

## **What is Woodblock printing?**

Woodblock printing is a technique for printing text, images or patterns onto textiles and paper. The wood block is carefully prepared as a relief matrix, which means the areas to show 'white' are cut away with a knife, chisel, or sandpaper leaving the characters or image to show in 'black' at the original surface level. The block is cut along the grain of the wood. It is only necessary to ink the block and bring it into firm and even contact with the paper or cloth to achieve an acceptable print. The content would of course print "in reverse" or mirror image. For colour printing, multiple blocks are used, each for one colour, although overprinting two colours may produce further colours on the print.