Johann Wilhelm Meil, *A Woodcutter Carrying His Axe* (18th century)

Abstract

This image by Johann Wilhelm Meil (1733-1805) shows a woodcutter with his axe. Timbering was an important rural activity and a cornerstone of the peasant economy. Woodcutters not only supplied lumber for building, but they also provided raw materials needed for heating, baking, and cooking. Regulating access to forests owned by noblemen or ecclesiastical authorities, the *Waldmeister* [Forest Master] oversaw peasant access to this important natural resource.

Source

Source: Johan Wilhelm Meil, Woodcutter Carrying His Axe, etching, undated. Staatliche Museen Berlin Kupferstichkabinett. Photo: Volker-H. Schneider.
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