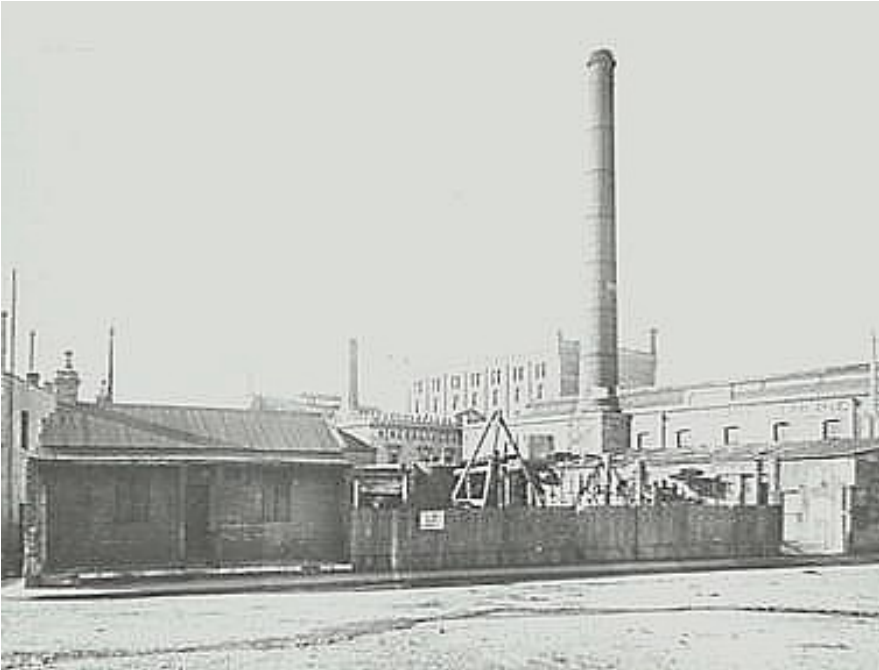


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**TTTG Inc. Newsletter Number 80. December 2004.
The Traditional Tools Group (Inc.)**

www.tttg.org.au

TTTG Inc.
THE TRADITIONAL TOOLS GROUP (Inc.)
TTTG Newsletter Number 80. December 2004.

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The Cover: The Hay Street office of T.K.Smith. (see page16 *et seq.*)
2004/2005 Subscriptions are due.

Subscription Rates:

Sydney \$30. Overseas \$30.
Out of Sydney, Other States and Australian Pensioners \$22.50.

Postal Address.

The Secretary TTTG (Inc.)
P.O. Box 240 Grosvenor Place
Sydney N.S.W.1220.

Enquires:

Mike Williams
02 9144 6356
Bob Crosbie
r.crosbie@bigpond.com

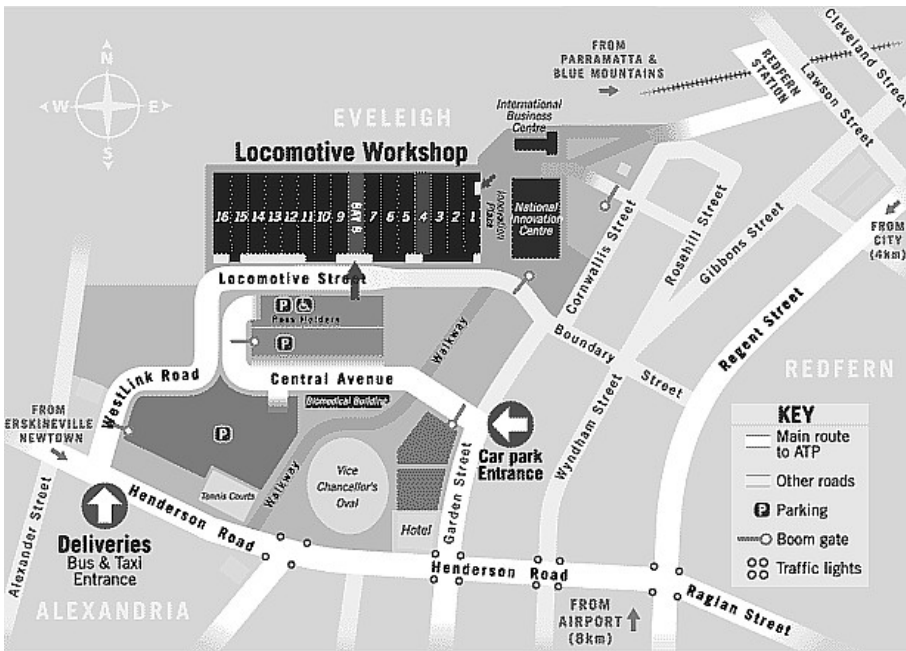
tttg.org.au

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Next Meeting

VIP room 1st floor bay 6

Tuesday 14th December 2004
Eveleigh Railway Workshops.



PROGRAMME

- 1. THE DECORATIVE AND ARCHITECTURAL BLACKSMITH. GUIDO WILL TELL US ABOUT THIS FASCINATING AREA OF BLACKSMITHING WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO HAND WROUGHT STAIRCASE BALLUSTRADING.**
- 2. THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY FRED'S WOTSI.**
- 3. OUR FUN AUCTION WILL BE REPLACED ON THIS OCCASION BY BOB'S \$2 BOX. DON'T MISS IT.**
- 4. SUPPER BY EVELEIGH CATERING.**

Next Meeting.

Tuesday 14th December 2004.

For this evening only we meet at:VIP room 1st floor bay 6
Eveleigh Railway Workshops.

(If you can't find your way to Bay 6, wait in the foyer of Bay 8 and someone will show you the way. Bay 8 is entered from Locomotive Street).

The Blacksmith.

Guido's works has recently undergone lead paint decontamination.

This has given him time to prepare a presentation for TTTG Inc.

At the meeting Guido will talk about making 11 meters of balustrade in 1780s French style ironwork.

Guido has digital photos of work in progress on a very special Staircase.

The work took 6 months and is the longest project he has worked on. Samples of tooling specially made for period reproduction will be shown.

There will be reference to tool steel selection and heat treatment.

Guido will discuss making the finial vase and show mould box.

Pattern-making with baked plaster moulds will be explained.

Mention of drafting techniques will be a highlight of the talk.

Set out of the stair former and Dogging around the curve will be described.

This staircase was entirely assembled with screws and rivets and this will be shown with the aid of photographs.

Please Note that there will be an admission cost of \$6 per head to cover catering charges at the Eveleigh centre and Car Parking costs another \$7 per car so we suggest that you organise to car pool where possible.



Previous Meeting.

Traditional Stone Masonry.

Tuesday October 12 2004. Annie Wyatt Room. National Trust Centre
Kris Krawczwk gave us a very interesting talk on traditional stone masonry and compared this with the way in which many stone-working processes are handled today. At the conclusion of his presentation, Kris revealed that this was the first talk that he had given. This was a surprise to all of us as Kris had delivered his discussion with consummate skill. His depth of knowledge was evident and his ability to share this expertise impressed the listeners.

TTTG (Inc). extends its appreciation to Kris for being a guest speaker.

The February 2005 Meeting.

This meeting will be held at the normal venue:
National Trust Centre. Observatory Hill. The Rocks.
February 2005. Commencing at 7:00 pm.

Speaker: Jack “The hammer”.

Topic: Roofing.

Please Note: At this meeting the entry fee will be \$5.

The Trading Hour will continue.

Members are invited to sell quality tools.

Minimum price \$20. Vendor fee is 10%.

The Auction will continue.

Please refer to Auction Rules. Vendor fee is 20%.

Future Venues.

TTTG will continue to meet at the National Trust Centre.

The Auction will follow the guest speaker’s presentation.

Please consider contributing items to the auction. Terms: 10% commission.

The Auctioneer will not accept such items as, picture frames, plastic toys and general household rubbish. Electrical goods are also “questionable”.

The Committee is actively seeking solutions to the problem of storing the Library and the Tool Collections.

The Workshops will again be held at Asquith Boys High School during 2005.

See programme in this newsletter.

News 80.

What will you read first, John's Pages or News 80?

After a long gestation period the long awaited John's Pages is included in this issue of News.

Additional copies can be purchased at \$10 each, postage included.

If John Daniel can keep writing this feature for another year there will be enough material for John's Pages 2.

If John still has all the tools he has been featuring in John's Page then we may have a special Meeting in 2005 dedicated to these tools.

Perhaps you have some tools you think worthy of John's Page.

Why not send a photo to John. Or even donate the tool to John, or TTTG.

The Cover.

T.K. Smith had several workshops over the years.

The only photo Clynt can find of one of his workshops is on the cover.

For more details please turn to:

THOMAS K. SMITH (1855 – 1940)

A brief biography by Clynt Sheehy

Buy and Sell.

Adverts in Buy and Sell are free to TTTG members.

To place an advert you can email or send a letter to the editor.

Costs nothing but a stamp or phone call so why not use it?

Buy and Sell gets results!

The \$2 Box.

The President has been asked to dispose of a couple of boxes of TTTG junk.

Actually he has been told to dump them or else!

So in the name of domestic harmony the contents will be sacrificed.

The Auction would shift this stuff but there is no Auction at the next meeting.

So there will be a \$2 Box at the next meeting.

Two small items for \$2. One large item for \$2.

First in, best dressed!

Buy and Sell. WANTED

The "members only" page.

- Carter Planes, Models C5, C10, 78, C54 Nickel Plated Stanley Electric Router to plane attachment type model GA-H285AI don't know the router number but it probably has Red Plate. The body diameter is approx. 3-5/8 inches. Nev Handebo (02) 6771-3776
- 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
- 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, radion@iprimus.com.au,
- Blacksmiths Post and Bench Drills, hand or power, any condition. Buffalo, Champion, Silver, Globe, Dawn, Goodall Pratt, Union. Rick Mitchell. Phone 4751 4762 or 4751 9797.
- Accessories wanted for 8mm Lorch flat bed Watchmakers Lathe Such as Compound slide rest, tailstocks, index plate etc, George Gardner (02) 9527 4176.
- Pullmax metalworking tooling and manuals for use of same. Original Black and Decker Workmate, the cast aluminium version. Also wanted an Emmert pattern makers vice or lend of one to copy. Contact Guido (02)93196190 info@wroughtartworks.
- Blade for Stanley 140. r.crosbie@bigpond.com
- Four good quality curved hand chisels, 1/4 - 1 inch width, any radius for hand-carving wooden bowls. Also an appropriate sharpening stone. Harry Partridge harry@partridge.com.au

WHAT IS IT?

News 78.

Brian Read, TATHS UK, has identified the News 78 mystery tool.

“This tool has turned up in the UK as well, in several sizes. It has been identified as an early form of castrating clamp. The principle is that the jaws are closed on the testicle cords fairly high up and then locked to prevent blood flow. A castrating knife was then used to open the sack and the testes cut out.”

This answer was published in TATHS News Letter 86..



News 79.

Laurie's Mystery Tool.

This tool is a user-made quirk router. Probably made by a hand-railer.

This month's mystery tool



2005 Workshops.

Why TTTG Workshops?

There are a number of skills based workshops available in Sydney

But TTTG workshops are arguably the best available.

Our workshops offer these features:

- The lowest cost.
- Quality teaching.
- Excellent facilities.

These courses are not available elsewhere.

Where else can you learn saw sharpening or how to use specialist planes?

Sharpening Edge Tools

Sunday, 20 February 2005

Sharpening blades, chisels etc is a continuing issue for beginning tool users and seasoned tradesmen alike.

Plane Tuning Workshop

Sunday, 20 March 2004

Bring your own planes and timber.

The workshop will include repairs, sole flattening, sharpening and set up. Materials, spare parts and old planes will be for sale during the workshop.

Saw Sharpening Workshop

Sunday, 15 May 2005

Learn how to sharpen saws for efficient hand sawing.

This is a hands-on activity in a fully equipped workshop.

For practice rip and crosscut saws with 4-6 tpi are most appropriate.

If you intend to buy a saw set, look for the following brands

– Eclipse, Stanley 42 range, Disston 24. Second hand is the best choice.

Plane Tuning & Sharpening

Sunday, 26 June 2005

This workshop will fine tune your sharpening techniques.

A "Hands-on" workshop experience focusing on planes.

A wide range of tools and sharpening approaches will be demonstrated.

Bring your own planes and timber.

The workshop will include repairs, sole flattening, sharpening and set up.

Materials, spare parts and old planes will be for sale during the workshop.

Correspondence.

Threads and Stanley Planes.

”Have recently come across a US source of taps for Stanley threads i.e. the No.12-20 and 9/32-24 threads. Will be doing an article for the TTTG Newsletter on this and other findings of my research into Stanley threads.”

John Bates.

Discussion in News and elsewhere on the topic of Stanley plane threads encouraged Tony Watson to write the article **Threads and Fasteners -Stanley Planes** published in News 79.

As expected Tony’s observations have generated more discussion.

Henry Black has found a supplier of taps and dies for Stanley threads.

Steve Flint has located a manufacturer who will make any tap or die.

John Bates has also tracked down a number of supply sources.

John is writing a detailed explanation of the Stanley threads for News 81.

The editor encourages others to enter into the debate.

The only requirement is that correspondents follow Jim Davey’s advice and use a thread gauge to measure threads. Vague pitches and diameters only confuse the discussion.

A note from Gordon Brown.

Please find enclosed papers and photo for an article in a future TTTG newsletter, if you consider it has merit.”

Gordon’s article **Traditional Building** appears in this issue of News.

His observation “I know our newsletter is mainly on tools, but thought members and old tradesmen may get some pleasure out of this article.”

Is endorsed by the editor who encourages Gordon to write further articles.

To contact the editor email r.crosbie@bigpond.com

or write to The Editor TTTG News

P.O. Box 240 Grosvenor Place

Sydney N.S.W.1220.

Correspondence.

The Editor,

The enclosed advert is taken from a 1907 Year Book from an area in North West England.

Though I was raised in the area and my grandfather was a blacksmith I have never heard of a White Smith. There are several adverts in the book for the same thing so it was quite common then.

Any help on the difference between Black and White Smiths?

George Stamper

P.S. A Shippon has nothing to do with the sea, it is a cow stall.

Times have changed in Agriculture,
But we keep ever abreast with them,
And help our customers to do so,
The old smitely has gone,
But the Good Old Workmanship remains.

**THE most complete
Engineering . . .
Works in the . . .
North of England.**

EMBRACING THE LARGEST STOCK
TO SELECT FROM.

Pennington's

For the FARM AND THE GARDEN,
For ARABLE AND GRASS LANDS,
For the DAIRY AND THE HOUSEHOLD,
For the STABLE AND THE SHIPPON,

GO TO

Pennington's

They will SAVE YOU LABOUR,
SAVE YOUR POCKET,
And ADD TO YOUR PROFITS.

BY ALL THE

Latest Machinery and Implements,
AS WELL AS SECTIONAL PARTS OF SUCH.

ALL OUR GOODS ARE HONEST VALUE.

THE OLD ESTABLISHED

**AGRICULTURAL & HORTICULTURAL
MACHINISTS,**

BLACK AND WHITE SMITHS,
Queen Street, ULVERSTON.

38

Plane Maker.

R. Campbell's The London Tradesman 1747 has the following entry:
Of the Plane Maker.

This is a class of Carpenters, or rather Joiners, who make only the Handles for Planes, used by the several Branches of Carpentry and Joinery Business; it requires no great Genius, but a moderate Shew of Strength; a Lad may be bound about Fourteen, and his Wages, when out of his Time, that common to other Joiners

Natural Australian Abrasives.

Richard Weston.

To start the stone rolling on the subject of Natural Australian Abrasives Here are a few extracts from The Mineral Resources of N.S.W. 1901.

Grindstones.

“Somewhat similar freestones are obtained in the PERMO-CARBONIFEROUS COAL MEASURES, as at Morpeth, Muswellbrook, Lambton, East Maitland and Warath. The Waratah stone is fine 9in texture and of a grey colour, and is suitable for monumental work: it also yields good grindstones.”

Sharpening Stones.

”About eight miles to the north east of Mudgee, near the Cassilis Road, there are extensive deposits of altered siliceous slates, which have been quarried, to a considerable extent for use as sharpening stones or oilstones. This Mudgee Stone, as it is termed, has a good “bite” on steel, and is well known in the trade, being regularly supplied to the Sydney market.”

Over many years I have seen references to stone suitable for grindstones and grain grinding being found as small pockets or layers in otherwise unsuitable deposits so that it is unlikely that there would have been much in the way of “brand names” or mining ventures that could have maintained a reliable source.

APPRENTICE WANTED.

A position for a first year apprentice blacksmith is offered at the Eveleigh Locomotive Workshop for a keen enterprising lad with good punctuality and an interest in the arts and things mechanical. The work is mainly decorative metal smithing but some tool making is undertaken. Apply in writing with a brief overview of one’s interests and achievements to P.O.Box 357 Alexandria 2015 NSW.

Rust hides all.

Steve Flint.

Do you ever wonder why when at a market or perhaps at an auction you buy the things you buy, sometimes very soon after you think, why did I buy that, or I must be an idiot for paying that much but I wanted it.

Some things we buy because we need them or we know that the time and effort that went into making it is worth much more than the vendor is asking, true it is second hand but if it looks old enough with sufficient rust to match, it might be of good quality, the price is right, and therefore constitutes a bargain. Item sold.

When you get home do you inspect the items carefully or is a clamp a clamp, a chisel a chisel etc, and clean up or restoration will happen when you have time or when the item is needed, this may be ASAP, next week, a month from now or heaven forbid never.

Well I try not to fall into the last category but a few months ago I purchased an instrument vice at a local market, it fell into all the right categories, second hand, old looking, rusty but not too bad, no noticeable missing parts, quality looked good, price was right, I'm sure I need this item, I'm sure I can use it. Sold.

I Pulled it out of the to do box the other day and give it the electrolysis treatment, the rust was only light and fluffy (only twenty years worth not eighty) and the vice cleaned up great, a lot of the original blueing intact and the makers name, Norris London.

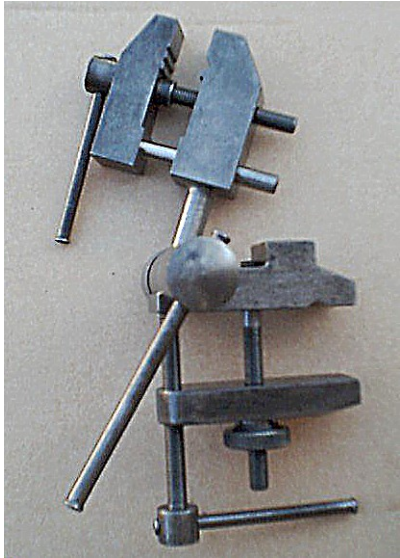
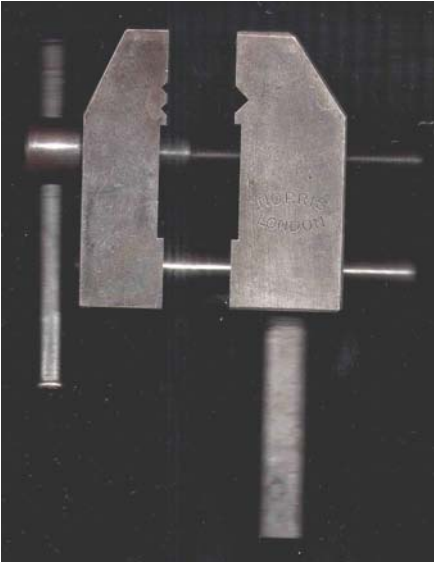
I did some Googling on the net and came up with nothing. Bob Crosbie told me they were in the Norris catalogues (of which I do not have).

Some pictures are attached of the Norris vice as well as an eclipse 180 instrument vice I have used this vice for many years and find it a real gem, I will bring them along to the February meeting for those interested.

I thought Norris only made planes. Perhaps I'll find one someday!

Editor's note.

An advertisement for this Norris vice was reproduced in a previous issue of News. Norris also made screwdrivers. I seem to recall Fred bringing a Norris screwdriver to a TTTG Meeting.



Information.

Meco.

Cold chisels and pin punches have been reported with this trademark.

Rod Thomas has provided the following information on Meco tools

Reginald. F. Harrison

321 Pitt St Sydney NSW Trademark period 2/9/1942 to 11/10/1956

321 Pitt St Sydney NSW Trademark period 11/10/1956 at address 1965

Reginald. F. Harrison Pty Ltd

Hiles St Alexandria NSW

Trademark "Meco" Tools for Motor, Engineering, and Hardware hand tools with cutting edges.

Lots of automotive related stuff sighted.

Sightings include wad punch 286 & 289, Piston ring expander, Piston ring groove cleaner, Brake lining clamp, Star nut brake tool, Brake spring pliers, M340 clip pliers, 3/4" cold chisel.

Plane Castings.

Where can I get planes cast? How can I get a copy of this cast?

These are frequent questions fielded by TTTG Committee members.

At the last Committee Meeting this topic was on the agenda.

Guido and Henry agreed that they would come up with something.

Guido came up with the idea of

“Henry giving the going over of original items to turn them into a workable pattern and then having that filmed and distributed via a website download to out of town members for a fee to the group. Then I cast and mould also filmed and send back to members for a fee their castings and no OH&S issues or public liability.

I will sort something out for a casting session next year for 4 to 6 people.”

At this stage we need expressions of interest.

Perhaps there are parts a number of members want.

Write to or email the editor.

OZITOOLS.

Membership of this HTPAA discussion group is open to TTTG members.

You will find a link on www.tttg.org.au

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THOMAS K. SMITH (1855 – 1940)

A brief biography by Clynt Sheehy

Thomas K. Smith, my step-grandfather, was a well-known Sydney machinery merchant and engineer in the early twentieth century.

TK, as he was later known, was born in Montreal, Canada in 1855. He arrived in Sydney on 25th June 1877 as an assisted immigrant on board the 695ton American bark “Sierra Nevada” which sailed from New York.

T.K. Smith was a brass founder / brass finisher and worked at this trade initially in the Surry Hills area of Sydney (Corben, Albion and Reservoir Streets). Up until the early 1880s he lived at Surry Hills but later moved to O’Brien Street, Bondi.

In 1886, TK moved his brass-founding business to 687 George Street, Sydney, the then location of Harry Smith, cordial manufacturer. 687 George Street (between Ultimo Road [then called Engine Street] and Hay Street) is now the location of Citymark Arcade.

From approximately 1887 to about 1905 he variously gave his profession as brass finisher, engineer, boilermaker and soda water machinery manufacturer. The business must have prospered as, in about 1903, he moved his residence to 25 Roscoe Street, Bondi (then called George Street, Bondi), a fine two-story house on the hill with statues and a fountain in the gardens. Blocks of flats now occupy this site.

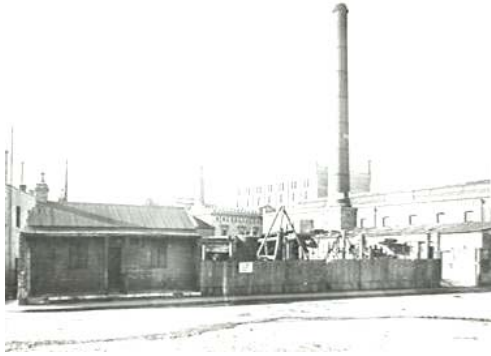
From 1906 to 1911 TK’s profession was machinery merchant and engineer at 70 and 72 Hay Street, Sydney. The picture on the cover shows his office and yard, the office was at No. 70 and the yard at 72. The Hay Street monorail station now occupies the site of Hay Street works.

From 1912 until his retirement in about 1925 at age 70, TK’s engineering and machinery business was at 107 Regent Street, Chippendale (between Queen and Meagher Streets).

In retirement, TK must have maintained a keen interest in engineering as at his Roscoe Street property he had a substantial workshop.

I was born after TK Smith died in 1940. By the time I could fully appreciate TK’s workshop in the late 1950s his tools, which had lain on the benches for about 20 years, had basically turned to heaps of rust in the Bondi seaside environment.

THOMAS K. SMITH



*The Hay Street Office and Yard of T K Smith.
Photo reproduced from City of Sydney Archives.*

However, I recall the workshop; it had a huge electric motor at one end connected by belt to an overhead line shaft, which ran the full length of the corrugated iron shed. Belts from wooden pulleys on the shaft would have driven the row of machine tools, the remains of which stood along the wall under the shaft. A row of windows along the wall provided illumination.

Also in the shed were a blacksmith's forge and anvil and several other bits and pieces of which I now have only a vague recollection. When I knew the shed, it contained my grandmother's blue 1939 Chrysler Plymouth (the one with the running boards and square headlights), which she bought at the 1939 Royal Easter Show. My uncle, an NRMA man who had an ex-Army NRMA Harley Davidson motorcycle with his tools in the box sidecar, maintained the car.

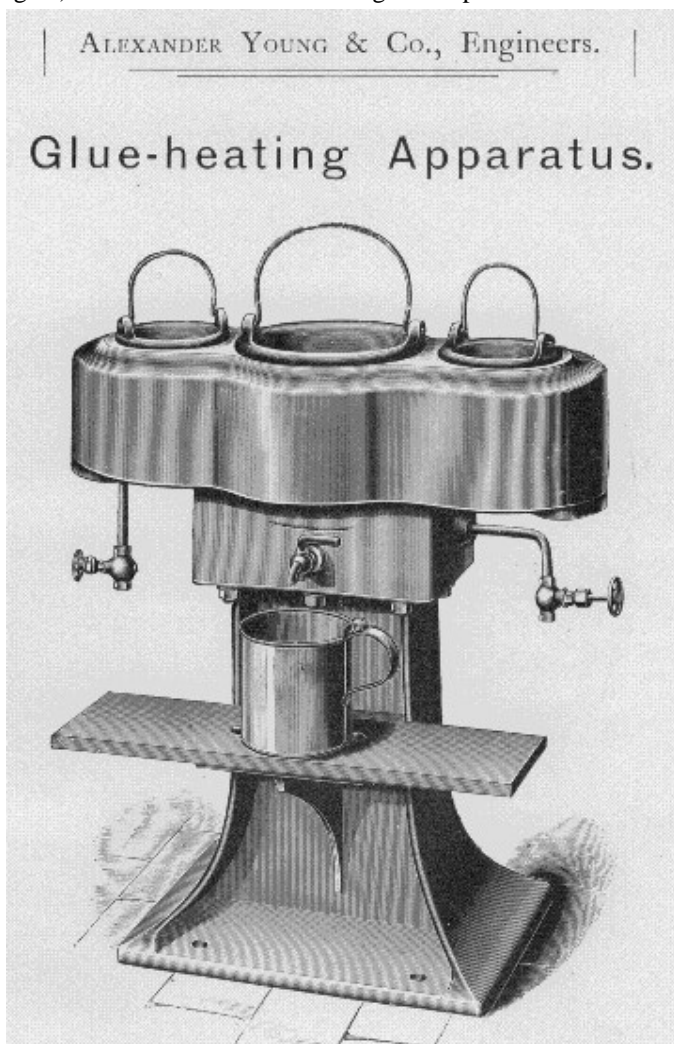
TK followed TTTG President Bob's view that grinders and water should not be in the same room as machine tools; TK had a large sandstone-grinding wheel in a separate shed.

All this old equipment was disposed of when the property was sold for a song in the early 1960s following the death of my grandmother.

All I have now is TK's nine tpi Disston panel saw (with nib and traditional fern leaf pattern decoration on its comfortable handle) and TK's ALEXANDER YOUNG & CO. (Engineers, London and Glasgow) 1901 Machine Tools Catalogue.

ALEXANDER YOUNG & CO. 1901 Machine Tools Catalogue

A selection of illustrations from ALEXANDER YOUNG & CO. (Engineers, London and Glasgow) 1901 Machine Tools Catalogue is reprinted on the next two pages.

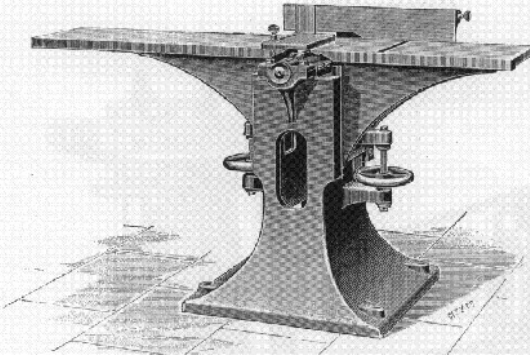


LONDON:
Telegraphic Address,
"CORRESPOND," London.

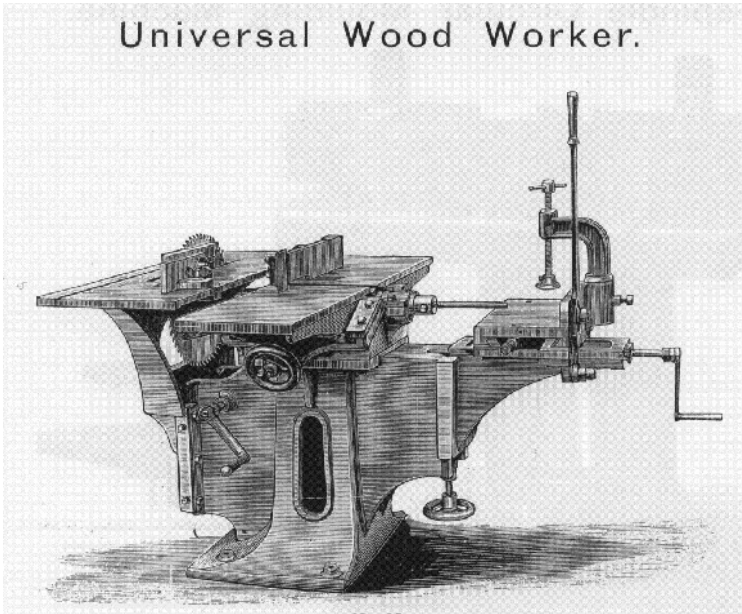
ALEXANDER YOUNG & Co., Engineers.

GLASGOW:
Telegraphic Address,
"ROOTS," Glasgow.

Hand-feed Planing and Jointing Machine.



Universal Wood Worker.



More on braces

Often when early braces are found they come with a loose head. This is mainly caused by wear, however, in some of the older types, the holding nut at the end of the head spindle unwinds. In later types a left-handed nut is locked into place with a second right-handed nut preventing them coming loose.

Depending on the age of the brace or the amount of wear, it may be wise to leave “as is”, however, if rectifying the problem enhances the tool, then by all means repair it.

The biggest challenge when removing the head is removing the plug that is in the centre of the head without causing damage. These plugs, depending on the maker of the brace, may come in many different forms and materials, varying from ornamental brass to the use of Boxwood, Rosewood or Ebony. They are usually threaded and have two holes to facilitate the use of a pin spanner. A close inspection of these holes usually displays evidence of amateur attempts to remove them, most likely with the assistance of improvised tools.

Over the years I've been offered advice from well meaning “do-it-yourself” collectors on how to remove the plugs. Some of these suggestions, most definitely to be avoided, vary from a pair of dividers adjusted to the holes and rotated with a screwdriver, to a couple of spaced nails in a piece of hardwood snipped off to fit the holes. A correctly fitting pin spanner is the only answer.

When removing the plug care must be taken to correctly locate the pins in the holes. Make sure that the pins penetrate to their full depth. There may be some resistance when first unscrewing. This is due to the shrinkage of the head, also the interlocking of the grain as the fibres are “brushed” directionally when the plug was originally inserted.

When removing the head, remember that the spindle nuts could be either left or right handed threads. If the nuts are slotted, slotted screwdrivers must be used.



Photo 1: A low grade adjustable spanner was used as it gave little resistance when drilling, also. I wouldn't wish to damage a more collectable example

Once the head is removed it may be necessary to fit a thin bush over the head spindle to take up the side wear. A washer under the lock nuts will usually take up the endplay.

If a pin spanner is not available an adjustable one is a simple matter to make (see accompanying photos). I converted/modified a pedestrian grade "King Dick" to do the job. A hole was drilled into the leading faces of the jaws and a steel pin was inserted into each. The shank of a worn drill was ideal for the pins, as it had the required strength and was also of a convenient diameter as the holes drilled were one size less allowing the pins to be driven in for a secure fit.

Note: The cheaper braces with Beech heads usually have a tapered Beech Plug that is pressed into place. It is difficult to remove these without damage, although a replacement plug is quite simple to make as there is no thread to consider. Once this plug removed it usually reveals a spindle that has been burred over a washer to secure the head. I feel that there is little to gain in attempting to remove these heads. Simply clean and wax the brace and leave "as is". Accept the fact that these braces usually had a hard life and to attempt repairs perhaps will rob them of their well-earned battle scars.

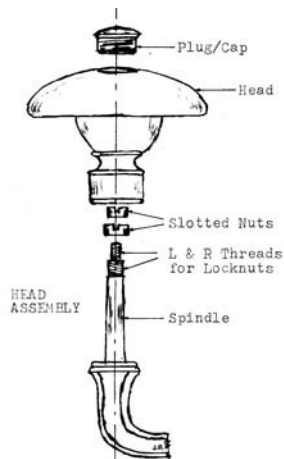


Photo 2: Notice the damage and wear around the

holes in the plug due to careless removal in the past.

Traditional Building.

Gordon Brown

The Browns were the first in Australia to make and erect fibrous plaster ceilings. Height in those days 12'6" with very deep cornice etc.

I had 36 years with the N.S.W Public Works Department before retiring in the Building section. The last 25 years I was attached to the Government Architects Branch mainly on supervision of various multi storey buildings.

The Photo shows what used to be. I had it taken from a very large photo. Our family had approximately 75 years in building. My father and grand- father with various tradesmen are shown in the photo.

The building industry has certainly changed over the past 40 years.

More so over the last 80 years!

The photo was taken at Lidcombe NSW and these houses were built around the year 1923 on mud flats.

The cottages shown were 11" cavity brickwork with interior fireplaces, coke breeze lintels, tuck pointing to brick fronts and timber picket fences. If you look closely you can see the roof rafters set out on the ground.

The timber and bricks were delivered by horse and dray and the old craftsmen (carpenters) mainly wore vest coats and apron.

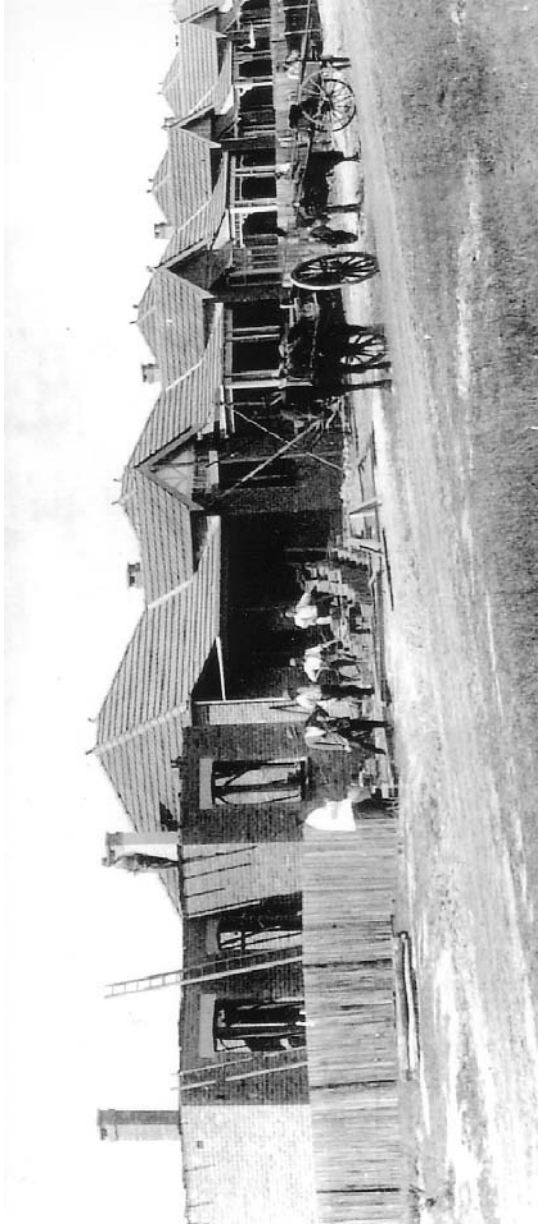
A tradesman's weekly wage those days was approximately 3 pounds 13 shillings & sixpence-(\$7.35). What a great difference today!

The houses sold at 375 pounds and land was approximately 1/6 the cost of the dwelling/ say 60 pounds. Land now is as much or more than the building. It sure is a very precious commodity and becoming scarcer by the day.

Those days a builder mainly employed all of his own tradesmen, today the majority of work is of a specialist nature and sub-contracted.

Today electric tools-Yesterday hand tools.

These houses are still in very good condition and although build 80 years ago will stand firm for many years to come.



THE LEDGER

New Members

On behalf of the TTTG Executive and Members, a welcome is extended to the following new Members :-

Steve Harris
Ian Donald

Peter Johnson
Kenny Vu

Keith Houston

Several of these new Members joined as a result of their participation at TTTG's Combination Planes Workshop and Shaves & Scrapers Workshop.

These complete the Workshops series for 2004. Another series of these excellent workshops is planned for 2005. Anyone pondering whether to attend the Workshops should ask anyone who went to them in 2004 and you will be assured of their value which is such that many 2004 attendees have said that they will be going again to the same or similar ones in 2005.

As a bonus, this month Members will be receiving free copies of John (Daniel)'s Pages, the collected works, in colour.

However, the following members have not paid their membership subscriptions for last financial year:

75	188	231	270	277	287
114	221	244	271	280	
180	222	257	273	282	

These recalcitrant members will not be receiving John's Pages, the collected works, and unless the Treasurer has received their cheque for \$60 to cover both 2003-04 and 2004-05, by 12th January, 2005, I regret to say, they will cease to receive their Newsletter.

Clynt Sheehy
Hon. Treasurer

TTTG SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL NOTICE
2004 – 05 SUBSCRIPTIONS
FELL DUE ON 1st JULY, 2004
THEY ARE NOW OVERDUE
 (TTTG Memberships are based on the financial year
 1st July to 30th June)

PLEASE FORWARD A CHEQUE FOR *\$30
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* If you live more than 50 km from Sydney or you are a pensioner, then you MAY CHOOSE TO PAY only \$22.50

Please advise if you have CHANGED your address from that shown on your Newsletter address label.

It would be helpful if you would write your name and Membership Number on the back of your cheque. (See top left of your Newsletter envelope address label for your Membership Number.)

Should you require a receipt, please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope with your payment or see the Hon. Treasurer, Clynt Sheehy, at a TTTG meeting.

The Treasurer has NOT YET RECEIVED 2004-05 subscription payments from the following recalcitrant members (as at 20th November, 2004).

	75	132	188	222	246	263	274	284	293	304	322
	77		198	223	249	265			295		323
	82	139	203			266	277	286	296	308	324
	87	159	209			267		287	297	310	325
			211	231	255	270	279	288	298		326
36	101	165	217	233	257	271	280	289	299	316	327
45	114	168	220	237	258		282	290	301	317	
48	116	180	221	244	259	273			303	318	

Members in bold should see "THE LEDGER" page of this Newsletter.

When I started to find out about tools I went to the local library and borrowed a couple of *Woodworker Annuals* (later volumes from the 80's) and was hooked. I loved the style as well as the content. After a while I picked up some Annuals, and never looked back. Collecting *Woodworkers* is enjoyable for a number of reasons – relatively inexpensive; plenty to collect, but not overwhelming, say like spanners; good reading; reasonably available; some intriguing stories; and characters.

The Woodworker started in 1901, and is still going. The magazine spawned many books, and built a few careers along the way through wars, ownership changes and the usual ups-and-downs of publishing. Competitors have come and gone, and today I have to say *The Woodworker* has lost its distinctive place. It is now one of a stable of woodworking magazines in a corporate entity run by accountants and marketing types; just have a look at the website to see what I mean.

This multi-part review of *The Woodworker* will mainly cover the period from 1901 until 1987. 1987 was the last year of *Woodworker Annual*, and fore-shadowed the acceleration towards mediocrity. For completeness I will cover the major changes since 1987 in these articles. The founding publishing house, Dawbarn & Ward Limited also published *The Model Engineer*, which started in 1898, and interestingly, also still going. The publisher had other book and magazine titles, especially related to photography and photo-engraving, but probably disappeared soon after 1912.

The paths of the two magazines soon diverged with different owners, to come back together again when Argus Books Ltd took over *Woodworker* in 1970 (already having taken over *The Model Engineer* and other model magazines from Percival Marshall & Co in the 1960's).

Shortly after founding, *The Woodworker* was published by Percival Marshall & Co, and then by Handicrafts Ltd (with Percival Marshall & Co still involved as “publishing wholesaler”) for a few years. Ownership then moved to Odhams Press (but with the editorial address being that of Handicrafts, intriguing isn't it?) before moving to Evans Bros shortly before WW1. Percival Marshall & Co continued to publish *The Model Engineer* until the 1960's.

Now a study of *The Model Engineer* would be very interesting for someone to do (not me, the historic issues of *The Model Engineer* are far too expensive, considerably more than *The Woodworker* as it happens).

The Woodworker Legacy.

The most important figure in the history of TW was Charles H Hayward, and his contribution will be discussed in a separate article or two. Firstly the context in which TW was launched.

At the turn of the 19th century there were a number of magazines for the keen amateur craftsman or handyworker (you will notice a distinct gender bias throughout the period under study, so please excuse me if I refer to “men” in this essay). The range of content of these magazines was astonishing.

A ‘giant’ was *Work, the Illustrated Weekly Journal for Mechanics*, 1d. an issue, edited by Paul Hasluck, published by Cassell & Co Ltd from 1885. By 1925 the magazine cost 3d. and was called *Work, A Weekly Journal for Amateur Mechanics*. Cassell also published *Work, the Illustrated Weekly Journal of Handicrafts*; this started around 1890, and went for many years, until 1919 at least. These weeklies covered an incredible amount of territory, and were recycled into many books.

The Cassell and Company Ltd “*Work*” *Handbook Series*, continued into the 1950’s, costing 1s. in 1901; and CASSELL’S CYCLOPÆDIA OF MECHANICS (published progressively from 1901; in 1908 there were five volumes; then in the 1920’s [undated] reissued in an eight volume subscriber edition). There was also *Work: An Illustrated Magazine of Practice and Theory for All Workmen, Professional and Amateur*. This Cassell weekly ran from 23 March 1889 - 11 Oct 1924, with Francis Chilton-Young as editor at the beginning. Annuals covered 52 weeks, unusual for a weekly. Continued as: *The Amateur Mechanic and Work*, 18 Oct.1924 - 23 Oct.1926. Then amalgamated with the weekly *English Mechanics and World of Science* (started in 1865 with a couple of name changes along the way), and subsequently published as *English & Amateur Mechanics*. We must not forget *Building World, an Illustrated Weekly Trade Journal*, starting in 1895 and running to 1920, and also edited by P.N. Hasluck, a very busy guy. Naturally there were the spin-off books.

Amateur Work Illustrated, published by Ward, Lock & Co, and edited by the author of 'Every man his own mechanic.' Francis Chilton-Young, ran monthly from 1881 – 1888 (7 volumes). The parts were then also sold bound into volumes of 12 parts. Those volumes were reissued [undated] for a number of years. Later from the same publisher there was *Amateur Work Magazine*, 8 volumes from 1888, although the British Library entries are contradictory, so this may be incorrect!

The Woodworker Legacy.

Then there was *The Illustrated Carpenter and Builder*, established in 1877 (and survived until 1990, with the usual couple of name changes, a total of 5866 issues) a weekly that sold for 1d. The early spin-off booklets of this weekly cost sixpence.

Let's not forget *Amateur Work*, started in 1902, and which morphed into the 4 volume work edited by Bernard Jones (along with Paul Hasluck, a very prolific editor/producer of titles).

There were many Handicrafts magazines. The best known is *Hobbies*. This started in 1895 as *Hobbies A Weekly Journal for Amateurs of Both Sexes*, with 'A Weekly Journal' dropping off around 1950. Later the title changed to *Hobbies, The Fretworkers Weekly* with a variation to *Hobbies The Fretworker's and Home Craftsman's Journal*. The company continued until 1973 before going broke, a few years later an ex-employee revived the business but not the magazine. The Magazine produced many designs, for example Design Plan No. 3060, dated 1954. Also produced Annuals. In the early years of the 20th century, there was a design in each weekly issue.

A number of employees of Hobbies Ltd, including JCS Brough (see Part 2), left to found Home Handicrafts Ltd. They published the weekly *Home Handicrafts, Arts and Pastimes* founded in 1907, and avowedly directed at fretworkers, and claiming to be producing the "best" designs. As JCS Brough and others cleared their desks when leaving Hobbies, they accidentally took a filing cabinet containing the details of 80,000 Hobbies customers. After a legal case they had to cough up £1,500, equivalent to 360,000 copies of the magazine, in damages for this bit of light fingered work. Handicrafts strongly promoted (set up?) the National Association of Fretworkers, and then started another weekly *Fretworkers*, as the official organ of the Association, that ran for 64 issues in 1911-12, until being folded into *Handicrafts*.

In 1918 the magazine changed its name to *Handicrafts*, and became a monthly, edited by Charles H Hayward from 1923 to 1935; and in 1938 to *Handicrafts Magazine*. Shortly after, the name changed again to *New Handicrafts Magazine*, swapping again in 1939 to *Handicrafts and the Householder*, for one month, and then morphed into *The Householder*.

By this stage I think we can wave goodbye to Handicrafts.

The Woodworker Legacy.

Annuals were a feature of the times; magazines were reprinted in bound volumes (typically six monthlies for weekly magazines, and annually for monthly magazines). Cheekily they often charged for the Index separately.

In this melting pot of amateur enthusiasm, someone at Dawbarn & Ward, probably Percival Marshall himself, relatively young at 30 years old and starting his own publishing house, spied a niche market.

To quote from the first issue:

“To justify its appearance, and to attain a satisfactory measure of success, a new journal must do one of two things: it must either accomplish in better style what other journals are already doing, or it must fill a want which its contemporaries have left unsatisfied. It is on the second count that we base our *raison d'être*. We do not set ourselves the task of competing against any existing publication, but we strike out in a new direction which seems to us to offer room for a reasonably healthy and useful existence.

We aim at producing a journal for woodworkers—and for woodworkers only; not one which, while containing a limited amount of cognate information, also devotes a considerable portion of its space to matters more or less remote from any branch of woodworking. In doing this we are merely following the tendency of the age — viz., to specialise, and we venture to believe that this intention on our part to exclude all extraneous matter from our pages will gain for us the sympathies and the tangible support of those who regard woodworking as their hobby or their livelihood. We include the latter class advisedly, for while we look to amateur workers to furnish a goodly proportion of our readers, we trust that the quality of the fare we provide will be such as to make our journal equally worthy of the perusal of the professional. We shall cater as much for the practical craftsman, who is seeking artistic and attractive designs to which to apply his manual skill, as for the man whose power of origination is in advance of his dexterity with his tools and of his ability to carry out his artistic conceptions on sound constructive lines.

The novice, too, will receive due consideration at our hands, and we shall aim to so vary the contents of each issue that workers of all ages and all stages may find some one thing at least of interest or of value. We are fortunate in having secured as members of our regular contributing staff men who are specialists in their respective branches of the subject, and our readers may thus rely on being provided with information of the highest possible value to them in their work.... We trust, however that we may create a sufficiently good impression to induce those who read these lines to follow our fortunes a little further, so that we may convince them that our claim to their regular support is well founded, and that we have really come to stay.”

The Woodworker Legacy.

And stay they have. Editors wavered many times over the commitment to “.. a journal for woodworkers—and for woodworkers only ..”, but they kept on coming (were driven?) back to the core of the magazine. Essentially the core never changed (until the corporate mediocracy took over); “bright” ideas just came, and went. Interesting to compare these lofty aims with the 1st issue of *Fine WoodWorking* 75 years later. The FWW editor expressed no aims at all, although later the founder/editor indicated the magazine was started in frustration at the lack of “really good information about woodworking”.

Didn't he have a *Woodworker* subscription? Anyway 25 years after the event the founder said “I envisioned a magazine that would help woodworkers get a strong grounding in the technical traditions of the craft and at the same time get acquainted with the best examples of contemporary craftsmanship and design”. The 1st issue reminded me a lot of *Woodworker*, but that might be my prejudices. Unfortunately FWW is going the way of the corporate magazines, however is still a mile in front of other US magazines. Where will the breath of fresh air come from?

The Woodworker writing style was robust, an example from the first issue “The popularity of *L'Art Nouveau* is on the wane, and not without reason. The quaintness and novel conception of some of the original examples aroused the attention of furniture designers generally, with the result that a rush of weak and inferior productions has brought this style into disrepute. Had the work been better in quality and less in quantity, a longer life would have been assured to a fashion which, despite the hard things which have been said of it, is not devoid of artistic merit.”

Another quote to demonstrate that the woodworking ancients did not always get it right – “For lubricating oilstones nothing beats a mixture of equal parts of neatsfoot oil and paraffin”. As Bob Crosbie regularly reminds us, neatsfoot oil is great for leather but clogs oilstones; the paraffin hopefully mitigated the effects of the oil for those early woodworkers.

Some of the long lasting features started with the first issue, such as *The Question Box*; an article on sharpening; the start of a multi-part series on Joints; a couple of furniture designs with building instructions; readers letters; building a workbench.

In the next part there will be an overview of the magazine, its editors and spin-off books up to World War 2.

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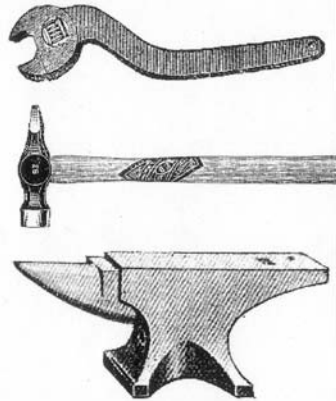
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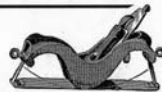
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