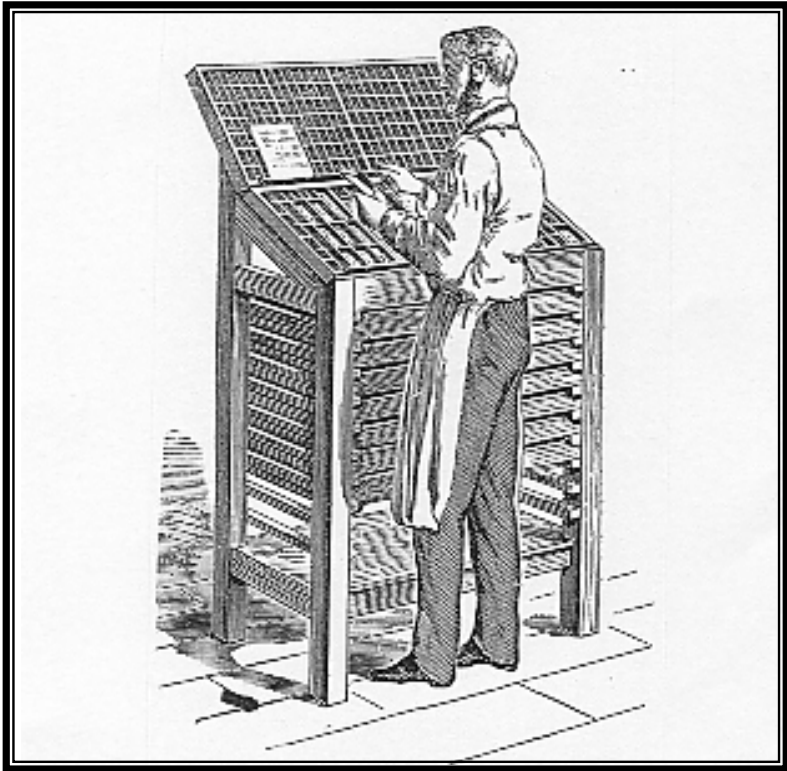


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TGT



**Newsletter Number 74.**

**December 2003.**

**The Traditional Tools Group (Inc.)**

**[www.tttg.org.au](http://www.tttg.org.au)**

**TTTG Inc.**

**THE TRADITIONAL TOOLS GROUP (Inc.)**  
**TTTG Newsletter Number 74. December 2003.**

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**Cover:** Compositor at work, showing Frame and Cases.  
Amateur Work Illustrated. London 1888.

**2003/2004 Subscriptions are due.**

**Subscription Rates :**

Sydney \$30. Overseas \$30.

Out of Sydney, Other States and Australian Pensioners \$22.50.

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**[tttg.org.au](http://tttg.org.au)**

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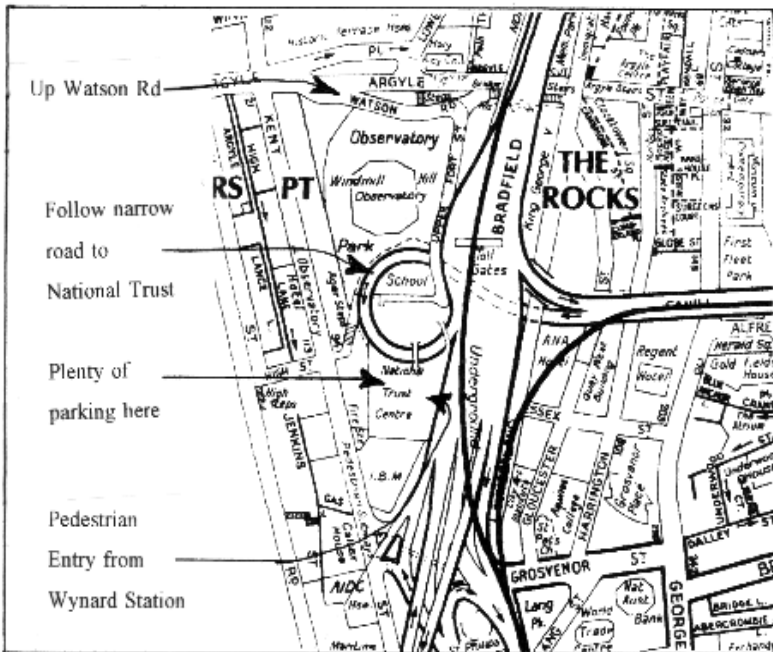
**Next Meeting**

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2003**

**National Trust Centre, Annie Wyatt Room**

**Observatory Hill.**

**Commencing at 7:00pm**



### **PROGRAMME**

- 1. DARREN RYAN WILL SPEAK TO US ON THE TOPIC OF “TOOLS USED IN MODEL SHIPBUILDING”. THIS IS MUCH, MUCH MORE THAN SHIPS IN A BOTTLE. DON’T MISS IT!**
- 2. THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY FRED’S WOTSIT.**
- 3. THEN OUR FUN AUCTION.**
- 4. SUPPER BY MARIO DATO.**

### **Previous Meeting.**

Coach and Carriage Making Tools: The TTTG Collection.  
Tuesday evening 14th October 2003.

Interest in the Pattern maker's Toolbox from the TTTG Collection was the rationale for this presentation.

The TTTG Coach Makers Tool Box, and the projected acquisition strategy to fill this box with appropriate tools, was the subject of the discussion.

The President canvassed a number of emerging issues concerning the groups future.

Topics included the venue for meetings, proposed publications, improvements to News, future workshops, growth in membership and TTTG tool sales and auctions.

The audience then had the opportunity to bid at the biggest TTTG Auction to date.

### **In fact these auctions are getting out of control.**

A large number of tools were sold to raise funds for East Timor.  
TTTG did not charge commission on the sale of these tools.

Over fifty members and guests attended the meeting.

---

### **Next Meeting.**

#### **Topic: Tools used in model ship-building. Speaker: Darren Ryan.**

Darren plans to cover the relatively traditional practices/methods of ship model building (he uses hardly any power tools, mostly traditional/hand tool methods).

The main areas of ship model building will be discussed.

These include planking the hull, making details, fitting, masting and rigging.

Darren will also bring some of the home-made and miniature/specialist tools he uses. These tools include planes, gauges, squares and scrapers. A ropewalk will be shown and described.

This device makes miniature rope in the same manner as with full-sized rigging.

Expect to also see a couple of smaller models as examples.

### **Editors Notes.**

Hopefully readers will notice an improvement in News 74.

A new printer produced news 73 and the response from members was positive.

All comments came down to “ better print quality, no mistakes, better illustrations”. News 74 reflects this improved print quality and is now being fully electronically printed. Further improvements lie in the area of quality reproduction of drawings and photographs.

Paradoxically as the technology improves, the demands on the TTTG Editorial team grow. Next year we plan to expand News and provide TTTG members with a better journal.

The illustration on this issues cover shows how much printing technology has changed. Several decades ago a publication like News would have been too expensive to produce and TTTG may then have been able to only produce perhaps only one such journal in a year. What is lost is the total clarity of old illustrations, even in the best digital reproduction. Still without photocopiers and scanners these old illustrations could not be reprinted at all.

### **How does the TTTG Editorial team produce News?**

For the editor number one priority (obsession?) is the Cover page. This subject is discussed elsewhere in this issue in “The Title Pages”.

Finding information is a two-part process. The key is to encourage others to write! TTTG has a number of regular correspondents; without them News would not happen. However we are always looking for material to print, so please write something!

The editor is a compulsive reader and old book addict. I like to copy old illustrations. These are cut and pasted on paper and then photocopied. Chaos is the system.

The editor spends at least one working day writing News. I write News on the key-board.

Scanning images, inserting images, cropping images and layout consume a lot of time. News is then printed out and mounted in a display folder. The editor likes to see a mock up.

The electronic and the paper copies are then passed on to Mike Williams.

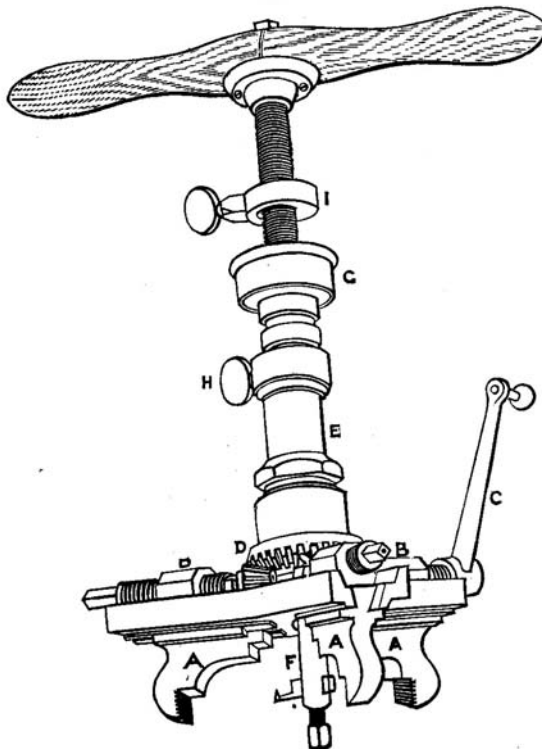
Mike spends at least another day producing the final version of News.

He has the task of inserting the advertisements and making last minute corrections.  
After the adverts are inserted the final layout is in an electronic format for the printer.  
Mike then has to take the job to the printer and then collect the printed copies of News.  
But the worst is to come as Mike also addresses the envelopes and mails out News.

**What is it?**

The mystery object in News 73 is the “Challenge” Lawn-mower sharpener.  
This device was sold by Churchill and Co. London for 4s in the 1890s.

**What is the hand tool below?**



## **Correspondence.**

### **Tools made from files.**

The editor had a phone call from Mike Hendrikson and it's always a pleasure to speak to Mike. The conversation edged around to News 73 and Mike puts forward some strong opinions on the above topic. "Leave them files alone" is perhaps a good summary.

**What exactly is brine?** Mike's concern is that we use all these old throw away lines with out ever trying to define their meaning. I can think of other such expressions.

To take a few examples from metal-working we have "cherry red" and "blood red".

Mike knows what these terms mean and will write a few articles for News. We look forward to Mike Hendrikson's future contributions.

Perhaps a series called say "**Sparks from the Forge**".

I may as well go a bit further "What about being a TTTG guest speaker?"

### **Information.**

#### **Gumleaf Tool Handles.**

Mike Hendrikson sent an old newspaper clipping about Gumleaf tool handles. The material in the newspaper article will be reproduced in a future issue of News.

Gumleaf were a large mill on the South Coast dating back to the mid 1800s and in the 1970s the site was redeveloped for a shopping complex. Does anyone have additional information on Gumleaf.

#### **Coach wood Tool Handles.**

Coach wood tool handles were fitted to chisels made by Titan and to saws made by Marsden. Both these makers, and other, were companies within BHP. Carter Planes were fitted with coachwood handles and knobs. H R Armstrong (Ashfield) made coachwood replacement handles for chisels and saws.

Information is sought on other makers of coach wood tool handles.

#### **Australian Made Files.**

Files marked "Made in Australia" are known, for example Eagle and Globe.

If you have any files marked "Made in Australia" please send details to the editor.

**EMAIL THE EDITOR ON [r.crosbie@bigpond.com](mailto:r.crosbie@bigpond.com)**

## **Events and Publications.**

### **Australian Made Machinery Directory.**

Wood and Metal Working Machinery.

Work has begun on the TTTG Directory of Australian Machine Makers. John Bates is coordinating the project. John was quick to take up the challenge,

“ I would be keen to work on this. In fact I already have a lot of data, but mostly metalworking stuff. Its scope is also a bit wider than just 'machinery'. I have attached the Australian-made entries in my database as is, but would be happy to alter the content and format to suit TTTG aims and objectives.”



### **Carter Plane Leaflet.**

The Reprint of an undated Carter Tools colour Leaflet is now available. Cost is \$5 each, post extra.

### **Johns Pages.**

Work is currently in hand on a compilation of articles by John Daniels. The illustrations are being scanned. Publication early 2004.

### **TTTG Tool Makers.**

The editor has a number of photographs of tools made by TTTG members. This publication seems feasible. Photos of members work are requested.

### **Metal Working Skills Workshop.**

Expressions of interest are called from TTTG members interested in attending. Please Note. This workshop will be in early 2004. (Venue Asquith Boys High School).

### **Further Information.**

For full details of all TTTG Events see the Web Page. [www.tttg.org.au](http://www.tttg.org.au)

## Taps for Square Threads.

Search through all the old standard texts on Engineering workshop practice and you will find seemingly endless information on screw cutting. Lathe screw cutting, taps and dies, screw forms, tool grinding and back gear calculations all done to death.

But try finding information on cutting internal square threads and you will not get far.

Plenty on cutting external square threads but very little about internal square threads.

Virtually nothing about cutting internal square threads with taps.

Now try to find an illustration of a tap for a square thread.

What about the standard sizes for square thread taps?

It is obvious that taps for square threads were standard commercial items. Demand may have been limited but too many small size square threads were used to make it likely that most users made their own square taps.

An illustration of a square thread tap is in Mathiesons 1899 Catalogue. Has anyone seen another square thread tap drawing?

### SQUARE THREAD TAPS, TAPER.



	Diameter, ... ..	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	1	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	inch
No.	No. of Threads per inch,	8	7	6	5	5	4	4	4	
1862—Square Thread Taper Taps, ... ..		7/	8/	10/	11/6	14/	14/	17/	20/	each

## Mathieson 1899 Catalogue Reprint.

This is a once only opportunity to acquire a complete Mathieson Catalogue.

Why not treat yourself to a great Christmas present?

Please contact Ken Turner:

by phone on 03 9878 2697.

or write to P.O. Box 23, Blackburn, Victoria. 3130.

## The Title Pages.

All editors try to make the title page eye catching, always respecting propriety!

This editor likes to include interesting images of people on the title page. Suitable illustrations can be found in old text-books, magazines and advertisements.

Some advertisements are visually brilliant but are still not quite “right” for News.

The Baker’s Soldering Flux advertisement, (1950s) below is a good example.

So good in fact that the editor finally found a devious way to include it in News.

**“Baker’s”**  
Regd

**SOLDERING FLUID**

FOR SOLDERING  
**Baker’s  
Soldering  
Fluid**  
AND TINNING

*NOW for Clean  
and  
Certain Joints*

**QUICK · CLEAN · CERTAIN · ECONOMICAL**

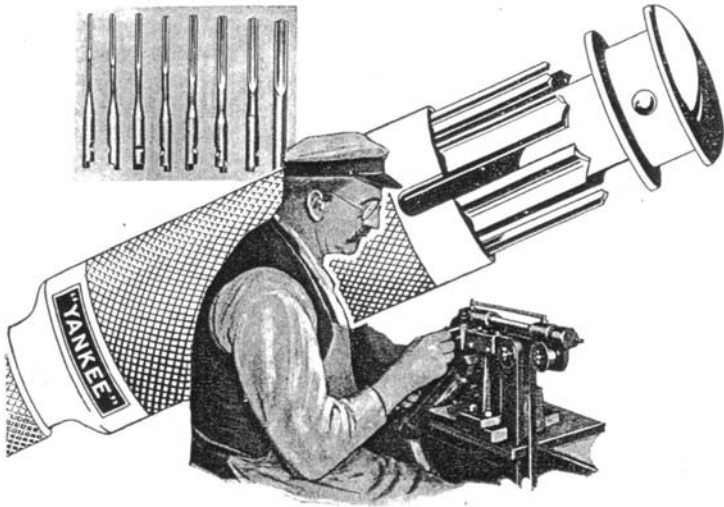
PRODUCT OF SIR Wm. BURNETT & CO.(Chemicals) LTD.  
GREAT WEST ROAD · ISLEWORTH · MIDDLESEX · ENGLAND

**Title Pages.**

What is the bench-mark? This is not easy to answer and probably very subjective.

Consider this Yankee Drill advertisement from the 1930s.

With a little “recontextualisation”\* this would make a great News title page.



Imagine the set of drills top left corner being removed and the knurling bottom left erased and we have a classic TTTG front page.

It is one of many and whether this one makes the cover will depend on timing.

With a bit of cutting and pasting this little guy could make front page.



\* Post Modern term for cutting bits out.

**Not just another plated brace, perhaps one of the first.**

At Henry's last tool sale I was fortunate enough to pick up a named plated brace accompanied by a handful of bits. The brace was sensibly priced so I purchased it with little hesitation, the bits I would inspect later back home.

The brace was made by the firm "Brown and Flather" who operated between 1828 and 1849 in Sheffield, and to my delight, on inspecting the wood bits I discovered that they were also manufactured by the same company.

Brown and Flather was a partnership of Henry Brown and David Flather and was first listed in the 1828 Directory at King's Arms on Fargate Street, Sheffield. It seems that they acquired the business of James Bee who was the first listed brace maker appearing in the 1814 Sheffield Directory.

Ken Roberts in his book "Some 19<sup>th</sup> Century English Woodworking Tools", suggests that James Bee may have designed the plated style of brace before turning over his business in 1828. Ken Roberts also concludes that the plated brace was introduced at Sheffield, c1829. This conclusion is based on "the 1829 J.Wilk's Price List. This is the earliest known dated reference to improved plated braces". Brown and Flather apparently were the makers of the braces listed.

**Back to my brace.**

An identical brace is illustrated in Fig. 59 of Ken Robert's book, and is dated between 1830 and 1840. Both my brace and bits were in a nice untouched condition and needed only a careful cleaning. To find a brace with most of its original bits after over 160 years since manufacture amazes me. For it to have sidestepped abuse and misuse suggests that it has always been in the hands of a caring craftsman.

I would particularly like to thank the vendor of this tool for selling it "as is" rather than "tizzing it up" for sale, which is so often the case.

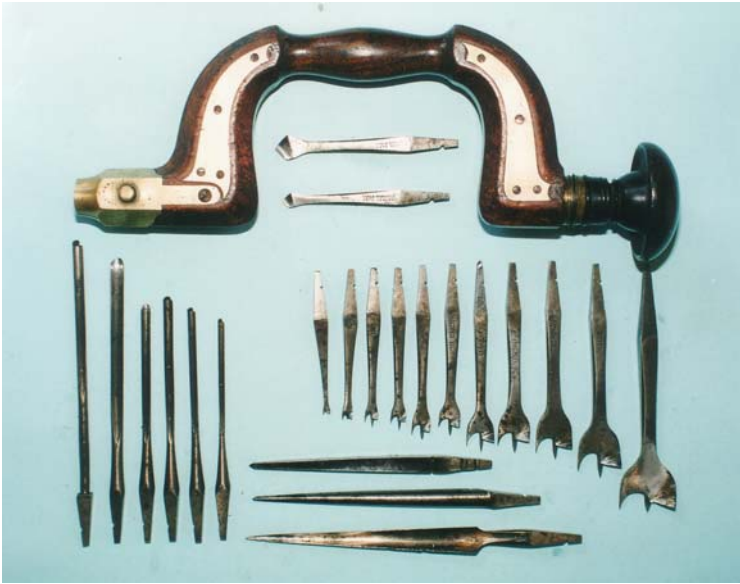
I look forward to Henry's next tool sale.

*Reference.*

Some 19<sup>th</sup> Century English Woodworking Tools.

Kenneth D. Roberts – Ken Roberts Publishing Co.

Fitzwilliam N. H. Second Printing 1991. Pages 307, 309, 477.



**Photo 1.** The Brown and Flather brace displayed with its accompanying bits. Included in the bits displayed are 11 centre bits, 4 nose bits, 2 spoon bits, 2 flat countersinks, a square reamer, a half round reamer and a large tapered bit.



**Photo 2.** The brace pad photographed against Ken Roberts' reprint of the 1841 advertisement taken from the Sheffield Directory.

## **Replaceable Blade Planes.**

There were several ideas for replaceable plane blades before the 1960s. Even Stanley in the 1920s developed a disposable blade.

The concept reached maturity in the 1960s with the arrival of the Paramo Plane.

The Paramo Planemaster appears in an article in Woodworker February 1966,

(Planes Details of those in the competition).

This Competition was in the November 1965 Woodworker.

The plane therefore dates to 1965, or perhaps before?

The original Planemaster was the P.M.10.

There an advert for the two Planemasters, P.M.10 and P.M.12 in May 1967 and in 1970 Stanley UK introduced the RB10.

Paramo ceased producing the Planemaster; Did Stanley buy production rights? The Stanley RB 10 is a cheaper quality plane.

Mike Dowling comments on the Stanley RB 10.

“So far I've seen 2 quite distinct types, all made in UK.

The 2 older versions that I have are equipped with a pressed steel frog which is attached to the base with 4 screws. They have the conventional Bailey 'Y' lever etc to advance the cutter (2 piece pressed metal type), the nut is a tapering plastic nut (I think some 'handyman types' have the same nut), and also a lateral adjustment lever. One of the planes has a slightly different base casting, the hump is a good 7 or 8 mm higher. The newer versions seem to be all pretty much the same other than slight casting variations and different colour plastic parts (orange or yellow).”

Mike has also seen several versions of the Paramo Planemaster,

”There seems to be quite a number of variations. I've not seen a 12" version, the two I have are 10". Both have quite different base castings. I have seen other variants on ebay, such as types with wooden handles, others 'Teflon' coated, one black, one white! One has a small sticker on it 'Selected for the Design Centre London' ”.

Another maker of replaceable blade planes was Whitmore. Mike speculates:

“I have several variants of the Stanley model, including a type which could be fitted with a double iron. Paramo and Whitmore are the only non-Stanley that I've yet to come across.”

**Paramo PlaneMaster,**

The Paramo PlaneMaster was first advertised in the Woodworker in April 1966.

**The ideal Christmas present in 1966!** Woodworker December 1966.

Be a really bright girl this Christmas and give your handyman a Paramo Planemaster. Here's the gift he would choose himself—a superbly finished precision woodworking plane that will plane hard or soft woods to a super finish, or even tackle plastic laminates without chatter or creep. The Planemaster has the unique replaceable blades, changed in 3 seconds and securely locked by the flick of a lever and is boxed complete with 5 spare blades and rebate gauge for cutting rebates up to 1½" wide.

**From good ironmongers and hardware stores,**  
or, in case of difficulty, write to:  
**F. Parramore & Sons (1924) Limited**  
Chapelton, Sheffield.

Recommended retail price **52/6** Complete with 5 spare blades and rebate gauge in attractive Christmas gift pack  
**SPARE BLADES**  
PB10 Standard 5 for 2/6  
PB10 Special 3 for 3/- (specially for plastic laminates)

The Paramo PlaneMaster was also included in C H Hayward’s article Planes-part 1, published in the February 1967 Woodworker.

“Planemaster. Can be used as a general bench plane or for rebating. Is adjustable and cutter is a narrow strip fitting at the front and is quickly replaceable. For bench work the cutter would need to be sharpened to slight curve. For rebating a fence attachment is also supplied. 10 in. long, 1½ in. cutter”.

By 1968 a second model was available, P.M.12, 12 inches long.

The Paramo Planemaster was a quality plane which disappeared in the early 1970s, replaced by the cheaper Stanley version.

## The Arcoy Dovetailer.

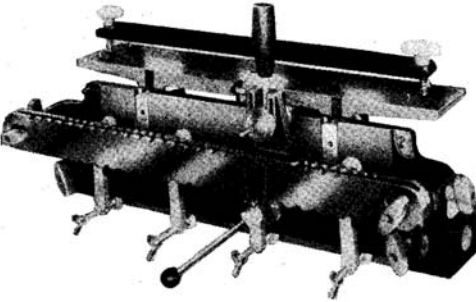
**ARCOY**  
**PRODUCTS**

*presents the*

**DOVETAILER**

**18"**

**ARCOY**




The 18" Arcoy Dovetailer is a larger version of the well-known Arcoy Standard Dovetailer, and has been introduced as a result of numerous requests for a Dovetailer to take a wider timber than has previously been catered for. The 18" Dovetailer is made in the style of the Standard Dovetailer, but substantially more robust as befits its greater size.

To make it more suitable for the widest possible range of work it has been equipped with a multi-pitch bar carrying pitches of  $\frac{1}{8}$ ",  $\frac{3}{8}$ ",  $\frac{1}{2}$ " and 1" in lieu of the single pitch comb guide of the Standard Dovetailer.

Timber of any combination of thickness between  $\frac{3}{8}$ " and 1" up to a maximum width of 18" can be used. Simple setting and accurate location of the timber eliminates the necessity of any marking out, and any portable Power Tool of  $\frac{1}{2}$ " or more capacity is suitable for driving the cutter head spindle.

**Price - £33 17. 6.**  
excluding cutters which are separately priced at **13/6 each**

Cutters Nos. 1-2-3-4-7-8-9 from the Standard Dovetailer are suitable.



**AVAILABLE AT**  
**ALL GOOD**  
**RETAILERS**

Devices and machines for cutting dovetails are nothing new.

The Arcoy was developed in the 1950s to exploit the rotary power of the electric drill. Like the modern "dovetailers" it also offered the illusion of instant perfection. Arcoy also manufactured a range of power tools including an electric drill.

Illustrated is an advertisement from March 1961 of an 18 inch version.

The editor acquired a smaller Arcoy Standard Dovetailer at the last meeting together with an old tobacco tin containing a set of cutters, unused!

It was part of the tools "not suitable for sending to East Timor."

Makes one think doesn't it, what else is being donated or trashed? The machine is well made and unused. Perhaps a display on a TTTG Stand!

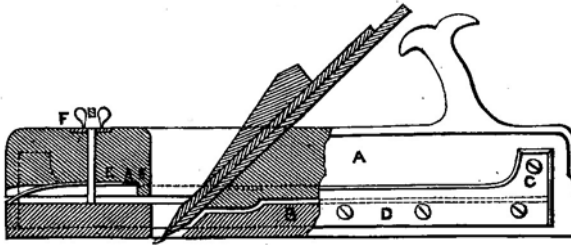
## Improved Plane and Spokeshave.

Around 1870 several design “faults” of traditional planes were “solved” by inventors. Three faults were seen as needing improvement;

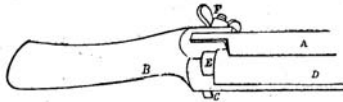
- a) How to regulate the thickness of shavings.
- b) How to prevent “drag” on the cutting edge on the return stroke.
- c) How to eliminate the wear of the sole.

The plane illustrated was invented by G Buckel and addressed “faults” a. and b.

The illustration is from Spon’s Dictionary of Engineering. London 1874. Volume 11.



Spokeshaves also caught the improvers’ attention.



**A**, the cutting blade. **B**, the stock. **C**, the tang. **D**, the cam. **E**, the eye-bolt holding **D**.

The Improved Spokeshave is illustrated in *The New Guide to Carpentry*. Edited by R S Burn. London 1870.

The same essential principle is applied to both the improved tools.

The blade is fixed and the area in front of the fixed blade is moveable.

This allows precise and secure shaving regulation.

How did his work out in practice and is the scarcity of these tools the final verdict?

## Syers' Cast Iron Bench.

"Notes and Novelties" in Amateur Work Illustrated 1888 is packed with Victorian "improved" designs. Cast iron, the "new" material of the age features prominently.

Mr Thomas J Syer of 1 Finsbury Street, Chiswell Street London held several patents.

Syer's Registered Portable Cabinet Bench was a masterpiece of iron founding.

Syer's Bench Stop, Syer's Patent "standard Instantaneous Grip Vice and Syer's Patent Bench Knife enhanced the utility of the Registered Portable Cabinet Bench. Syer's Registered Portable Cabinet Bench was available in a range of sizes.

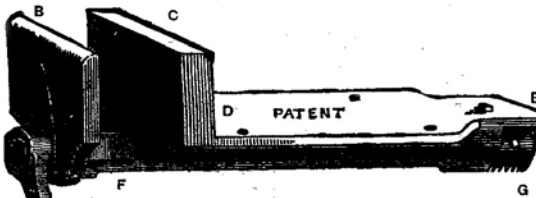
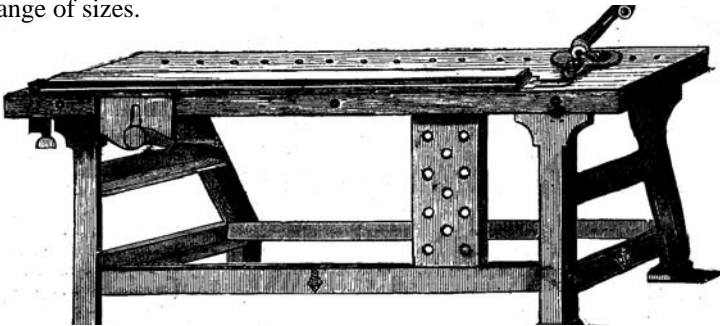
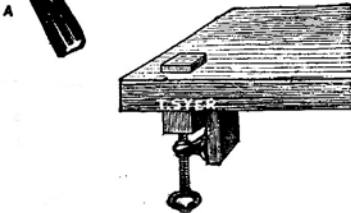


FIG. 5.—"STANDARD" INSTANTANEOUS GRIP VICE.



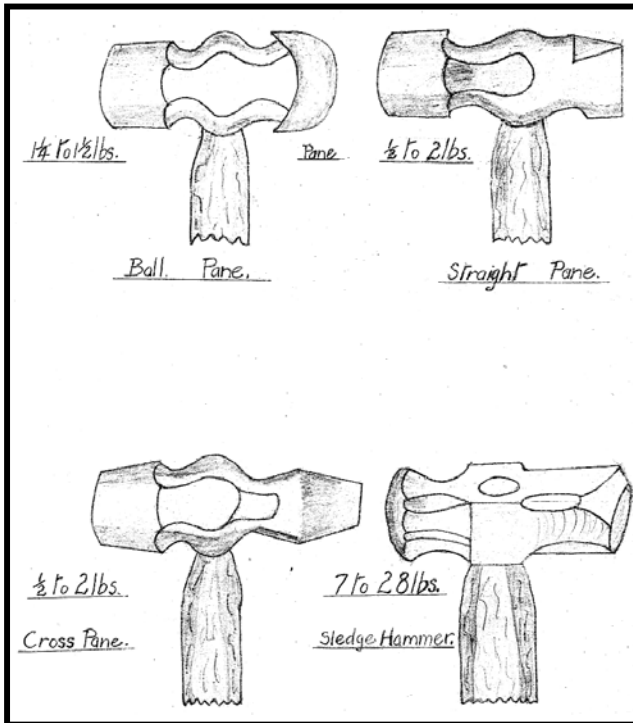
John McLeans' Notebooks.

I do not know if John McLean is dead or alive.

In fact I know virtually nothing about the man. All I know is that he went to school in Sydney and was a student at Leichhardt Trades School in 1937. His handwriting was very good and his sketches could be humorous. He probably grew up in Ashfield.

All this comes from a handful of notebooks once belonging to John McLean. I purchased these at North Rocks Markets one Sunday morning. (If I mentioned who I brought them from, some readers would know I was robbed but sometimes you have to pay too much as real value can not be measured in money.)

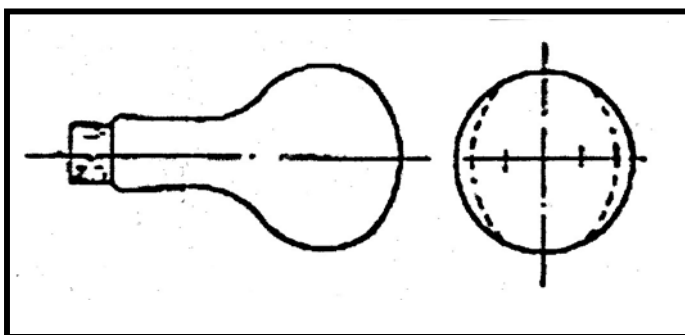
The grades in the books suggest John was a good but not outstanding student. As a teacher I can not resist commenting that the quality of his written work far exceeds that of my best students. Hopefully John McLean had a happy life. Who knows?



How to....

**TURNING OVAL TOOL-HANDLES**

Oval tool handles may be turned by the following method. Centre the work to be turned, leaving the head stock centre as usual (this is the ferrule end). Now mark off at a ¼ inch from the dead centre, two other centres, one each side and truly in line, using first of all the usual centres, and turn to desired shape and fit the ferrule. Slaken (*sic*) the dead centre, place it in one of the side centres. and take a light cut over the part of the handle where the hand would grip. Do the same with the other side centre. Return to usual centre and cut off. O. M.



*Turning Oval Tool Handles*

Mechanics 28-1-1944.

## **Library News.**

Rick Mitchell

### **Periodicals Received.**

- Hand Tool Preservation Society of Western Australia. (HTPSWA).  
Newsletter.
- Hand Tool Preservation Association of Australia Inc. (HTPAA).  
Tool Chest/Sharp Edge Vol.15 No.3. Issue 69, August 2003.
- TATHS. Tools and Trades History Society.  
Newsletter 82 Winter 2003.  
Journal Vol. 14.

### **Directory.**

- The Traditional Tools Group Inc. (TTTG). [tttg.org.au](http://tttg.org.au)  
  
P.O. Box 240 Grosvenor Place. Sydney N.S.W.1220.  
Enquires: Mike Williams phone 02 9144 6356  
Bob Crosbie e-mail : [r.crosbie@bigpond.com](mailto:r.crosbie@bigpond.com)
- Tools and Trades History Society. (TATHS)  
Membership Secretary: Jane Rees.  
Barrow Mead Cottage. Rush Hill, Bath. United Kingdom.  
BA2 2QP 01225 837031 (Office hours only).
- Hand Tool Preservation Association Australia. Inc.(HTPAA).  
P.O.Box 1163 Carlton. Victoria. 3053.
- Hand Tool Preservation Society of Western Australia. (HTPSWA).  
8 Belham Street, Bayswater. Western Australia

## **SUBSCRIPTION NOTICE.**

2003-2004 Subscriptions are now due.

## Advertisements.

### RATES.

All **WANTED** and **FOR SALE** advertisements **are free.**

Quarter Page \$10 per issue.                      \$50 per annum.

Half Page    \$15 per issue.                      \$80 per annum.

Full Page    \$20 per issue.                      \$100 per annum.

First placement is free.

### WANTED

- Heavy Firmer Chisels wanted by working carpenter.

  Square edge chisels all sizes 1" and above.

  Mick Dowling. Phone 03 93863481 or 0407 544338.

[itshimselfthen@bigpond.com](mailto:itshimselfthen@bigpond.com)

- Any planes made by Jas. McLaren Melbourne, even a photo.

  Spiers or Mathieson Thumb, Chariot, and any Gunmetal Planes

  Jim Black. Phone 0351 825561.

-Australian made implement wrenches and spanners.

  Anything either marked as Australian Made or known to be so.

  Also ones from Railway workshops and other enterprises.

  George Radion. Phone 03 9557 1178,

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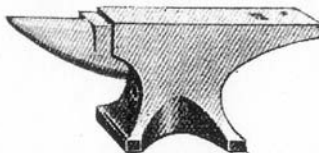
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