

HAND
TOOL
PRESERVATION
ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER



—Wall tiles from Damascus, of the
16th century.

Volume 3, No. 3,
June, 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
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Australia

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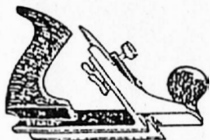
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HAND TOOL PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION



TOOL SWAP AND SALE

Quality Tools For The Collector, Craftsman
And User



Kensington Primary School,

McCracken Street, Kensington

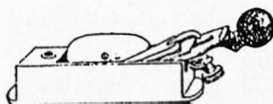
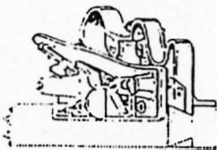
Friday, 28th June - 6pm to 9pm for members only.

Saturday, 30th June - 10am to 2pm for the public.

Entry Charge: Members - \$ 1.00 Public - \$ 2.00

Seller's Charge: Members - \$5.00 Public - \$10.00

Enquiries about selling spaces and general information
to Watson Cutter - (03) 802 1647 or Frank Ham (03) 817 1768



Editor's Corner

Some assistance with information relating to tiling and tilers would be welcomed. In particular interviews with former tradesmen about their work or significant examples of the tiler's art would be welcomed. There must certainly be buildings which no longer exist which were noteworthy as regards tiling.

Contributions for our next issue are due by July 25th. Please keep on sending your advertisements, letters and other information.

Nigel Lampert

Secretary's News

1. Tool Sale and Swap - Our First Annual Event.

As you know on Friday June 28th and Saturday June 29th the HTPA will be holding a Tool Sale and Swap at Kensington Primary school, McCracken street, Kensington.

Remember: -

Friday 28th June - 7 pm to 9 pm for MEMBERS ONLY
(No visitors)

Saturday 29th June - 10 am to 2 pm open to Public

Sellers may begin to set up an hour earlier on both days.

We need as many sellers as possible: even 3 or 4 tools placed on a shared selling table are worthwhile bringing. (Ring Frank Ham or Watson

Cutter to book a selling space for either day). As we expect many keen woodworkers to be present user tools and parts should sell as well as collectable items.

Sellers' Information for the Tool Sale

The hall will be open an hour before starting time on both days so that sellers can set up. The entrance will be via the school driveway. Members are requested to bring their membership cards. Sellers will be able to bring their cars into the restricted space near the hall for loading and unloading items but are particularly asked to not drive on the school oval.

Secretary's News (Continued)

If you have folding or trestle tables please bring them as only a few tables will be available from the school. Items should be clearly marked with a price.

The support of all members is urged on both days as this is a key club event. Advertisements will be placed in the Age and elsewhere to publicise the Tool Sale and Swap.

Refreshments will be available on both days at a small charge.

2. Working with Wood Show

This will be held at the Royal exhibition Building from October 17th to October 20th 1991. We have again been invited to exhibit at this show and have been allocated a larger area than 1990. This year we will have a 2.4 metre by 4.2 metre space which will give us more scope in making an interesting display. We need, however, to have sufficient members to man the display for four (4) days for approximately 11 hours daily. Anyone able to help in planning, building or manning the display please contact me.

Frank Ham
Secretary

Everyone knows something. No-one knows everything. Therefore everyone has something to learn and something to learn and something to teach.
Courtesy of Dandenong Woodworkers Club.

Future Meeting Notes

I am still working on final details for our meeting on September 17th. It is possible that this date may need to be altered so that our planned activity can be held. However, our July 16th meeting remains as planned:-

July 16th - Meat Market Craft Centre

Corner of Blackwood and Courtney Streets - 7.30 pm. The theme for the evening is a show/tell/discussion on spokeshaves and drawknives. Please bring your most interesting examples.

Kees Klep

Club Meeting Report - May 1991

On 21st May, clubmember Colin Goldberg provided us with an enthusiastic and comprehensive history of, and introduction to, the world of woodcarving. His personal expertise was shown by the samples of his work he, and his wife Elizabeth, brought with them. These items ranged from his "carving horse", to a decorated walking stick with contrasting handle, a carved platypus, an elephant in huon pine, and a larger than life dollar coin in precise scale.

Trying as usual to make notes I quickly lost myself in the historical and technical overview given by Colin to a rapt audience. Colin introduced his topic with reference to the "cutting edge" as man's greatest invention, which even today is totally essential to our modern world. Carving obviously arose following the "cutting edge", as it is really the decorative cutting of material, usually of wood, although ivory and many other materials have been used by carvers.

Colin provided a brief history of some notable carvers including Raphael, Michaelangelo, and his apparent favourite, Grinling Gibbons, who he referred to as the "price of carvers". Grinling Gibbons I later found out, was a celebrated English woodcarver of 1648 to 1721. He is variously claimed as having English or Dutch parents. He clearly showed great talent in his craft and was employed by Charles 11 who had him carve statuary as well as ornamental work in wood.

Some of Gibbons best known work includes carving in the chapel at Windsor, the foliage and festoons in the choir

at St. Pauls and extensive work in private mansions. Gibbons chief subjects were birds, flowers, foliage, fruit and lace. His work is especially noted for its detail, accuracy and delicacy. It also displayed ingenuity with many of his flowers moving on their stems like their natural prototypes when shaken by a breeze. Gibbons was appointed master carver to George II and died in London on August 3, 1721. Gibbons apparently also established a school of decorative carving in England which survived until the late 1700's.

Colin provided a broad overview of styles through the ages. These are perhaps best seen by simply looking at existing samples of work. Colin achieved this by using large photocopies of examples from various periods. He referred to the work of the Egyptians and Greeks and then showed examples leading through the centuries and including the Romans, Gothic and Norman examples, Elizabethan, and later Victorian baroque and rococo styles. It is interesting to note that the art of carving was, like many handicrafts, affected by the industrial revolution which provided moulding work in metal and other materials as a substitute for the original work of carvers.

On the subject of carving tools Colin explained how the shapes of carving tools such as gouges, parting tools and spades were repeated in various progressive sizes as well as in straight form or in bent or curved form with offsets. In essence it sounded rather like the multiples of moulding planes but led, Colin explained, to a total range of 1200 carving chisels from which to choose. The carving chisel as it is today has also apparently remained unchanged basically over the last few hundred years.

In concluding, Colin remarked that woodcarvers today were still at work creating new items as well as also restoring some work of long forgotten craftsmen. He closed by showing how he held and used his chisels and how each could be stropped and sharpened. Each of us could be a woodcarver: it was simply a matter of degree as to how good we became.

Nigel Lampert.

References:

Manual of Traditional Wood Carving, Dorer Publications 1977 (reprint of original 1911 Cassell and Company, London edition)

Encyclopaedia Britannica, 9th Edition, Adams and Charles Black, Edinburgh 1898