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Chancellor Franklin D. Murphy holds one of the 18 original wood blocks carved by Thomas Bewick, "the father of modern wood block illustration," which have been added to the famous Ellis Ornithological collection at the University of Kansas. Looking on are John Nugent, left, who is cataloging the more than 60,000 volumes on birds in the Ellis collection, and Robert Vosper, new director of libraries at KU. The block Dr. Murphy is holding was used to illustrate the right hand page of the opened first edition of "British Birds." It and the other books on the table belong to the collection that is one of the greatest ornithological libraries in the world, and which was the gift to KU of the late Ralph Ellis of California. Several examples of the work of Bewick, the finest English illustrator of his time, already were in the Ellis collection. The 18 Bewick wood blocks were obtained from the collection of Ben Adamson, Lake Mohegan, N.Y.
September 25, 1952

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Wood Block Collection Library

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VOSPER, MURPHY