

MORE ON GRINLING GIBBONS

Colin Goldberg's talk on woodcarving at an earlier meeting this year has inspired further research into Grinling Gibbons whom Colin described as the "prince of woodcarvers". Julian Rose has written to share an article studied during his schooldays in London a "few" years ago. Julian remembered that the famous English diarist, Joh Evelyn, wrote about his discovery of Grinling Gibbons and his introduction to King Charles 11.

EVELYN DISCOVERS GRINLING GIBBONS, THE GREAT WOOD CARVER

1671. This day, I first acquainted his Majesty with that incomparable young man, Gibbons, whom I had lately met with in an obscure place by mere accident, as I was walking near a poor solitary thatched house, in a field in our parish, near Sayes Court. I found him shut in; but looking in at the window, I perceived him carving that large cartoon, or crucifix, of Tintoretto, a copy of which I had myself brought from Venice, where the original painting remains. I asked if I might enter; he opened the door civilly to me, and I saw him about such a work as for the curiosity of handling, drawing, and studious exactness I never had before seen in all my travels. I questioned him why he worked in such an obscure and lonesome place; he told me it was that he might apply himself to his profession without interruption, and wondered not a little how I found him out. I asked if he was unwilling to be made known to some great man, for that I believed it might turn to his profit; he answered, he was yet but a beginner, but would not be sorry to sell off that piece; on demanding the price, he said one hundred pounds. In good earnest, the very frame was worth the money, there being nothing in nature so tender and delicate as the flowers and festoons about it, and yet the work was very strong; in the piece were more than one hundred figures of men, etc. I found he was likewise musical, and very civil, sober, and discreet in his discourse. There was only an old woman in the house. So desiring leave to visit him sometimes, I went away.

Of this young artist, together with my manner of finding him out, I acquainted the King, and begged that he would give me leave to bring him and his work to Whitehall, for that I would adventure my reputation with his Majesty that he had never seen anything approach it, and that he would be exceedingly pleased, and employ him. The King said he would himself go see him. This was the first notice his Majesty ever had of Mr. Gibbons.

Reference

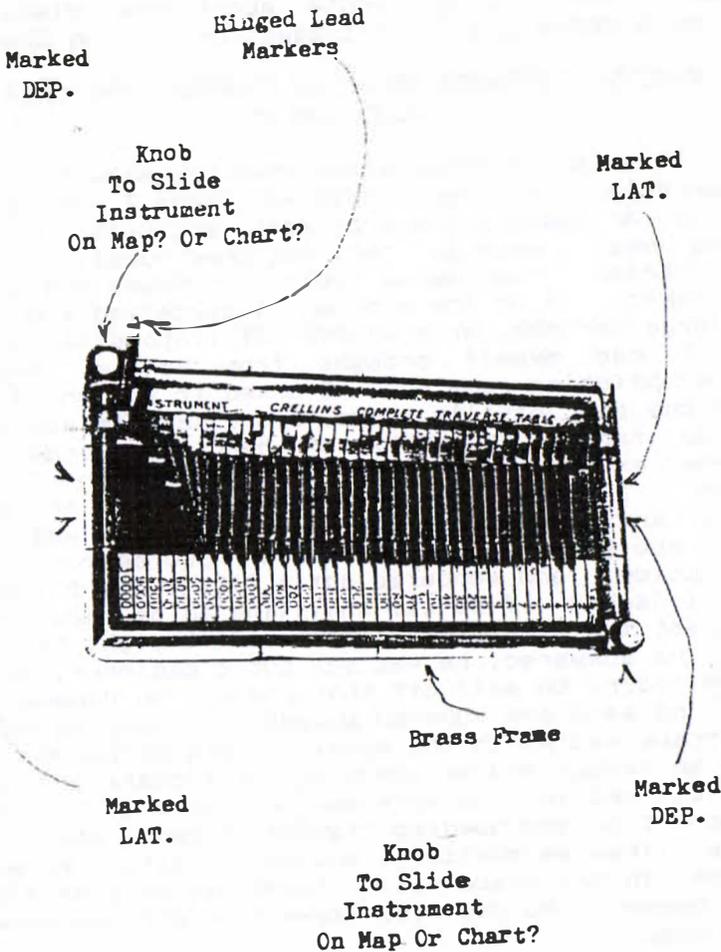
Couch, Sir A.T.Q. & Pocoak, Gwyn. (Eds)
"Some English Diarists" in The King's Treasures of

THE WHATSIT FILE - CAN YOU HELP?

22/9/91

WHATSIT ?

MARKED: INSTRUMENT - CRELLINS COMPLETE TRAVERSE TABLE.



DIMENSIONS: - 3 1/2" X 7" X 1/8"

Submitted by Ken Turner of THE COBWEB - MELBOURNE

In case it is not clear in the illustration - the brass frame bears numbers 1 to 9 from right at left, then 10 to 100 (in steps of 10), 100 to 1000 (in steps of 100) and 1000 to 10,000 (in steps of 1000); opposite each of the

THE EMPIRE MARKETING BOARD

The Newsletter (August, 1991) referred to the creation of an Empire trading preference during the 1930s as a means of competing with foreign imports into Britain. Whilst no information is to hand confirming or denying that the establishment of the Empire Trading Preference system encouraged firms such as Stanley to build plants within British colonies, it is evident that the system promoted the purchase of locally-made goods much as the "Buy Australian" campaign does today.

The Empire Marketing Board was established during 1926 as a means of "furthering the marketing of Empire goods from home and overseas ...". Whilst it had three aims - scientific research, economic investigation and publicity, the success of the program in its early stages was noted in the increased value of imports from Empire countries to the United Kingdom. Buying goods produced at "home" or in other parts of the Empire clearly strengthened the countries involved and provided jobs and economic growth. This was preferable to such growth being exported overseas to other countries. The Empire Marketing Board apparently undertook an extensive advertising campaign to encourage the purchase of Empire goods. Empire Shopping Weeks and window-dressing competitions were two techniques used.

Slogans such as those below were also developed:-

"Every time you buy Empire goods you are helping the Empire to place orders with one of our industries at home."

"How can you help to secure further contracts from South Africa? By buying and getting your wife to buy the produce South Africa is sending us."

It is presumed that preferential trading systems such as this faded away as a result of post-war economic trade agreements such as the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) under which countries agreed not to raise their tariffs or alter them in any discriminatory way.

Nigel Lampert

Reference

Canham, A., "The Empire Marketing Board" in The Empire Trek Book 1929, The British National Union, London, undated.



AUSTRALIA



UNITED KINGDOM



CANADA

THE
EMPIRE
MARKETING
BOARD

*urges
every citizen
of the United Kingdom
to*

**BUY FROM THE EMPIRE
AT HOME & OVERSEAS**



SOUTH AFRICA



NEW ZEALAND

The Empire Marketing Board is an official, non-party body set up by the British Government.

Read the article printed elsewhere in this journal which tells you more about the Empire Marketing Board and its work during the past year.

*Empire buying is
Empire building!*



IRISH FREE STATE



INDIA



The animals depicted in this advertisement are reproductions of some of a series of shop window cards lately issued free of charge by the Empire Marketing Board to retail traders in the United Kingdom. In this series the animal designs are used to advertise particular products of the different Empire countries.

AUSTRALIA PURCHASES ANNUALLY OVER £60,000,000

WORTH OF

BRITISH GOODS

CONSIDER WHAT THIS MEANS :

1. Australia is Great Britain's second best customer.
2. Every new British settler in Australia is an additional customer for British goods to that extent.
3. Australia can absorb British settlers only in proportion to her ability to find markets for their produce in Great Britain.

BUY AUSTRALIAN PRODUCTS AND HELP BRITISH TRADE

ISSUED BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR AUSTRALIA, AUSTRALIA HOUSE,
STRAND, W.C.2

TOM CAINE & THE CAINE TOOL COLLECTION

We have assumed, possibly incorrectly it seems, that Tom Caine lived all his life at 24 Molesworth Street, North Melbourne. As is understandable with attempts to later piece together some of the threads of anyone's personal affairs and life, our efforts with Tom Caine are providing more questions than answers. The latest information to hand comes from the records of the Melbourne City Sub-Branch of the Building Workers' Industrial Union thanks to the sleuthing of member Keith Sutherland. Apparently, members were able to register their individual tool mark and be covered as a consequence by insurance on their tools. As we might expect, Tom Caine registered his mark which is duly reproduced below. The records seem to indicate that the mark was registered in October 1947 which is around the period that we know he was working as a carpenter at Hampton, Victoria. The interesting part is, however, that in his own handwriting he records his address as being 384 Church Street, Richmond. This is a near city suburb of Melbourne on the southern side of the city quite opposite from the address in North Melbourne where we had assumed that he spent his whole life. The specific location of 384 Church Street is between Bridge and Swan Streets, high on the west side of Richmond Hill. Many explanations are possible. Possibly the Caine family only rented the house at 24 Molesworth Street, North Melbourne and therefore did not show in contemporary directories. Certainly it is true, according to an original moth-eaten Caine letter found with the Caine tools, that a "Mr T. W. Caine" lived at 24 Molesworth Street in October, 1927. Perhaps the later Church Street address of Tom Caine was a temporary one, the home of a friend, the location of a construction job or even his own home for a period of his life. Once again any assistance in extending our knowledge of Tom Caine will be greatly valued.

ESTABLISHED 1882

The Ridgely Trimmer Co.

TOOLS A
FORALL KINDS
CORATORS
SPECIALTIESSTEEL WOOL, WIRE BRUSHES
ELECTRICAL DRIVEN BRUSHES
FOR ALL KINDS OF WORKJ. R. WILLIAMS, President
C. J. BOWLUS, Vice President
C. R. HULLINGER, Secretary
C. E. GALVIN, Works ManagerCABLE ADDRESS "RIDGE"
WESTERN UNION CODE

Springfield, Ohio, U.S.

Mr. T. W. Caine,
24 Molesworth St.,
North Melbourne, Melbourne, Canada.

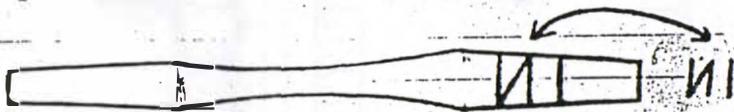
October 19th 1947

Gentlemen:-

As under is the stamp impressions on the wood
tools and the drawing shows a screwdriver bit
with the file markson as indentification mark
on metal tools.

T. S. Caine

384 Church Street, Richmond, E.I.



City Bv no. 10910

Reg no. 20930
(Registered 1947) X

INTERESTING TOOLS FROM THE TOM CAINE TOOL COLLECTION

CAINE TOOLS

When the Thomas Caine tool Committee was unpacking the tool collection, we noticed an unusual "hollow E" measuring device which nobody recognised. Last month I saw in an American auction catalogue, a similar device and which listed a reference in "The Gristmill" a quarterly magazine of the Mid West Tool Collectors Association.

RULING DEVICE

From: -

Early American Industries Association Chronicle June 1970
by Frank L Sahlmann and

The Gristmill (Mid West Tool Collectors Associaton) March
1987 by Paul Kebabian

One side inscribed Patented Jan 3 1870, the other side
inscribed Eagle Square Mfg Co

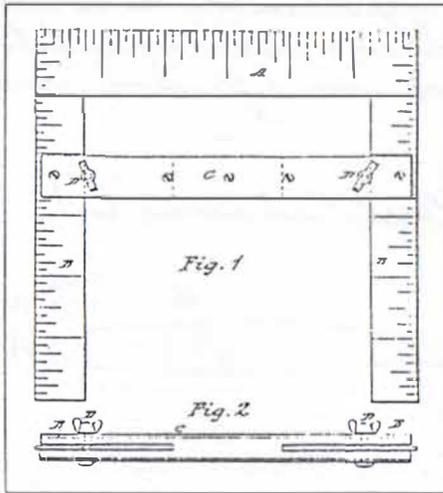


Fig. 1. Robinson's Ruling Device, from U.S. Patent.

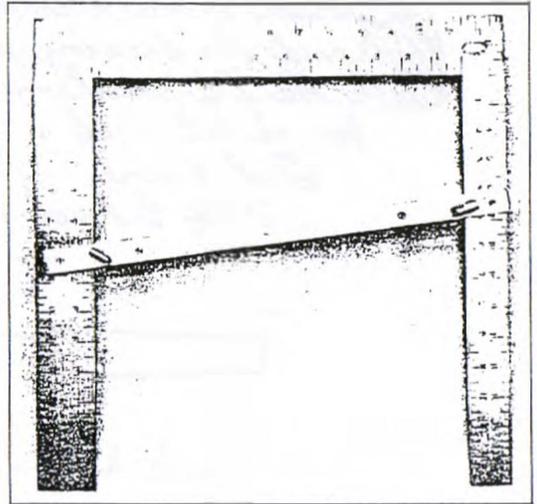


Fig. 2. The No. 1 Ruling Device made by Eagle Square.

The Patent No 98710 Dated Jan 11 1870 is entitled "Improvement in Ruling Device" patented by E.H. Robinson, Janesville, Wisconsin.

The object of this invention is to provide a simple device which may be readily adjusted to make parallel lines or lines of any angle.

For many years was thought to be a Bridge Builders square, because of confusion with a bridge builders square also made by Eagle Square Co.

The tool consists of a steel body 18 inches long and 2 inches wide with 2 tongues each measuring 26 inches, one being 2 inches wide the other 1 1/2 inches. It was formed from sheet steel without taper.

A 16 inch long adjustable bar, slotted at both ends and with two bolts and thumb nuts for tightening the bar at an angular or a parallel position with respect to the body, was fitted on to the tongues. The fence was walnut sheathed with 17 gauge sheet brass (No.1) or steel (No.2)

The factory price was:

\$36/dozen for No.1

\$30/dozen for No.2

Sales were not exactly huge - from 1870-1883, 142 No.1 and 102 No.2 were sold. In 1890 none were sold.

HISTORY OF EAGLE SQUARE CO.

The Eagle Square Co., South Shaftsbury, Vermont, was established Jan 1st 1859. It became Eagle Square Mftg Co July 1st 1874.

Acquired by Stanley Rule & Level Co., New Britain, Connecticut in 1915-16

FRANK HAM

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INTERESTING FINDS

Over the years we all seem to gather quite an array of tools, especially planes. Some of these we are absolutely delighted to obtain because we know at once that they are unusual, rare or of particularly high quality. Then again there are our other tools - those we put aside as common, ordinary, or perhaps, even broken. My interesting find concerns one of these lesser tools that we all seem to have. Indeed, my find was there all the time in my very own collection, but I simply didn't recognise it as anything special. Where or even when I got it I have absolutely no idea. Whilst I guess that this really marks me out as having been collecting for some time, it also says that we all still have something to learn about our chosen hobby.

The tool in question is a Stanley No.54 combination plane. I regarded it as simply another version of the common No.50 Stanley light combination plane. Indeed it is, except that as it was produced during the 1940s, it had no depth stop on the sliding section. Both nickel-plated and japanned specimens have been seen, although the fence seems to be most frequently nickel-plated. Whilst the No.50 had 17 cutters, the No.54 had only 8 provided.

As you can imagine the interesting part for me was discovering just how rare and valuable this forgotten member of my collection actually is. I have looked at it with renewed interest and appreciation.

