



This facsimile drawing of Beethoven, during his last hours, was made by Joseph Teltscher. Alexander Thayer describes how it came about in his multi-volume work, *The Life of Ludwig van Beethoven, Volume 3*. He quotes Anselm Hüttenbrenner who was with Beethoven at the moment of death:

When I entered Beethoven's bedroom on March 26, 1827 at about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, I found there Court Councillor Breuning[Stephan von Breuning], his son, Frau van Beethoven, wife of Johann van Beethoven, landowner and apothecary of Lenz, and my friend Joseph Teltscher, portrait painter. I think that Prof. Schindler was also present. (Thayer, page 307.)

Thayer tells us what Teltscher was doing three hours before Beethoven took his last breath:

Hüttenbrenner says that Teltscher began drawing the face of the dying man, which grated on Breuning's feelings and he made a remonstrance, whereupon the painter left the room. (Thayer, [page 308.](#))

This image depicts that drawing. [The original](#) is maintained at the British Library.

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Facsimile drawing of Beethoven on his last day - March 26, 1827 - by Joseph Teltscher. Online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons. Original drawing maintained at the British Library.

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