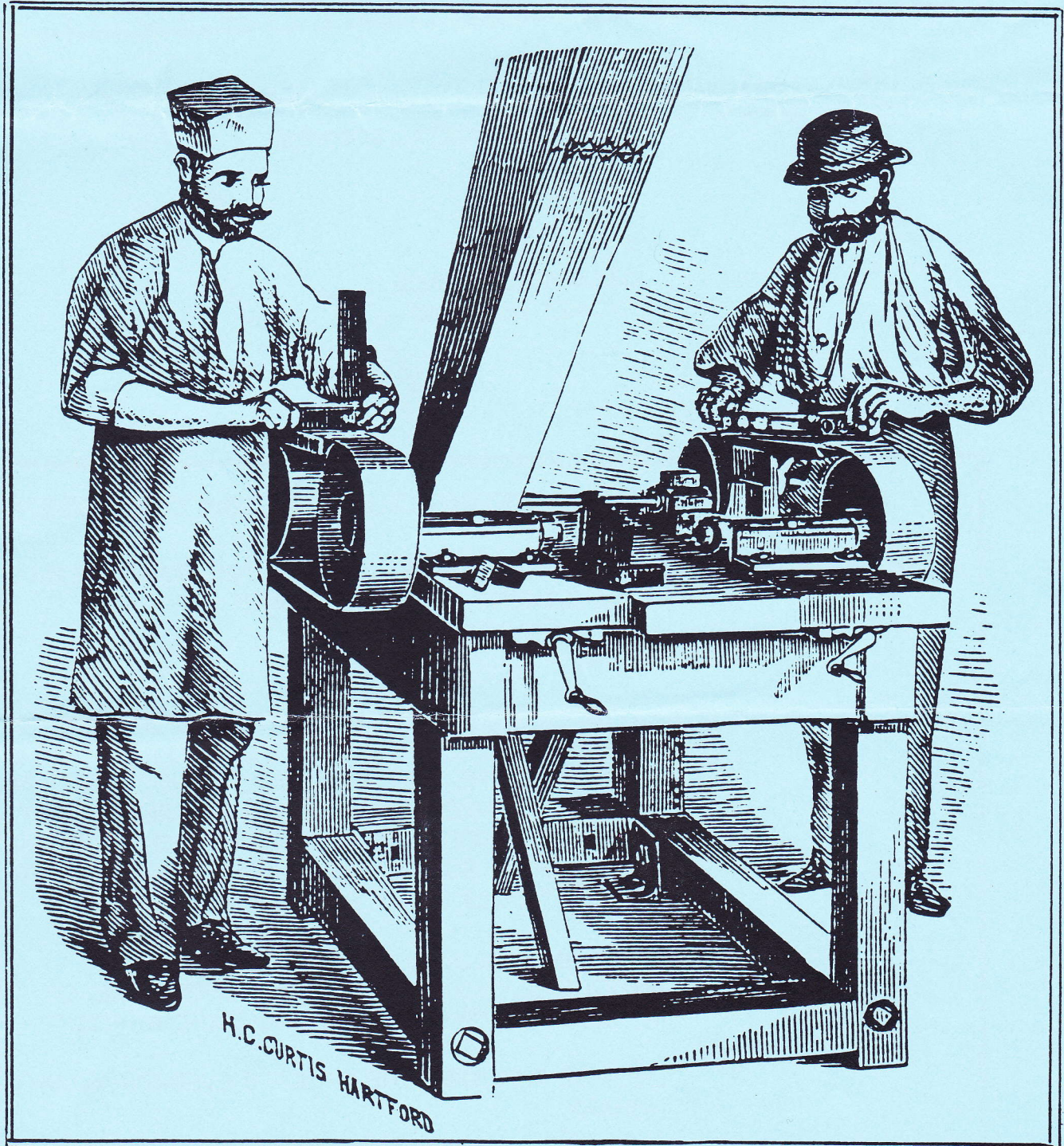
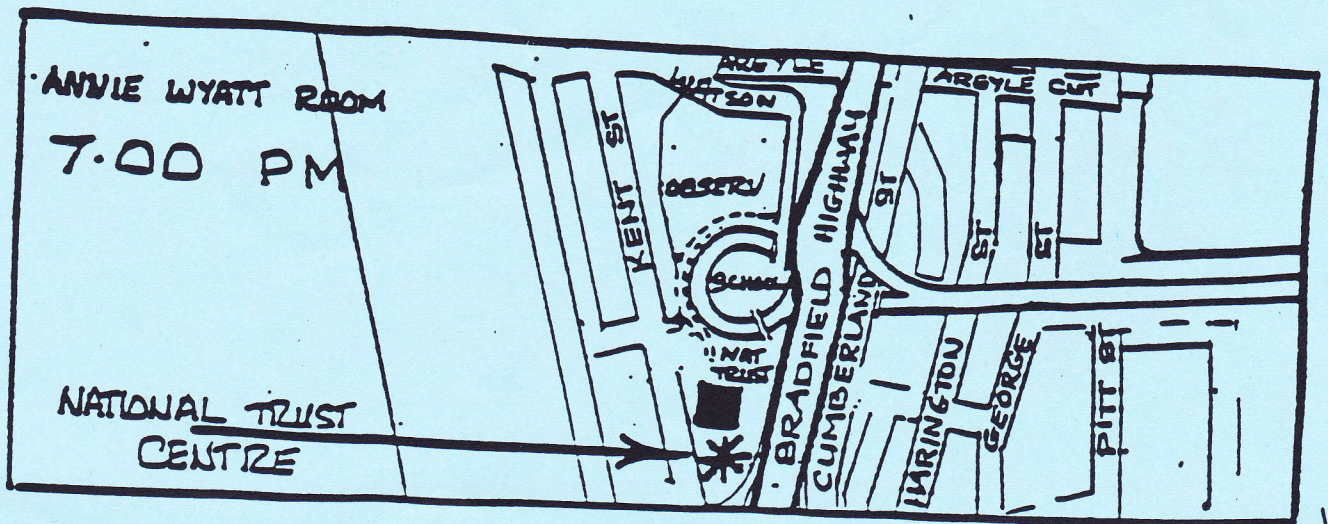


THE TRADITIONAL
TOOLS GROUP INC.



TTTG NEWSLETTER NO. 32
DECEMBER 1996





OUR NEW POSTAL ADDRESS

The Secretary
 T.T.T.G. Inc.
 P.O. Box 240
 GROSVENOR PLACE
 SYDNEY NSW 2000

*NOTE: IF YOU HAVE NOT
 PAID YOUR SUBS - THIS
 IS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER!*

NEXT MEETING- TUESDAY 10th DECEMBER

**AT THE ANNIE WYATT ROOM, NATIONAL TRUST CENTRE, OBSERVATORY HILL
 COMMENCING AT 7.00PM SHARP**

PROGRAMME

1. CATGUT AND STEAMED ASH. SYD CAREY IS GOING TO GIVE US A LECTURE ON THE TECHNOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE TENNIS RACQUET AND HOW AN AUSTRALIAN INVENTION PLAYED A PROMINENT PART. SYD ALWAYS SEEMS TO HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ON MOST TOPICS BUT TENNIS RACQUETS AND OTHER STRUNG "TOOLS" ARE A PARTICULAR INTEREST.
2. SHOW AND TELL. DO ANY MEMBERS HAVE ANY ANTIQUE TENNIS RACQUETS OR OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST WHICH YOU HAVE STUMBLER ACROSS?
3. BROWSE THROUGH THE GROUP'S EVER-EXPANDING LIBRARY.
4. SUPPER BY MARIO DATO.

TTTG Inc.

THE TRADITIONAL TOOLS GROUP.

TTTG NEWSLETTER NO.32.
December 1996.

EDITOR'S NOTES.

Bob Crosbie.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

PREVIOUS MEETING.

Mike Williams.

GEORGE BRETNALL

Trevor Semmens.

LIBRARY NEWS.

Rick Mitchell.

COLLECTORS PAGE.

Bob Crosbie.

JOINER'S HAND SAWS. Names and Sizes.

JOINER'S BACK SAWS. Names and Sizes.

SASH SHADES.

PATENTS.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Cover: Stanley Rule and Level Company Catalogue 1870.
TRAUT'S ENDLESS RUBBER POLISHING BELT.

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Any opinions expressed are those of the contributor.

EDITOR'S NOTES.

In this issue the new features introduced in the last few issues are continued. How about some comments!

Ralph Hawkins begins a regular feature Behind The Trade Mark. The editor is encouraging Ralph to do some research on Sydney makers or retailers.

In Collector's Page I take up this issue of local tool dealers. After the great Chance Son controversy I felt obliged to reproduce the Martin and Shaw/Chance Son stamp. Either I will have to get a taste for smoky tea or get a chit from the new Treasurer for a new tea strainer. Any way Collector's Page is entirely prints of plane marks in this issue. My advise to members is to get a tea strainer, candle and matches, clear tape and paper, and send in your prints for publication.

No one wants TTTG to become a plane spotter's club so how about some material on other tools. Just have a go at writing about your interest. If the expression is really bad I will rewrite it and run a spell check.

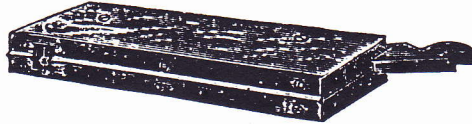
I am aware that the newsletter tends to reflect the Editor's interests. The only justification is that if I have to write most of the articles then I'll blame well write what I like! Actually I will only be happy when I don't have to write any thing except this column.

While I'm preaching there is one more matter.

WHY DON'T TTTG MEMBERS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FREE ADVERTS?

PATENTS.

When is an invention a new idea?
Ohio Tool Company, Charlestown USA, manufactured the plane below in 1900.

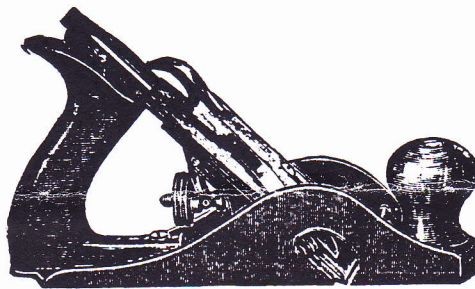


OHIO CAR BEADING PLANE
No. 068. Ohio Car Beading Plane, made from beechwood, with low angle bit and steel face.

It was a good idea in that it no doubt met a demand in the railway carriage trade, and perhaps the early automobile trades for a sweet cutting and durable tool. As a bonus the plane was probably inexpensive to manufacture.

But was the idea new? Did Ohio Tool Company patent the plane?

If any TTTG member has any additional information, or one of these Car Beading Planes please contact the Editor.



CARRIAGE MAKERS' RABBET PLANES

Plain Bottom

No. 010½. 9 inches in length, 2½ inch cutter.

No. 010. 13 inches in length, 2½ inch cutter.

Corrugated Bottom

No. 010½C. 9 inches in length, 2½ inch cutter.

No. 010C. 13 inches in length, 2½ inch cutter.

Joiner's Hand Saws: Names and Sizes.

Considerable confusion over the traditional names and sizes of joiner's saws exists. In recent decades the older terms have become redundant.

Below is a summary of the terms used in standard 19th and early 20th century text books.

Joseph Smith.

1816 Explanation or Key,

Manufactories of Sheffield.

The Early Industries Association 1975.

Hand and Pannel. 22', 24', 26', 28', 30'.

Holtzapfel.

(from Salaman, Dictionary of Woodworking Tools.)

Rip.	28'-30'	3 1/2 ppi.
Half Rip.	26'-18'	4 ppi.
Hand.	22'-26'	5 ppi.
Panel.	20'-24'	7 tpi.
Fine Panel.	20'-24'	8 ppi.

George Ellis.

Modern Practical Joinery. 1907 edition.

Rip.	28'	3 tpi.
Half Rip.	28'	1/4"-3/8"
Handsaw.	20'-26'	6 1/2 tpi.
Panel.	16'-26'	8-10 tpi.

Thomas Corkhill Selection and use of Tools in

Greenhalgh, Richard. Joinery & Carpentry. London 1929.

Rip.	28'	4 ppi.
Half Rip.	28'	slightly smaller
Handsaw.	28'	6 ppi.
Panel.	28'	9-10 ppi.

There is a general consistency as to names and some variation as to sizes.

Joiner's Back Saws: Names and Sizes.

Today a limited range of back saws is manufactured. Traditionally a large range was manufactured. This diversity is illustrated by the extract from a 19th century trade list.

Joseph Smith 1816 Explanation or Key,

Dovetail Saws.	8",9",10".	German steel, iron back. Cast steel, iron back. Cast steel, brass back. Cast steel, blued back Cast steel warranted, brass back.
Carcase Saws.	12".	German steel, iron backs. Cast steel, iron back. Cast steel, brass back. Cast steel, blued back. Cast steel warranted, brass back.
Sash Saws.	14".	German steel, iron backs. Cast steel, iron back. Cast steel, brass back. Cast steel, blued back. Cast steel warranted, brass back.
Tenon Saws.	16",18".	German steel, iron back. Cast steel, iron back. Cast steel, brass back Cast steel, blued back. Cast steel warranted, brass back.

A careful reading of the list will reveal the range of quality available within each type and size category.

By the end of the 19th century the range of back saws had been reduced and the names were less specific.

George Ellis, Modern Practical Joinery 1907, refers to dovetail, tenon and sash saws. He observes tenon saws should properly be called shoulder saws and tenon saws over 14" are known as sash saws.

Sash tenons, and any tenons under about 3" can be "run in" with a large tenon saw, ie. over 14". But if accurate tenons are to be achieved the saw needs to be sharpened as a "rip". 19th century tenon saws sharpened as a "rip" are occasionally found. The texts do not mention this practice though writers such as Ellis do advise readers to sharpen dovetail saws as a "rip". Larger tenons are "run in" with the half rip saw.

One other back saw needs mention. This is the so called "Gents' saw". It is a saw which evokes strong reactions. No doubt it has done a great deal for manufacturer's and retailer's cash flow over the last hundred years. Its value to woodworkers is debateable.

SASH SHAVES,SASH ROUTERS.

How were shaped sash mouldings made by hand methods? This is one of the topics old text books treat in a vague manner. Books on old tools propose a number of possibilities.

Salaman,R.A.Dictionary of Tools.....Woodworking

lists the following tools for sticking shaped sash mouldings.

Sash Routers. (Circular Sash Routers,iron).

Router Shave. (Wood,two irons).

Plane:Sash Moulding. (Circular Sash Plane).

(Double Compass Moulding Plane).

shaped both ways,"circle on circle" work.

and also the related;

Shave,Handrail. (Handrail,wood).

19th century tool catalogues list only two types of sash shaves.

These are the iron Sash Router and the wooden Router Shave.

Preston patented the iron sash router but it was produced by Mathieson,Ward& Payne,William Marples and others from the 1890's. Every description stresses the advantages of the iron sash router over the older wooden sash shave.

The wooden tool is listed as late as 1910 in The Sheffield List.

The iron sash router was available to match the full range of sash planes.This is illustrated by the two catalogue entries reproduced; Reprint,Alex Mathieson & Sons Ltd.1899 Catalogue.

Sash Shaves,iron with two irons.

Gothic,Ovolo,Lambstongue.

Gothic; 1/2",5/8",3/4".

Ovolo; 1/2",9/16",5/8",3/4".

Lambstongue; 1/2",9/16",5/8",3/4".

Reprint,Edward Preston & Sons Ltd.Illustrated Price List.July 1901.

Improved tools.

Preston's Improved Circular Sash Router.

Oveloe,Lambstongue,Gothic.1/2",9/16",5/8",3/4".

To promote these iron routers Preston used these phrases

"Routers to special order", "to work with any Plane Makers Pattern Mouldings".

Preston's patent details are given in Reprint The Preston Catalogue Astragal Press.1991.Appendix 111. Registered Designs.

Oveloe Sash Router.25 Oct.1898.No.328028.

SASH ROUTERS SASH SHAVES,2.

The iron sash router's advantages over the older wooden router shave were perceived to be its ease of use and range of sizes. The iron sash router was also reasonably priced and promised a long trouble free working life. From a manufacturer's view point it was much cheaper to make than the wooden tool.

The older wooden router shave was made in two forms.

- a) pairs of shaves right and left handed,
- b) two cutters in one stock to cut right and left.

The cutting action of both is identical to a single iron plane. Both forms are necessarily heavy.

The iron tool is considerably lighter in form, the irons easier to set than the wooden tool and the sole free from wear. The iron tool also has less sole area before the iron.

The disadvantages of both are;

- 1) both forms have spring making for an awkward working position
- 2) both tools are "changed over in the hands" for right or left cut which makes the problem of 1) greater.

For "shaped head" sashes these problems are not serious.

However "circular sashes" have tight grain changes, ie the change from right to left direction can be sudden. The small sole area of the iron tool gives it an advantage over the wooden tool but it is still easy to "tear up" the grain.

The general view is that compass moulding planes were used for this task. I believe this is incorrect. The long area of sole before the iron in a moulding plane would tear up the grain before the direction of cut could be changed. Perhaps pairs of compass moulding planes could be used for flat curves. It must always be remembered that sash moulding were not sanded, they had to be true from the cutting tool.

The clue to the tool used is given in this quotation;

"I still have my father's sash fillister; it must be eighty years old. Only the other day I had occasion to use it and, after sharpening, it worked as sweetly as ever. I well remember another tool he had. It was operated like a spokeshave, but the cutter was profiled to work the ovolo on circular sash stuff and tool and cutter were so arranged that they worked both right and left hand so that they could always be worked with the grain."

Letter F Vincent Sussex Practical Woodworking. December 1968.

SASH SHAVES,SASH ROUTERS.3

This is clearly a description of the Handrail Shave.The key to this tools' suitability for moulding tight curves is the profiled cutting iron.In use the tool is a pleasure to use as it is not necessary to "turn it over in the hands".The only disadvantage of the tool was its cost.

The Hand rail Shave is listed by Wilkes in the 1820's and as late as 1914 by Cleave.

Reprint.Joseph Cleave & Son.Catalogue 1914.

-Handrail plane;moving fence.

and also; Iron spokeshaves for circular sashes (marked E P).

"to suit our Lambs tongue and Gothic planes".

for a photograph see;

Proudfoot,C & Walker,P.Woodworking Tools.Phaidon.U.K.1984.

page 134,illustration 134. Coach Shave.(identical to Sash Shave).

and also;

"Hans Brunner Tool Auction".18 Aug.1996.

items 180,181.Circular Sash Router John Moseley & Son.

The discussion above will be clearer if the reader refers to;
SASH MAKING TECHNIQUES.TTTG Newsletter No.9.

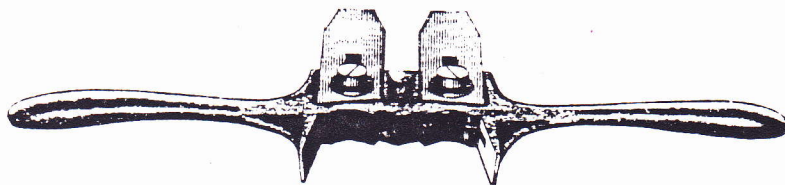
For illustrations of the various tools discussed see;

Whelan,J.M.The Wooden Plane.Astragal Press 1993.

p.301 Handrail Shave,p.346 Curved Sash Plane figure 13;60

"pairs of compass sash planes",p.347 Sash Plane figure 13;61

P S.HOW WERE THE REBATES MADE?



Sash Shave (Iron) for Gothic.

GEORGE BRETNALL

1 December 1844 - 17 February 1931

by, Trevor Semmens

In July 1984 I purchased a batch of 61 planes from my old Rover Scoutmaster. With these he gave me some of the family history relating to his grandfather George Bretnall who had his name stamped prominently on them. This then is that interesting account.

"George Bretnall was born at Clapton, Stamford Hill, County Middlesex, England. He with his father, step-mother and sister Charlotte arrived in Australia by the sailing ship "Constitution" in 1855. His early years were ones of hardship. He served his apprenticeship to the carpentry & joinery business, and worked on several of Sydney's important buildings - the Great Hall at Sydney University and St. Andrew's Cathedral.

Leaving the building trade he engaged in the fishing business where he became acquainted with many Chinese. He, with a partner, Mr. Chillaman, sailed a fishing smack from Port Stephens to Port Macquarie; they encountered heavy weather & on arrival at Port Macquarie the bar was signalled as unsafe to cross. Lying to for some time outside the heads they were compelled to make a choice between foundering in the open sea or risking the entrance. They decided on the latter. With Mr. Chillaman lashed to the tiller & George Bretnall similarly lashed to the mast they succeeded in crossing the bar. In Port Macquarie, Flagstaff Hill was thronged with villagers watching the progress of the little fishing smack as crossing the bar it was repeatedly engulfed by the waters, with both men & boat being submerged. With good seamanship & probably the aid of providence they slowly negotiated the bar & received a hearty welcome from the residents looking on. Settling in Port Macquarie George Bretnall returned to his trade as a builder.

On 18th. January 1871 he married Marsha Macquarie Drew from Port Macquarie. They had 7 children. He & his family moved to Sydney where the family settled in Botany as a carpenter & then going on to establish his own business in partnership with a Mr. Poulton. The firm being known as Bretnall & Poulton, Builders & Contractors. It was very successful, with some prominent Sydney buildings being built. They included the Botany Town Hall, the Town Hall & School of Arts at Stoud as well as business premises & private residences in Sydney & suburbs.

The family moved to Annandale Street, Annandale to one of a pair of semi-detached two storied houses, named "Minnor-Warrane", built by the firm.

The depression of 1890 & the bank crashes of 1893 ruined the building trade & George Bretnall lost practically all his money. He subsequently joined the New South Wales Education Department as inspector of buildings and for many years lived in Goulburn. Here he had control of building operations for the Education Department throughout the South & South Western districts of N.S.W. (a very large area; of the order of some 60,000 square miles!). He left Goulburn in 1905 & lived in Stanmore & Auburn (in Sydney) where he died in 1931".

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

re names and marks not in the 3rd edition of British
Planemakers-

1. CHANCESON & CO. I have a 22" trying plane.

2. Different or new marks.

(i) JOS? BUCK

124 NEWGATE STREET

LONDON

I have a side snipe

(ii) C. NURSE & Co

82 WALWORTH ROAD + trademark

LONDON SE

I have a No 18 Hollow

(iii) R. ROUTLEDGE



17mm diameter

I have a No 10 Round

I trust the above to be of interest to you.

Yours faithfully,

Trevor Semmens

Montagu Bay Tasmania

COLLECTOR'S PAGE.

Following the lively debate in the previous newsletter the CHANCE SON/MARTIN & SHAW plane mark is reproduced below;



At the last meeting Fred,TTG President,displayed half a dozen Chanceson & Co. planes.Terry,TTG vice President,brought along a fine Chanceson & Co Sash Fillister.Fred tells me he has more Chanceson planes and will publish a list in this newsletter in due course.Terry noticed the variation in the Chanceson & Co. stamps. He now suggests the company may have been a Sydney import agent.Any more information or ideas?

Aitken & Sons,Pitt Street Sydney.

This firm was a Sydney tool dealer.The business is listed from about 1900.

Tools known with this mark include;

Side Fillister Plane
Square Ovolo Plane
Berg Firmer Chisel

If members have any Aitken & Sons tools please send in details. Ralph Hawkins will do some research on Aitkens & Son if there is enough interest.

LIBRARY NEWS

Recent Donations.

Donated by Eddy Stapleton

-Art of Fretwork

-Trehella Brothers JACKS

-Saunders and Stewart Perth Western Australia
New and Secondhand Machinery

-Babcock and Wilcox STEAM

Donated by Terry Butcher

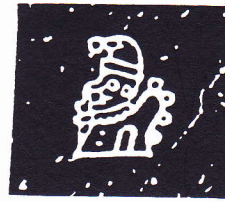
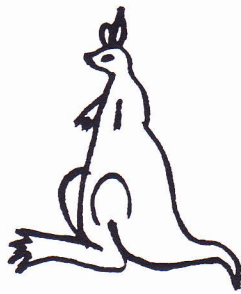
-McPhersons Machinery Handbook 1937

PREVIOUS MEETING

Last meeting we were fortunate to be addressed by Geoffrey Gettens, a master picture framer. Geoffrey explained how a good frame complements a fine picture-- why simple frames suit some pictures whilst ornate frames (sometimes regarded as old fashioned) suit a surprising number of works of art. He covered traditional methods of joining frames, gesso work and different types of gilding. It is refreshing to find such a craftsman who can create the "perfect" frame and not just someone who provides a standard job from a standard range of frames. Any members wishing to contact Geoffrey should read the advertisement in this issue.

Bob Crosbie then conducted an auction of de-accessed tool donations of which the group now has better or more interesting examples and a small collection of tools offered to the group for sale. Both these sources yielded valuable dollars for the group and we hope to repeat the performance at some future time both to help the group financially and to provide a bit of competitive fun for the members on the night.

BEHIND THE TRADE MARK.



Some of the Sorby Family Marks.

Sorby, Henry Clifton Sorby, (L.L.D;F.R.S;J.P.)

6 Beech Hill Road, Sheffield.

Justice of the Peace for the City of Sheffield.

Late President of Firth College.

Vice-President of Sheffield University College.

Director of Sheffield Gas Company.

Treasurer of the Church Institute.

Dr Sorby is a well known scientist;

he was first to introduce the modern methods of studying the microscopical structure of minerals, rocks, iron and steel with high powers, to apply spectrum analysis to the microscope, and to introduce many new methods and ideas into various branches of science.

For this work he received;

the Gold Boerhaave medal,

the Royal medals of the Royal Society,

the Woollaston medal of the Geological Society.

Dr Sorby was;

President of the Microscopical Society for three years.

President of the Geological Society of London for two years.

Dr Sorby is devoted to yachting, during four of five months of the year he lives on his yacht.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

- Copies magazine WORK,any condition.
- Spier's Shoulder Plane,
- Any books by P N Hasluck
- Copy Wells and Hooper,MODERN CABINET WORK,1909

Reply to the Editor TTTG.

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very cheap,please inquire for details.
the first advert is free.

Private-

free!

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'phone 06-288-6142 5% discount to TTTG Members.

If you are passing through Canberra, please give us a ring and drop in to see our extensive range of tools and publications about tools. Those of you who visited us at the First Sydney Tool Convention will have received some idea of the extent and diversity of our stock.

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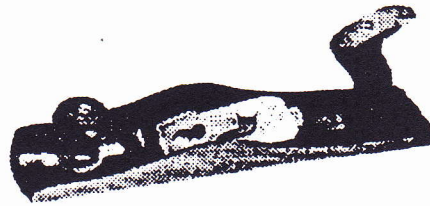
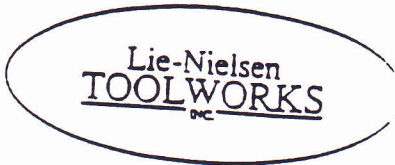


Garrett Wade



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Tel 61 9 314 7711 Fax 61 9 314 7712

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Issue Date
MAY 1996

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