumbered them and worse, stank of garlic. Throwing spears and rocks at them. No problem! But they could wither your face off at ten paces with that breath!

A new weapon was needed urgently! A worried Harry wandered off into the forest, deep in thought, until he came to a clearing, where there was a wattle and daub building, with a sign outside ‘BCOA’ that stood for BC Old Age. Harry ventured inside, behind the counter stood a wizened old man. “Must be because of his oldness” thought Harry.

“Good day my boy, let me introduce myself, I’m Rufus ‘The Unmentionable’, you want to buy something? I’ve got some nice suits, all Kosher.”

“No, ta” said Harry, “I need a weapon to beat the Freng”

“My boy, I have just the thing” said Rufus “follow me”

They went down to the secret back staircase, under the floorboards, turned right, second door on the left. Over the door was a sign marked ‘Bros’, or as we know it ‘Bows’R’us’

They entered the room and in front of them was a weapon that would change the course of history. It was like a bent tree, in fact on closer inspection, it was a bent tree! With bark for a handle, leaves and twigs, and a Wood Pigeon (optional extra). Attached was a vine, tightly looped and fixed at the top and bottom and tuned to the key of G major. The knocking point was made up from hair from the bark, which presumably and eventually, gave rise to the classical tune Bach’s ‘Hair on a G String’ oh sorry....Ahem. Anyway, they heaved it outside and up a hill for a track test (there were no roads at the time)

Loaded up on a short spear, with no fletching’s (yes it was a bare shaft test) and let fly!

The projectile disappeared from view and finished up hitting someone singing badly in Wales (The Bristol Channel was only a stream in those days). “I will make it legal what happened today. A law to mark this historic occasion!” said Harry (A law which still stands today, I believe). “This bowed weapon must be kept a secret!” said Harry

So they cut it up into pieces, and with the blueprints, sent them off to a well known Swedish furniture manufacturer who re-did them so that no enemy, (or anyone else, for that matter) could understand how to put it back together.

What happened after that, no one knows...but fossilised remains of the weapon revealed a name that had been chiselled out on one of it’s limbs. The name is believed to be that of the creator of the very first bow. It was made by A.Bowyer. Ho Hum, well you will read this twaddle won’t you ! Look out for the “Unknown History (part 2)” coming to a cinema near you !

Good Shooting!