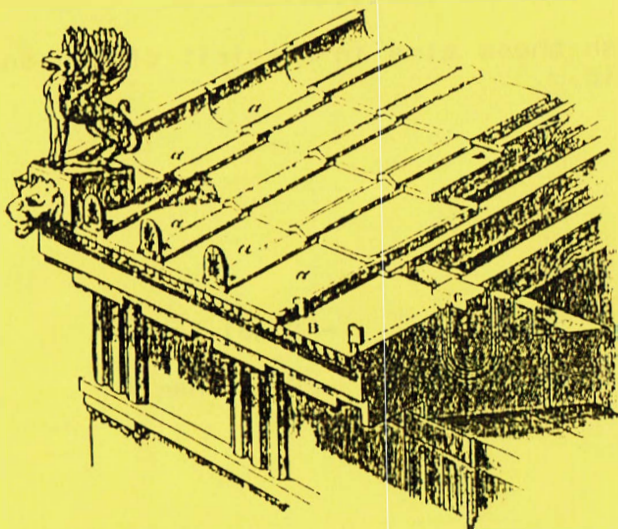


HAND  
TOOL  
PRESERVATION  
ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER



Marble Roofing Tiles On The Greek Temple At Bassae.

Volume 3, No. 4,  
August, 1991.

HTPA

## AIMS

Promote the preservation, documentation, study and understanding of hand tools and the skills employed in their usage.

Encourage interest in, and better understanding of, crafts and early industries in which these tools were used.

Discover, identify, classify, document, preserve and exhibit these tools. In particular, special efforts are to be made regarding the documentation and preservation of Australian-made tools.

Share this knowledge and understanding with others including museums, pioneer villages, the National Trust and similar institutions.

Accomplish these aims in a spirit of fun and fellowship.

Editor - Nigel Lampert

Secretary - Frank Ham

Hand Tool Preservation Association  
P.O. Box 1163  
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Australia

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## Editor's Corner

Members are receiving an advertising request form in this Newsletter. Please use it as this is one way in which we can help each other - by swapping parts and sharing around items of which we may have more than one. Please photocopy this form for your repeated use. If you are Selling it is suggested that you include your price and use the well-known Fine Tool Journal Condition Classification For Antiques Hand Tools. Here it is again for you:-

THE FINE TOOL JOURNAL CONDITION CLASSIFICATION FOR ANTIQUE HAND TOOLS

CATEGORY	USEABLE	FINISH	WEAR	REPAIR	RUST	MISC.
New	totally	100%	none	none	none	+ orig. pkg.
Fine	totally	90-100%	minimal	none	trace	
Good +	yes	75-90%	normal	minor or none	light	some dings or scratch OK
Good	yes	50-75%	norm.-mod.	minor	light	minor chips
Good -	probably	30-50%	mod.-hvy.	correct	mod.	chips OK
Fair	no	0-30%	excessive	major	mod.-hvy.	
Poor	no	n/a	excessive	damaged	heavy	

Any deviation from the model parameters is to be described, whether positive or negative. All tools Good - or better are assumed useable unless specific problems are pointed out.

Contributions for the October Newsletter are due by 20th September.

Nigel Lampert

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## News From the Secretary

### Tool Sale

Our first tool sale was a resounding success with over 20 sellers and the numbers of buyers exceeding all our optimistic forecasts. The executive feels that we should try to reproduce the same friendly atmosphere next year. As yet we have not decided whether to hold the 1992 sale in March when the weather is more friendly or again try our luck in winter.

Unfortunately, we were very short of members to help on the Saturday. Keith Sutherland and Ian McIntosh spent the whole time selling tickets and on the door, and we thank them both. The sale not only gave the HTPA welcome publicity but resulted in 10 new members (now 75 members) and improved our finances.

### Working with Wood Show: 17th to 20th October

Again we will be having a stand at the Exhibition Building. Tony Derrett is the display co-ordinator and will be grateful for help in manning our stand during the four days. Over the next two months it will be necessary to build display boards and finish our display cases.

### Victorian Woodworkers Display: 16th & 17th November

The HTPA will as usual mount a display on 16th and 17th November at Doncaster. Volunteers will be recruited nearer the time.

### Executive Meeting

The Executive of HTPA meets on the first Tuesday of each month in which we meet for tool activities. Minutes of these Meetings are kept and are available from the secretary for perusal.

When we meet on the third Tuesdays the secretary will give a very short report to the members. Members of the Executive may also have announcements at these times.

### Woodworking Groups' Newsletters

The HTPA receives copies of Newsletters from various Woodworking groups including the Victorian Woodworkers' Association, Central Victorian Woodworkers and the Yarra Turners. These are available from the secretary.

Frank Ham

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### From "The Autobiography of James Agate - A Shorter Ego"

George Harrop & Co. 2nd Selection. London 1947

### The Year 1938: July 29th, Friday

Harry told me that in connection with a slum-clearance scheme last winter he came across a room which ran over five cottages. None of the tenants below had ever bothered about it, and one said that so far as he knew the room was empty and had been for years, the property having changed hands half a dozen times, and successive landlords losing sight of the garret. On the door being forced it revealed itself as a joiner's workshop. The tools were neatly arranged on the bench. On a peg hung a working jacket. Dust everywhere. The calendar on the wall bore the date August 10, 1914.

From Ian Johnson, East Melbourne.

## Future Meeting Notes

### 1. September 17th Meeting - 7.30 pm.

This meeting will be an evening on patternmaking and will be held at the RMIT (Geo Thompson) School of Foundry Technology, corner of Cardigan & Queensberry Streets, Carlton. Enter from Cardigan Street. Our host will be Wally Gore, and members are asked to bring interesting items related to patternmaking. Please note that this is not a casting night. These arrangements are still to be confirmed but you will be informed if there are any changes.

### 2. November 19th Meeting - 7.30 pm.

This meeting will be held at the Box Hill Community Arts Centre, 470 Station Street, Box Hill. This will be our AGM and a meeting led by Watson Cutter on the development of hand routers. Please bring along your most interesting commercial and user-made hand routers. Would you also please contact Watson if you have information on this topic. Our AGM will also be an important part of this evening.

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## Club Library

Any member wanting up to date information on our library should contact Kees Klep

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## Club Calendar

August	- Tues	20th	- Caine Tool Committee
	- Sat	24th	- Caine Tool Working Bee
September	- Tues	3rd	- Executive Meeting
	- Tues	17th	- Club Meeting
October	- Tues	15th	- Caine Tool Committee
	- Thurs	17th	- to Sun 20th
			Working With Wood Show Display
	- Sat	26th	- Caine Tool Working Bee
November	- Tues	5th	- Executive Meeting
	- Sat	16th	- Sun 17th Victorian Woodworkers
			Display - Doncaster
	- Tues	19th	- Annual General Meeting

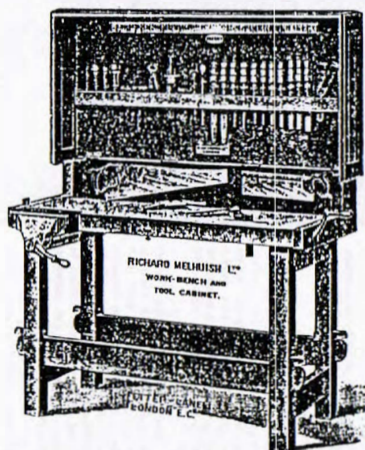
### Club Meeting Report: July 1991

It was very pleasant to welcome a number of visitors to this meeting including Ben Whelan, John Ruddock and Ron Mack. The evening was on drawknives and spokeshaves, and about 100 were brought along of various shapes, refinements and sizes. Scarcely two were the same! The most intriguing item was, however, a log numbering hammer made in Australia by C. McIntosh, Kyogle, NSW. Circular in shape it was marked from 1 to 9 & 0, as well as having the letters "R" and "S", although the "R" had been made into a "P". Other unusual items included a drawknife with the handles at a complete right angle to the blade. It was suggested that this may have something to do with the cleaning of skins but none of us knew. Some other items noted were:-

- \* A cooper's knife by Gilpin but bent at one end
- \* Pattern spokeshaves of 3" to 4"
- \* A jigger router by Moseley & Sons
- \* Unknown small drawknives or scorps which may have been for making Windsor chairs
- \* A drawknife with folding handles
- \* A wooden traditional spokeshave, no wear plate but with two brass locking screws marked "Reg'd 7686"

As usual this was a most pleasant club evening which quickly passed.

MELHUISE'S  
PATENT WORK-BENCH TOOL CABINET IN VARIOUS DESIGNS  
TO SUIT CUSTOMERS' REQUIREMENTS



Fold-down Work-Bench as illustrated in Selected Wood. The top is of Solid Beech, and has adjustable Winding Stop.

# Tools of trade reveal the workings of history

By GEOFF MASLEN

Ever since Stone Age humans began using pebbles and stones shaped by nature, people have been inventing, adapting and using tools.

Hand-saws have been found in Theban tombs that date back 900 years before Christ. Talus, grandson of the mythical Greek sculptor Daedalus, was shown using a bow drill as a primitive wood-working lathe about 600 BC.

The first brace and bit was invented by an unknown Flemish woodworker around 1420 and Benvenuto Cellini, the Renaissance sculptor, had adapted ball-bearings in 1543. "little globes of wood more than half-hidden in their sockets", to roll massive statues about at will.

It is the long history and extraordinary variety of hand tools that fascinates collectors. Frank Ham, for example, has spent years amassing one of the largest collections of tools in the country and he has about 2000 metal planes alone. It is a field, he says, of which collectors never tire because no one will ever be able to collect an example of every one.

Holding a joiner's clamp, Mr Ham says such objects are not appreciated as much as antique



Mr Frank Ham, secretary of the Hand Tool Preservation Association, with some of the tools from the National Trust collection that will be on display at Kensington Primary School.

furniture, yet they are every bit as interesting. "These are the tools that made such furniture, that are older than European Australia. I've got planes in my collection that were made before Captain Cook found us."

Mr Ham is secretary of the Hand Tool Preservation Association.

Now in its eighth year, the association has about 70 members in Melbourne, with others scattered across Australia and a few in New Zealand.

"We hope to discover, identify, classify, document, preserve and exhibit as many of these tools as we can, especially those that

were made in Australia," Mr Ham says.

That is a crucial point: Robots are increasingly replacing people at work. The old crafts and long apprenticeships are disappearing as computer-driven technology replaces trade skills, and tools that were in-

vented for certain tasks are now objects of wonder.

Those who wish to hold on to this past are mostly tool users themselves, Mr Ham says, and they include woodworkers, carpenters, teachers, hobbyists, craftsmen and carvers. Now the Hand Tool Preserva-

tion Association has decided to hold its first "tool-swap and sale day". Mr Ham hopes that anyone interested will go to Kensington Primary School, in McCracken Street, next Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm. There is a \$2 entry charge for buyers and \$10 for sellers.

## Tool Sale and Swap

Our first public tool sale and swap was undoubtedly a huge success. The Friday evening swap for members only, and the Saturday public sale were certainly held in an atmosphere of fun and fellowship. Our club also clearly demonstrated its integrity through members personally sharing their knowledge and interest in tools with the public as well as through the fine display of rare tools from the Caine Tool Collection. The tool sale was also a financial success for our club.

We were very fortunate with the publicity for the sale. As well as our own publicity circulars reaching woodworkers' clubs and other interest groups, we received excellent radio and newspaper publicity. Our secretary, Frank Ham, appeared on page three of the Melbourne Age on Saturday, 22nd June. This included a photograph of Frank with a selection of Caine Tools together with an article on the significance of tools throughout history. Frank was also interviewed on Radio 3AW by Margaret Peacock the day before the sale was open to the public. In addition, we had our own "Garage Sale" newspaper advertisements to encourage attendance.

For members unable to attend, our sale was held in a 60' by 30' hall with and adjoining canteen from which coffee and refreshments were served. There was also an adjoining office which had large glass panels facing into the hall. We used this office to safely display the Caine Tools. By putting on the light in this office the tools were shown to advantage and highlighted by the accompanying information prepared by Doug McIver about the Caine Collection the HTPA.

On Friday evening only club members were present. Stalls were set up by club members and an open, friendly atmosphere of fellowship was present as members bargained, bought and swapped. It was particularly pleasant for members to be able to roam the room at will without any thought for their tools or stalls. A friendly "Whose is this?" was the signal for a return to their treasures and further bargaining and swapping. Arriving sellers were keenly pursued in a purposeful but pleasant manner. When we all needed a rest we headed for the refreshments provided by Ben Rasalam. It was excellent to see many members making special effort to attend. Members from country Victoria and Sydney were also welcomed. Some were meeting other members for the first time.