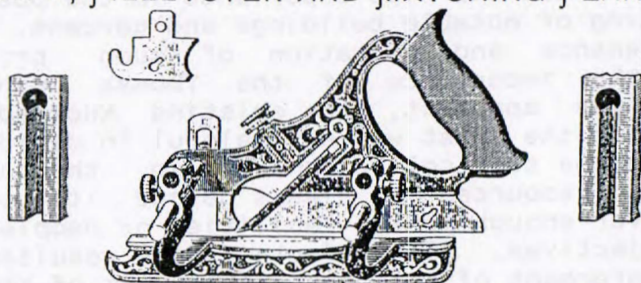


More Interesting Finds

Several months ago on one of numerous trips to the local tip we made an interesting find. Although my workmate and I had been instructed to do some quick repair work and shift some signs, we quickly got down to the real business of the expedition. Soon we were rifling through the castaway objects to see if there was anything worth salvaging. We went through a fair amount of trash before the real find of the day. Very rusty but still complete except for cutters I took my find home to clean up. Lots of time and care has produced a quite unusual plane of 1920's vintage which I believe to be a Stanley 143 plough plane. Although not fully complete it is a pleasing and attractive tool and the sort of find we all like to make.

PATENT BULL-NOSE PLOW, FILLETSTER AND MATCHING PLANE.



Two interchangeable front parts go with this Tool. The form shown above is that of a Bull-nose Plow; and the Cutter will easily work up to, and into a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch hole, or any larger size—as in Sash-fitting, Stair-work, etc. With the other front on, it takes the ordinary form of a Plow, and is adapted to all regular uses.

With each tool eight Plow Bits ($\frac{1}{8}$, $\frac{3}{16}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{5}{16}$, $\frac{3}{8}$, $\frac{7}{16}$, $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{5}{8}$ inch), a Filletster Cutter and a Shifting Blade are furnished; also a Tonguing Tool ($\frac{1}{4}$ inch).

No.	Bull-Nose Plow, Filletster and Matching Plane.	Each.
141.	Iron Stock and Fence.....	\$7 00
	Bull-Nose Plow and Matching Plane—without Filletster.	
143.	Iron Stock and Fence	5 00

The Caine Tool Collection

The Big Move - Doug McIver

November 4, 1989 was a notable day for the Caine Tool Collection.

Thomas Sydney Caine left all his possessions to the Trust when he died about 18 years ago, his house, his personal effects, and most importantly his tools. He had been a woodworker all his life. He earned his Sloyd Certificate in 1913, and in his adult life he ran a joinery works at the rear of his home in North Melbourne. Possibly he was continuing on in a business started by his father. It is believed that in his later life he became concerned that the skills of the craftsman which had been his life were fading from view, and in an effort to provide a lasting reminder of these skills he accumulated a comprehensive collection of tools, and left these tools to the National Trust, together with all his other possessions, with the intention of establishing a permanent display of these tools, and a fund for their maintenance.

The National Trust has wide experience in the observation and recording of notable buildings and gardens, and in the maintenance and operation of such properties. Although the importance of the Thomas Caine Tool Collection was apparent, the existing knowledge and experience in the Trust was not helpful in deciding how to deal with the tool collection. Also, the demands on the Trust's resources are always beyond its capacity. There is never enough money, facilities or people to meet all its objectives. These factors have resulted in the repeated deferment of the proper treatment of the Caine Tool Collection.

For many years the tools have been stored in a loft at Ripponlea. For practical purposes they were inaccessible. Although there have been a number of our members willing to put time and effort into the collection, it hasn't been possible to take action while the tools were in that loft - no light, no power, no space to work, and no normal access.

It has been surprisingly difficult for the Trust to find accommodation suitable for the proper storage, cataloguing and general management of the collection, but at last an acceptable building has been made available.

Although the Trust appointed four of our members to its Caine Tool Collection Comet, only one of those members, Frank Ham, had ever seen the collection, and that was some years ago.

Thus it was with considerable excitement that we looked forward to Saturday November 4, 1989, when arrangements had been made for the committee to view the collection. Our further expectation was to move as much of the collection as possible to its new home, but there was some reluctance from the Trust management at Ripponlea in this regard - there seemed to be a feeling that as the collection was at Ripponlea, it was the responsibility of the Ripponlea management, and so it should not be moved away.

Nevertheless, we went there prepared to move the tools, hoping to persuade the Ripponlea Management that they should be moved.

When the door was unlocked we found ourselves in a well built stable, perhaps 10 metres square overall, but divided by a walkway, with a number of stables each side. The area is now used for storage - mainly long term storage it appeared, as the impression gained when looking around was that nothing had been moved for years.

The loft was reached by climbing a fixed vertical wooden ladder. We were warned not to step on the trapdoors in the floor as the catches may give way. There was no light until the double doors were opened. These doors are at first floor level, and provision has been made above the doorway to hang a pulley to ease the task of delivering the feed for the horses. This was the only way to get goods of any size in or out of the loft.

The loft was crammed with a wide variety of objects, many of them not too clearly seen because of the poor light - a boat, a workbench, a trailer, a commercial freezer, boxes, bags, miscellaneous things heaped on the floor. The heap of boxes containing the collection was found under a sheet of black plastic.

Frank Ham, Nigel Lampert and I looked through the boxes while Peter Struthers discussed the future of the collection with Mary Dancuk, the manager of Ripponlea.

There were a number of genuine Thomas Caine toolboxes, 4 or 5 tea chests, and a number of cardboard boxes.

There was a large tool box, probably the "toolbox no.1" referred to in Thomas Caine's notes, of which he had specially requested that the contents should not be removed. It was almost empty. It was evident that all the tools had been removed from their original boxes, and heaped into convenient containers for transport. We

developed the suspicion that the collection was no longer complete, but without a careful examination, and comparison with such records as we have we could not reach any better conclusion.

One tea chest contained what appeared to be working drawings for buildings for which Thomas Caine had worked on. They were very dusty and had been attacked by silverfish. The examination of these papers would have to wait for another day.

When we had all seen the state of the collection, there was ready agreement that the collection needed to be examined, cleaned and catalogued, and reconciled against the inventory lists that are available, and that this work could not be carried out in the loft.

Peter Struthers discussed the matter with Mary Dancuk and got her agreement that the Caine Collection should be removed from Ripponlea as soon as possible. We proceeded to lower as much of the collection as we could transport out the loft doors.

One of the gardeners at Ripponlea, Brian Worsley, had been watching the proceedings with interest, and offered the opinion that he had seen other tools which could be part of the collection in the basement of Ripponlea itself. He led Nigel off to see what could be found. We were delighted, and dismayed, to see them return some time later carrying armfuls of tools. Delighted that items that had been separated from the collection had been recovered, dismayed at the evidence that the collection had been scattered - how many tools had not been recovered, and where were they?

There was no doubt that the tools they found were part of the Thomas Caine collection - the name 'T CAINE' was clearly stamped into all of them.

Some of the boxes of tools in the loft carried address labels showing that they had originally been delivered to Como. It appears that the loft at Ripponlea was at least their second resting place. Is it possible that some tools are still at Como?

How did tools come to be in the basement at Ripponlea? Was the collection stored there for a period?

Some significant items were left behind, waiting for more transport capacity than we had that day, and for additional storage - the new premises are big enough for the bulk of the smaller handtools, but not for the larger items.

We are anxious to get access to two items in particular - the large tool box, of course, and the workbench.

The toolbox is larger than the usual tool box, and it is not ornamented as they sometimes are, but it is very well made, in excellent condition. We hope to be able to restore the contents of the toolbox, according to Thomas Caine's own list.

The workbench is in the classical style, with one large wooden vice at the left end of the front of the bench, another on the end of the bench at the right. It is larger than average, being about 18 feet long and 30 inches wide. Both the toolbox and the bench could be important features in a display of the Caine Tool Collection.

We are delighted to have made so much progress with the collection, after so much delay. Now we can begin to catalogue the Collection, and plan for the first public display.

We must also pursue every opportunity to locate tools which have become separated from the collection.

Tool Box No.2

Here is the contents of this tool box again presumably complete at the time of transfer to the National Trust. We assume tool box no.1 is the very big one but as yet which of the others is which remains uncertain.

No 2

- Tools in Kit -

Small lever bar 1'4" long

Level 6ⁱⁿ Long

Level 10ⁱⁿ Long

Chalk line Level 3ⁱⁿ long

Rule ivory 2 foot

~~Old Line Rule 2" x 2" x 9 1/2" (or 10")~~

Diamond Glass cutter

Steel Tape 66 ft Babone & son

Lambs Tongue 1 and 2. 5/8" and ~~10/16"~~

Trowel 6" blade

Glass Cutter brass with 4 wheels

Stanley Iron Tryand Plane Bedrock 2 3/8" iron 24" ⁱⁿ long Number 608

Thumb Screw 5 3/4 inches

Wall Drill 5/8" Fluted

Side Rabbit Plane "Prestons"

Plumb Bob

~~Line Lot (Hammock)~~

Wall Drill Flat sides

~~Hand Saw Hammer (Preston) 8" x 12"~~

Putt Gauge (Stanley) for hinges

Wall Drill +

Coping Saw 6 inch blade Millers Falls Number 42

Trying Plane Steel 20 1/2 in long 2 1/2 in cutter (Norris)

Extension Bit 15 1/2 inches long (Millers Falls)

Stock, Dies, Taps taper and plug W. W. Witworth 1/4", 3/8", 1/2", 5/8",

Sawset arm-punch

~~Dies~~ Stock and Dies (Thomas Charnock) for Brass 1/4", 3/8", 1/2", 5/8", 3/4",

Hacking Knife for Putty

Bit Holder (Prestons).

Small Hatchet

Block Mitre Shoot Clamp

Panel Gauge

2 Door Knobs (brass) for turning bits.

Rabbit Plane 4" long round on face

Rabbit Plane 4" long round on ~~sides~~ two sides.

Odd Jobs Tool. (Stanley)

Smoothing Plane (Steel) Norris Parallel sides 2 1/4 iron.

Mitre ^{Set} Template (Brass)