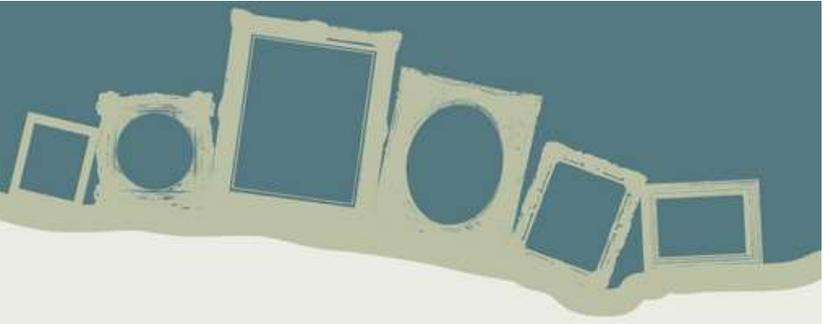


Wall Face



Antiquarian Image Card #8: John Leland by Thomas Charles Wageman

Stipple Engraving, published 1824, NPG 4393, 'from a picture by Holbein'

Linked to Great North Museum (Newcastle)

John Leland (1503 –1552)

An English poet who described himself as an *antiquary*. Leland travelled to monasteries around England and Wales, before Henry VIII ordered their dissolution, to identify valuable books to be saved from their libraries. His *Itinerary* was compiled in the 18th century from his papers and provided the basis for Camden and others to develop their own work.

Key achievements

- introduced the county as the basic unit for studying the local history of England
- identified significant books from monastic libraries across England and into Wales

Links to Hadrian's Wall

- He is one of the earliest writers to mention Hadrian's Wall, calling it the Pict Wall: *'Doctor Davel told me that S Nicolas Chirch, in Newcastel, stondit on the Pictch Waulle'*
- He is believed to have visited parts of the Wall in 1539
- His writing records a conversation with a Doctor Davel who said that much of the Wall had been taken to form more recent buildings

[Some of the people who lived in Scotland during and after the Romans were in Britain were known as the Picts. Before it was discovered that Emperor Hadrian had the Wall built, it seems to have been known as the *Pictish Wall*. St Nicholas' Church lies just north of the Roman Fort at Newcastle, which itself lies under the Castle Keep.]

Character insights

- *"the father of English local history and bibliography"*
- Leland wrote a letter to Henry VIII outlining his achievements and his future plans, which was published as
The laboryouse journey & serche of Johan Leylande for Englandes antiquitees
- The Tudor poet Polydore Vergil described Leland as *"a vaynegloryouse persone, whyche woulde promyse more, than ever he was able or intended to perfourme"*



JOHN LELAND.

FROM A PICTURE BY HOLBEIN.

John Leland by Thomas Charles Wageman © National Portrait Gallery, London



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