



*The Lizzie of Shipley on the slip at Apperley Bridge, near Bradford, around 1910. The transom is painted in the typical Yorkshire style, with simple panels surrounded by extensive lining. The boatbuilder, G E Ramsey, subsequently moved to Shipley.*

would have one of their boats extensively decorated while similar boats in the same fleet were plainer, while other owners would just have simple decoration. There was great variation in the extent to which square transoms were decorated, and the designs and styles also varied along the canal. Scrolls also varied from yard to yard, with some using fine lines best seen from close up, whilst others had bolder strokes which made the scroll easier to appreciate from a distance.

In Yorkshire, the decoration used graining and lined panels with intricate corner designs to a much greater extent than in Lancashire. The boats were probably less colourful, though

but in Yorkshire the curved surfaces seem to have been less brightly coloured.

On the Liverpool end of the canal, geometric patterns, decorative scenes and brightly coloured panels predominated, the whole being developed into a unique style to a greater extent than in Yorkshire where the style still had definite links to that found on coastal boats. Between Liverpool and Wigan, scrolls would include mirrored examples, the design being repeated around a vertical or horizontal axis. Lettering done at boat yards in that area was often extremely flowery, with curled serifs in the middle of a letter as well as at the end of each stroke.