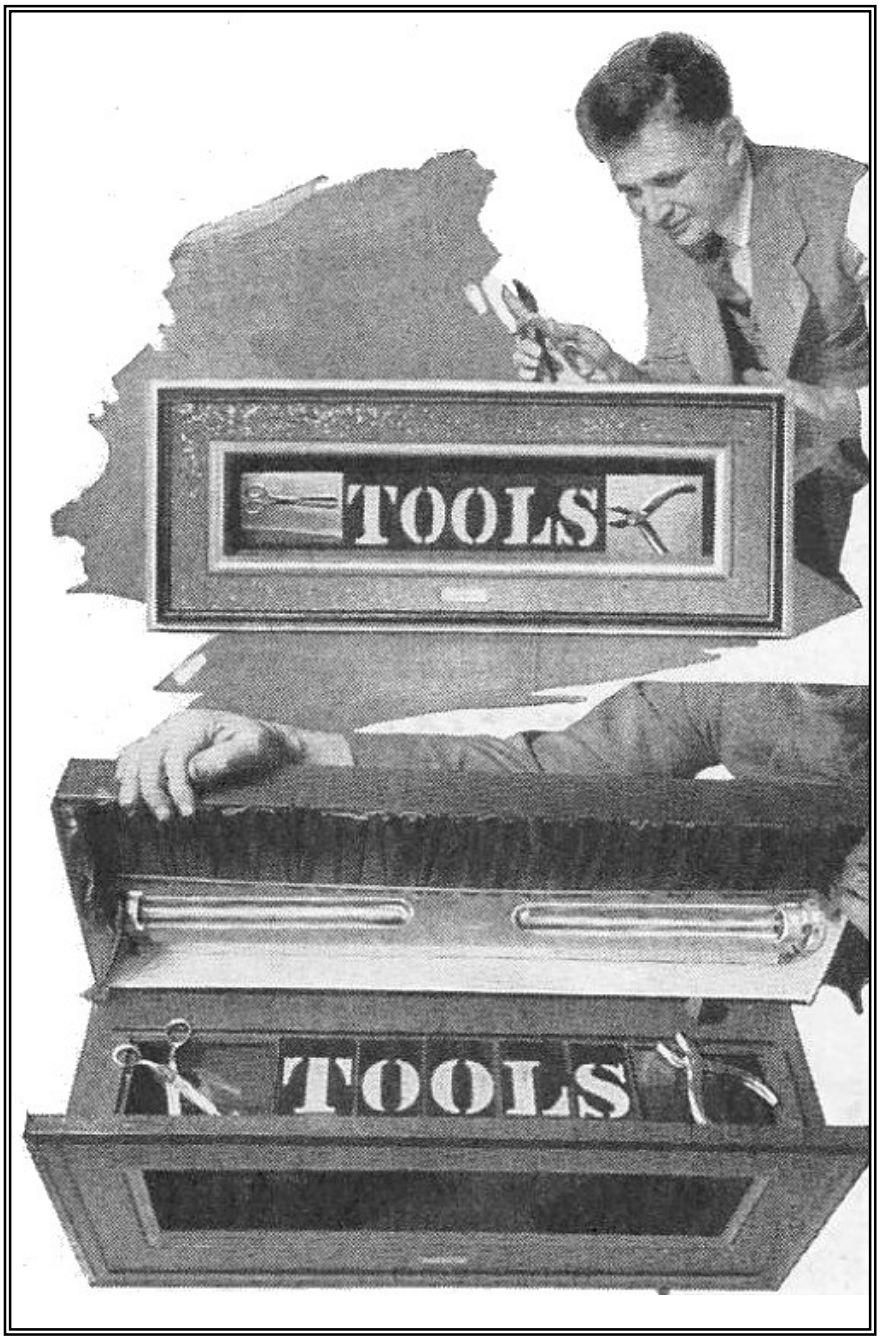
NEWS 105

February 2009



The Traditional Tools Group (Inc.)

www.tttg.org.au

Next Meeting

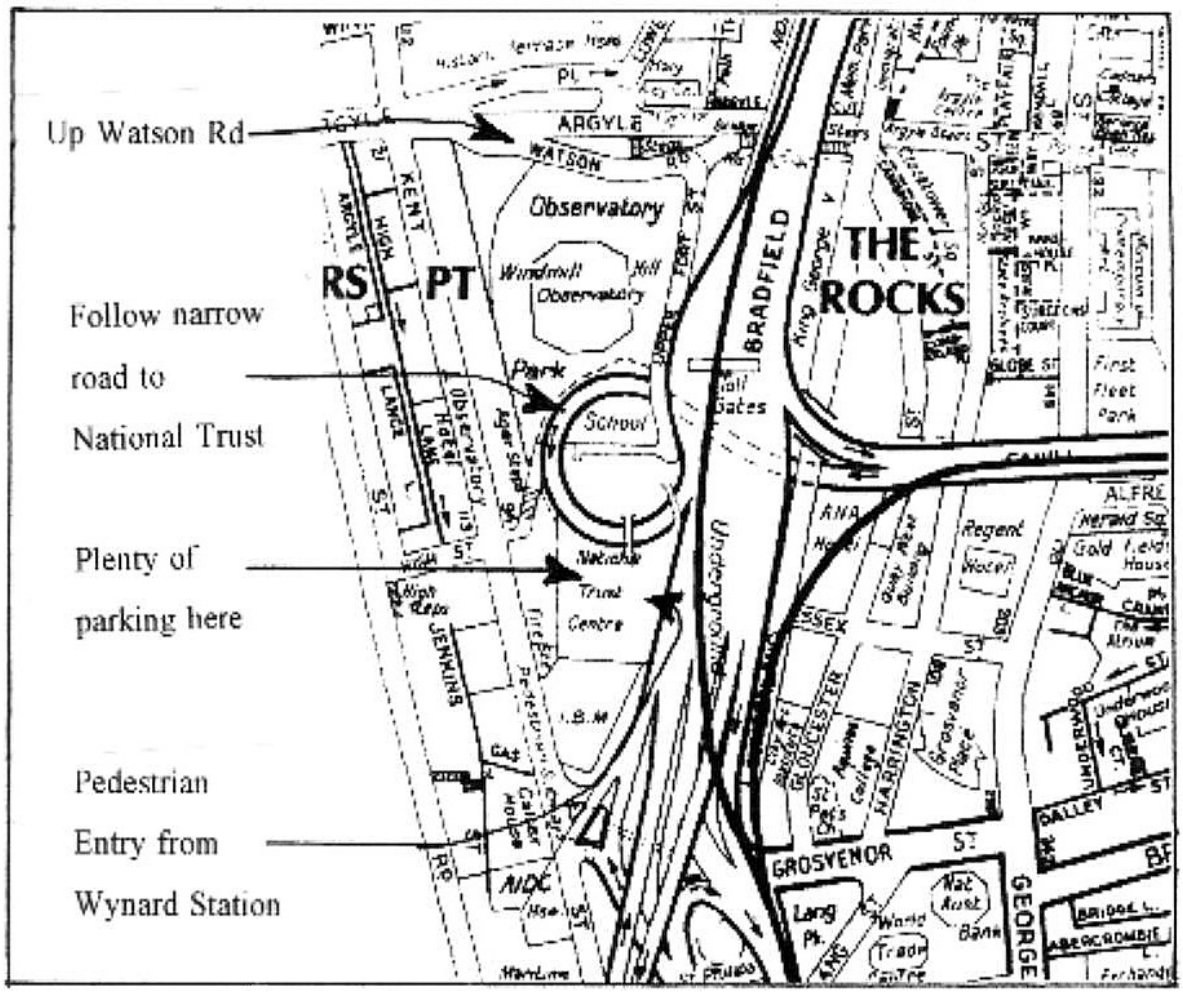
Tuesday February 10 th

National Trust Centre

Ploughs Fillisters and Snipes

Annie Wyatt Room

"Doors Open" at 7pm Entry $5



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Enquires

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Subscription $30

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Information

Correspondence:-

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Workshop Tips

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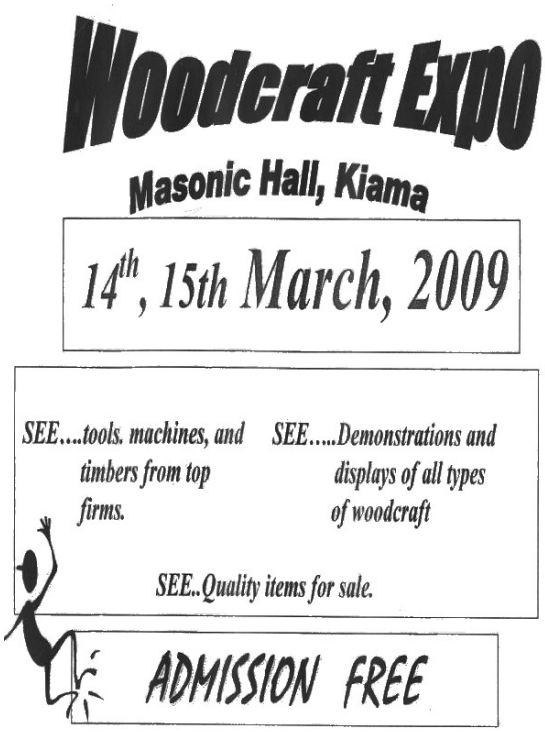
Features



Next Meeting

Tuesday February 10th

Ploughs, Fillisters and Snipes

Most readers will be familiar with these terms but how many have a thorough understanding of these specialised woodworking planes?

There will be a display of these wooden planes to supplement the presentation. This will include examples of rare planes by makers including ***Preston***, ***Kimberley*** and ***Mathieson***.

The speaker will explain the use of the various planes. Examples of work produced by each plane will be distributed during the talk.

The care, sharpening and use of these planes will be discussed in detail.

If there is sufficient interest the talk will be supplemented by a practical workshop later in 2009.

The Auction

This auction comprises a vast array of quality ironmongery, including nails, screws and miscellaneous fixing of all types and ages. All the lots offered are in ***as found condition***.

The auction will be supplemented by a small selection of ***high quality tools*** TTTG is selling 'on consignment'.

The catering

Mario Dato has accepted TTTG's offer to do the catering for the 2009 meeting.

Quality food for only $5?

Last Meeting

Chinese Woodworking in Sydney

A presentation of the woodworking tools used by Chinese tradesmen in nineteenth and early twentieth century Sydney.

A large selection of locally made Chinese style tools were on display at the last meeting. The speaker explored the sophistication of these apparently simple hand tools. The majority of the tools were woodworking planes.

There is more on traditional Chinese tools in this issue of News.

2009 TTTG Workshops

The workshops for early 2009 are;

Sharpening Edge Tools

15 February 2009

Find out what sharp means.

Chisels, plane blades and all woodworking edge tools

Plane Tuning

29 March 2009

Learn how to get the best performance from planes

Materials, parts and fettled planes for sale

Experience a correctly fettled plane

News 105 Covers

The image on the front cover is from

Popular Mechanics Magazine
February 1930

On the back cover is a copy of an ***AUSTPULLEY*** leaflet

Correspondence

The new NEWS seems to be a success. So far the editor has only received positive comments from TTTG members.

Ken Turner sent this email,

Bob,

I wish to congratulate TTTG on the new format TTTG Newsletter, I think the new look and contents are excellent.

I wish also to let TTTG know that I still very much appreciate having been elected a TTTG Life Member (Feb '06), and I certainly still look forward to receiving and enjoying the TTTG Newsletter. Thanks again, Regards - Ken Turner

Ken, like the other TTTG Life Members will continue to receive NEWS.

The Treasurer has asked the Editor to inform the members that the new format does not reflect any weakening of TTTG's policy of prudent financial management.

The additional cost of NEWS is moderate. We have not embraced thick glossy covers and the profligate use of colour images. Such titillation of tool collectors we leave to other associations. TTTG will continue to concentrate on content in NEWS.

In case rumours have begun to spread it is necessary to remind readers that the composition of the Editorial Committee remains unchanged. The same committee has produced over one hundred issues of News and this committee is starting to develop a reasonable level of competence. However, we still count on our members to provide us with letters and articles of interest so keep that correspondence going.

Turner Tools

A contributor the woodwork forums asked the following question:

I am interested in TURNER tools. Any information would be great. My wife's father was RW Turner founder of TURNER. Also Modern Handle Co, Gasmate. Rene Turner left his family with no information of his business interests. Over the last years since his death age 95, we have collected some catalogues and some tools. I am seeking information for his children and grandchildren (he did not know his grandchildren).

After suggestions he looked at the HTPAA website, he replied:

I have been a member of HTPAA. Graeme Plaw has been of great help. We as a family don't know very much of RW Turner's interests in his endeavours. Most of his life he would hold family meetings, go round and round and tell you nothing. We are sure he had interests that he never told his family about. His business interests as a young man are not well documented. His manufacture of knitting needles and hand bag frames are a mystery. I have just seen for the first time a hand bag frame. The Moderne Handle Co made locks for furniture; we do know he had trouble with marketing handles and locks to the furniture industry so he put them into the hardware stores. As for Gasmate his son ran the business but with the everyday phone call to dad as to what to do. We also know little of the business interests in Asia. If anyone can shed light on any of these, we would love to know.

If any members have further information on Turner's business interests, please send an email to peterevans@tttg.org.au.

Peter Evans

Correspondence (cont.)

David Hire was encouraged by the letter about Chapman Saws in News 104 to do a little detective work.

In News 104 you asked about Chapman Saws. There is an apartment block located at 105 Annandale St located next to a lane which would give good access. The Lane is named Chapman Lane.

I also talked to a retired tradie friend who was born and raised in the Annandale area and worked there most of his life.

He said Chapmans became Annandale Saw works who relocated to Trafalgar Street Petersham. I have taken work there myself. The last time I went to take saws to Annandale saw works, they had moved from Petersham and I was given the phone number of somebody out west. Seem to remember it was Henry Bros.

My tradie friend said there was some sort of friction in Chapman/Annandale Saw works and a daughter in law took over the business. Could that have precipitated the name change?

On another matter, I was out at Felder recently and they had a couple of old combination machines.

And last here is a quick shot of my major piece at Sturt. It is a torsion box table with an X in the middle made of sandstone and granite. I call it the Pirates Treasure Table because "X marks the spot".

The Editor looked up Chapman Saws in the Register of Manufacturing Industries in New South Wales1969-1970.

Thomas Chapman, & Sons Pty Limited
105 Annandale Street, Annandale

Circular Saw and machine knife manufacturers

Parent Company, Duncan's Holdings Limited

Thomas Chapman, & Sons 1970

The information in the Register of Manufacturing Industries in New South Wales1969-1970 provided a thumbnail sketch of Thomas Chapman, & Sons Thomas Chapman, & Sons in 1970.

The business had eight employees and annual sales to the value of $60,000.

The products were "Crown" brand circular saws, frame saws, circular knives, all types of machine knives, buffalo knives, paper knives, hammering and repairs to saws, knives and bandsaws, including sharpening, setting, re-toothing etc.

Thomas Chapman, & Sons could make circular saws up to 72" in diameter and knives up to 5' in length. The company was a member of the Timber Trade Industrial Association.

Mike Williams writes: *I have an 8 inch circular saw blade that is marked "H.T.Chapman 52 Reservoir St. Sydney and 9 Rothesay Ave Ryde." My understanding is that it was originally purchased in the late 1950s for the early ShopSmith that I now own.*
Could H.T.Chapman have been the son of T. Chapman? Or vice versa?

Ukuleles. **Ray Gurney still wants pre-loved wooden ukuleles. He restores them to musical working condition again so look in your cupboards and give that forgotten instrument a new lease of life! Ring Ray on (02) 9569 1241**

CHINESE PLANES

Made in Sydney

Terry Butcher

When I was living in Redfern I found some planes in a garbage bin. I approached the owner asking if I could have the planes. His answer was *'Why? They are nothing but a load of old shit'*. I replied *'On the contrary they are an important part of our history'*.

His wife, now deceased, and this fellow ran a small corner store in Redfern from the 1930s to just after World War 2. During that time her father had moved from his humble dwelling in the Hay Market to the back of their house bringing with him his tools of trade. He was too old to keep working so he helped in the shop until he died in 1945.

The daughter and her husband had no children and lived in the house behind the closed shop. She died in 1990 and he lasted until 1997.

I got the planes in about 1995. He had two dogs of which I had become fond and when he had to go into hospital I looked after the dogs. On his death his sister being grateful for my help suggested I might take any tools from the house.

I went into the shop and found it had not been touched since 1945. When they closed it up there was a fortune in old wares on the shelves. I did find two Chinese bow saws in the shed but little else. Meanwhile his sister had all the stuff in the shop and house taken to the tip. She had no understanding of what she threw away.

I regretted being unable to talk to the daughter of the cabinet maker for at the time I was totally unaware of his existence. It was only when I collected the planes was I able to gleam some information from her husband.

The sister knew nothing, or didn't want to know. I formed the opinion that she had no time for the Chinese or even in their history in Australia. I understand that the Chinese workers made vast amounts of furniture from the Gold Rushes up to the Depression years.

In 1999 Terry Butcher displayed, at a meeting, a collection of Chinese style planes he had found in Redfern. This article is a description of these locally made Chinese style planes.

Photos of the planes are in the TTTG Library. Terry wrote this article in December 1999. The new format has finally made publication in full possible.

All the tools described in this article came from that garbage bin in Redfern. They had been stored on a shelf in the garage for possibly the past seventy years. The blades had suffered somewhat from rust and the wood was badly stained by the rust, dirt and moisture.

I removed the rust with steel wool and cleaned the metal parts with a mixture of turps, vinegar and linseed oil. I did not want to lose any possible chance of any marks being lost. Only a few blades were marked but they are an interesting collection.

The wooden plane bodies also received the same scrubbing with fine steel wool and the oil mixture and a final washing down with turps and vinegar only. When dry a liberal dowsing of linseed oil and much polishing with cotton cloth brought some colour back to the wood.

The mark *W* on two of the planes suggested a possible Chinese name, but then I was only guessing. But I do know they were probably made locally and used

by a Chinese person in the first half of the twentieth century.

The tools I have I believe were all made in Sydney with the knowledge of their design firmly in the mind of the maker. There would have been no drawings and possibly no Chinese original tools, for when they came to Australia they were unable to bring much in the way of luggage or tools. For a hand-made object these tools are beautiful and feel right in the hand and a couple that are still in fair condition work as well as any other wood plane I have used.

I am very proud to own these planes and they form a very important part of my collection.

I have done nothing about the two bow saws. The saws are made of hard wood, brass and buffalo horn. They will pose some challenging problems in respect of conservation.

The planes described

1) Grooving plane

7 3/8" long, 7/8" wide

Hardwood, dark red, wavy grain

Added fence 3/8" wide, oak

Blade ¼" wide chisel, no mark

Small bevelled wedge

Mark on plane side **V11**

2) Grooving plane

7 3/8" long, 15/16" wide

Hardwood, dark red, wavy grain

Added fence 3/8" wide, oak

Blade ¼" wide chisel, mark unreadable

Small tapered wedge

3) Ogee moulding plane

7 5/8" long, 1 3/4" wide

Hardwood, deep red, straight grain

Tapered blade, H Sorby

Wedge, shaped like clothes peg, pine

Open throat, similar to German Jack

Mark on front *W*, cut with chisel

4) Smoothing Plane

7" long, 1 1/2" wide

Hardwood, straight grain

Blade, 1" Chisel (Ward), tang broken off

Sole has bevelled edges

5) Thumb mould

7 1/4" long, 1 1/2" wide

Hardwood, deep red, straight grain

Nail for cross bar, cut nail for wedge

Blade H Sorby Sheffield

Blade and throat set on skew

6) Round

8 1/8" long, 2 3/16" wide

Soft wood wedge

Blade, tapered plane, Ward & Payne

Sole 1 1/2" radius

7) Reverse side bead

7 1/2" long, 9/16" wide

Hardwood, straight grain, cranky

Soft wood wedge

8) Ovolo, square

7 3/8" long, 1 3/8" wide

Hardwood, straight grain

Long tapered blade, Peugeot Freres

Nail for cross bar, cut nail for wedge

9) Ovolo, square

7 1/8" long, 1 3/4" wide

Hardwood, straight grain

Fork shaped wedge

Long tapered cast steel plane blade

W mark on top behind blade

10) Ovolo, square

7" long, 1 7/16" wide

Hardwood, straight grain, cranky

Long tapered blade, Peugeot Freres

Nail for cross bar, cut nail for wedge

11) Ovolo, square

7 7/16" long, 1 3/16" wide

Hardwood, straight grain

Blade, chisel

Nail for cross bar, cut nail for wedge

12) Hollow

7 3/8" long, Tapered stock 1 3/4" x 1 1/4"

Hardwood, straight grain, cranky

Long tapered cast steel plane blade

Rusty, mark possibly R & H Sheffield,

(Reaney and Heathcote)

13) Smoothing Plane

4 5/8" long, 2 3/8" wide

½" hole behind blade, handle missing

Hardwood, straight grain

Soft wood tapered wedge

Cast Steel blade, REYTAG, 1 9/16" wide

14) Rebate Plane

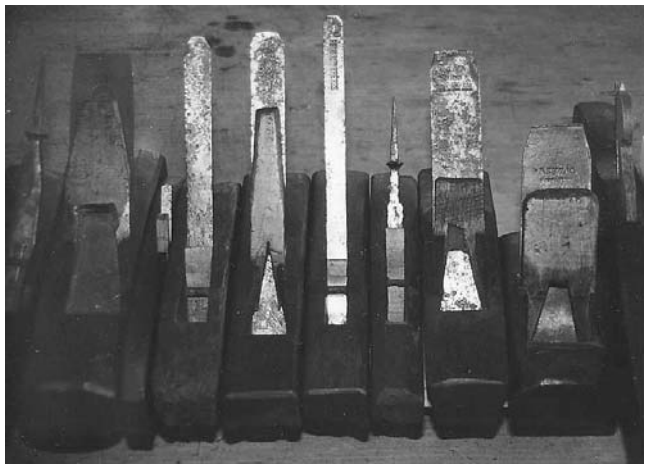
16 1/8" long, 7/8" wide

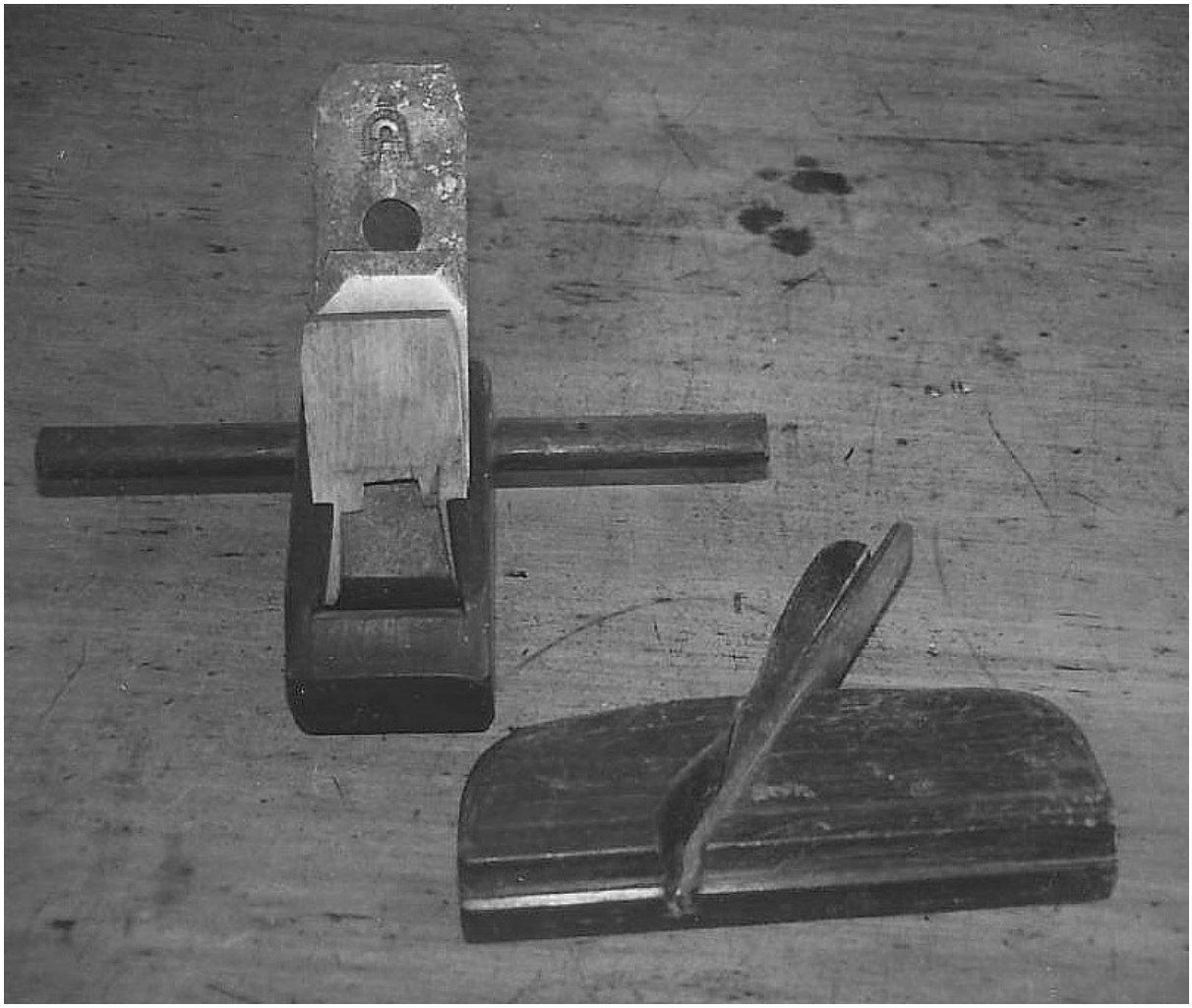
Hardwood, straight grain

Hole in front

Unmarked blade

Beech wedge

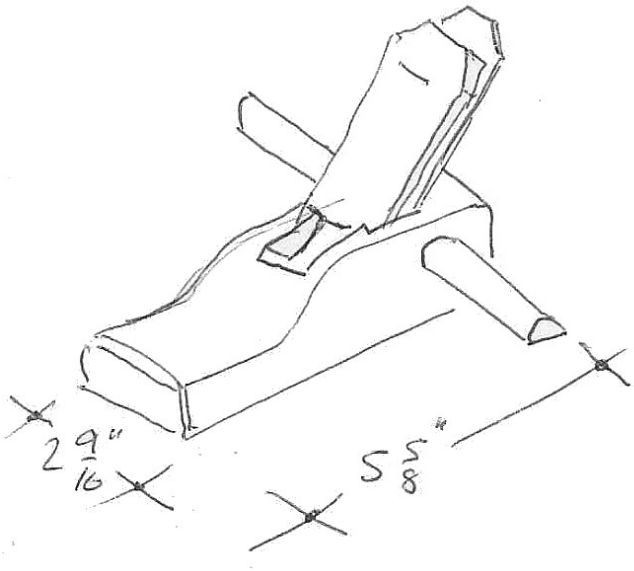




Above is a picture of two other Chinese style planes in Terry's collection.

None of the planes described have the simple open wedge of the bottom plane in this image.

The smoothing plane in the top of the photo is similar to plane # 15.



Terry's Sketch of plane #15

John's Page

John Daniel

More on MIT-A-MIT

MIT-A-MIT is more commonly associated with hand drills and breast drills; however, occasionally one comes across a hand brace carrying that brand.

Most sheds are haunted by one or two old braces, many clones of one another, so common that they seldom get a second glance; perhaps that's the reason I gather so many which end up hanging over a beam in my shed. Occasionally the "clutter" (CLUTTER – a word appropriate for grouping of tools not yet graded or appraised) is brought to my attention and it is on one of these occasions that I took a closer look at the "Made in Australia" dust catchers. Surprisingly I found three stamped MIT-A-MIT and one marked SILEX and others of different names.

I'll write about them at another time.

The three MIT-A-MIT marked braces varied greatly. Two had different chuck sleeves (Photo 1) while the other had a larger and improved ratchet ring (Photo 2), a Bakelite handle (Photo 3) and different head design (Photo 4). The SILEX branded brace, no doubt made by MIT-A-MIT, was identical to one of the MIT-A-MIT braces except for a narrower ratchet ring and a rounding on the bearing housing under the head.

All four braces had the same Made in Australia struck on the crank.

The four braces are no longer hanging over the beam gathering dust; cleaned and waxed they have now graduated from "clutter" to "collection".

No matter how humble a tool, there is always a story behind it.

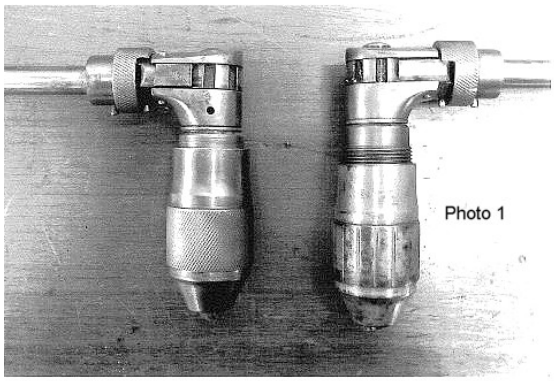


Photo 1

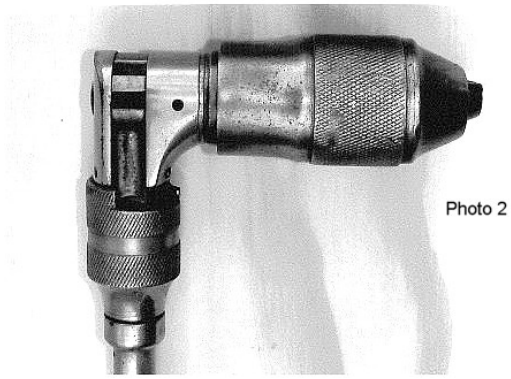


Photo 2

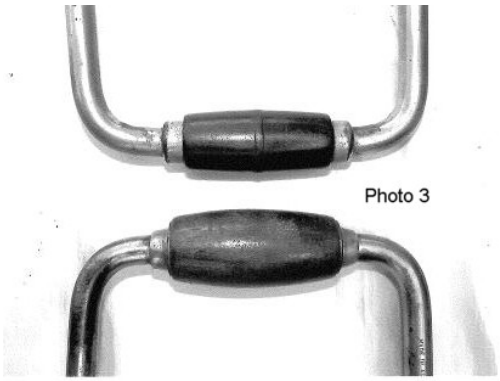


Photo 3

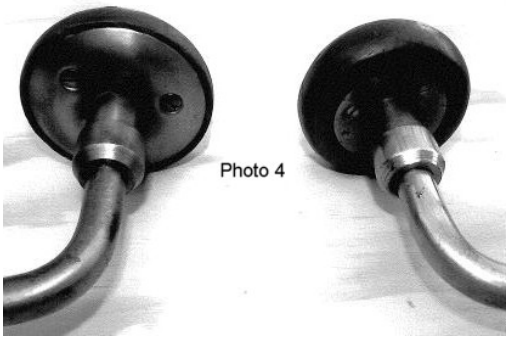
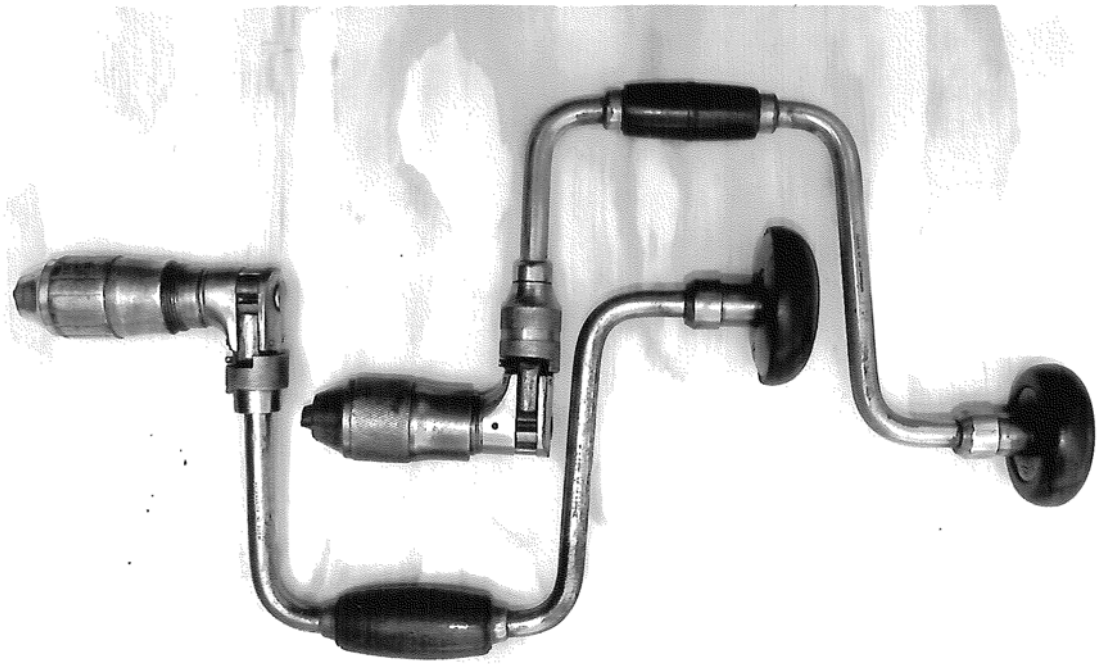
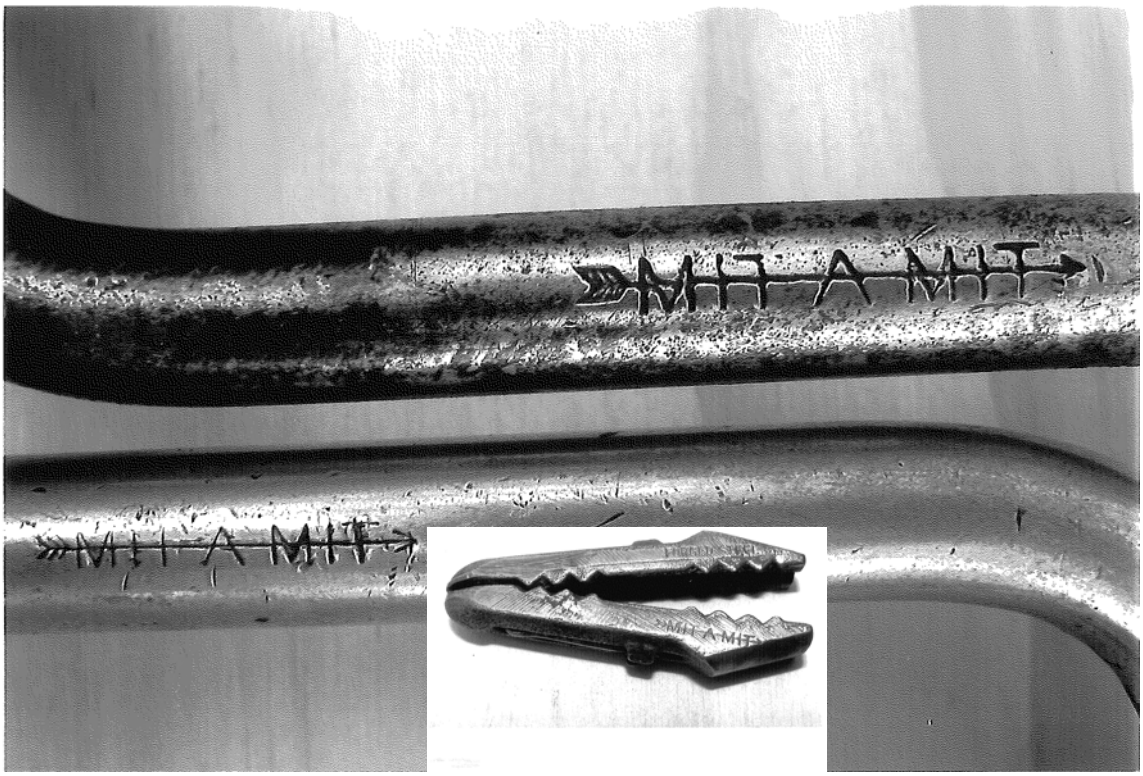


Photo 4




MH A MH
MH A MH


SILEX TOOLS

TOUGH or Tough?

TTTG appropriated the TOUGH Logo some years back. The justification was that this was a one hundred percent Australian graphic.

John Daniel noticed the advert above in a March 1944 Popular Mechanics.

Now John gave me a copy in colour so I could compare the two images. The colours are very close. As John said the shirts are too similar to be coincidental.

It can be argued that the differences make the local TOUGH a distinct individual. His expression is a little aggressive, perhaps belligerent. The American's trousers have become shorts and sock elastic is still in the future. Would our TOUGH be caught wearing that cap?

The evidence was pointing to TOUGH having appropriated the trademark of an overseas company in the post war years.

The immediate question was how long had Hastings used this graphic?

I do have a few Popular Mechanics from the 1930s and 1940s. Could I have missed such a striking image?

After checking my Popular Mechanics I tried the internet. Google have digitalised a large sample of Popular Mechanics.

It was long before my browsing found lots of Hastings adverts with this gentleman. Looks like Hastings advertised in every second or third issue. Each advert had a variation of the 'tough but gentle' guy.

So Hastings was the originators of our logo, at least in its proto form. The Hastings adverts predate TOUGH by about a decade.

I'd like to reprint some of the adverts but Google has copyrighted them!

Why Did I Buy This?

Probably it started with adverts like this one from the Woodworker April 1954. There is another Tarplaner advert with the caption ***feel like a giant.*** So whenever I see an old Tarplaner I cannot resist the temptation to have a look.

Now I've never wanted to own a Tarplaner but as an early machine these planers are interesting. Just as the current Makita 300mm hand held Portable Planer is worth contemplating. I can hand plane timber all day but I doubt I have the strength to use a 300mm portable plane for half an hour.

For rough work I'm happy with the small Makita Planer while the old Paul Call six inch Jointer and the 300mm Makita Thicknessers handle all my needs adequately. Yes the Thicknessers were plural as I have two of these machines and for that matter I've just purchased a second six inch Jointer!

So why did I buy a 1950s planer?

One Sunday morning at North Rocks Markets I saw a really big, really heavy and really old electric portable plane. The price tag was in the realm of fantasy so I walked on, saying *'you won't get that'*.

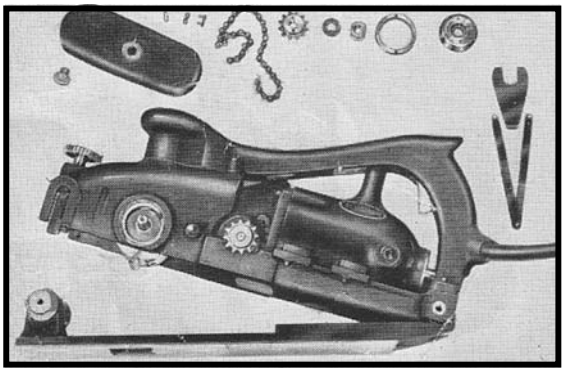
I think it took three months of Sunday mornings to get the price down to a reasonable level. Make no mistake; the price was still too high.

Even so I did buy the electric plane. Why? Perhaps it was because it was complete in the original box, maybe it was the quality. The machine has the full set of additional cutters, original oil bottle for lubrication and the spanner for changing the cutters. The real bonus is the instruction leaflet.

The 'Lowe' Portable Electric Plane is more accurately described as a combined hand held spindle moulder and narrow jointer. It is heavy and changing the cutters is a major logistical operation.

The 'Lowe' electric plane is solidly built; this is British engineering at its peak.

I have had this machine for several years but I'm yet to use it. Sometimes I read the instruction book; sometimes I just lift the planer and admire the quality. Perhaps the task of setting it up is just too much.



The day will come when I get around to setting up this machine planer and giving it a test run. At present I'm trying to stay away from interesting vintage power tools.

THE LEDGER

New Members

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

Mathew Pryor	**M 500**
Peter Tierney	**M 501**
Eric White	**M 502**
Peter Mury	**M 503**
Bob Cruz	**M 504**
David Boyd	**M 505**
Steve Tizard	**M 506**
Michael Holden	**M 507**
Rod Thompson	**M 508**
Ian Fletcher	**M 509**
Trevor McBeath	**M 510**

Workshops

The next TTTG all-day workshop will be our ever-popular Edge Tools Sharpening Workshop to be held at Asquith Boys' High School (Jersey Street North, Asquith) on Sunday, 15th February, 2009 starting at 9:30 am. Bring your lunch; tea, coffee and bickies provided. If you already think you're a good sharpener, you'll be astounded after attending this workshop. Cost is $20 for TTTG members; $40 for non-members. (Non-members may join on the day ($30 joining/membership fee; $50 total) and enjoy the wonderful benefits of TTTG membership.) There is no need to book; there are plenty of benches. However, if you require further details, please 'phone TTTG Events Co-ordinator, Peter Evans on 0419 245 699 or President Bob on 9869 7487.

On Sunday 29th March, 2009, we will be holding our Plane Tuning Workshop. Bring along your under-performing plane and it will sing like a bird when you finish this workshop. All other details for this workshop are as for the Edge Tools Workshop, above.

At these workshops, if you seek help with any aspect of tool use or maintenance, do not hesitate to ask Bob or any other workshop presenter. The workshops are social events where you will not only learn skills but enjoy a day of camaraderie with like-minded people. No matter how often you attend a particular workshop, you will learn something new every time.

Sydney Timber and Working With Wood Show

This year, the Sydney T&WWWS will be held on 19th to 21st June, 2009. The Traditional Tools Group's stand will be in the Hordern Pavilion, Moore Park. There are several competitions to be held in conjunction with the Show with monetary prizes. TTTG members may, of course, enter any of these competitions and are urged to participate. Our future involvement with the Timber and Working With Wood Show may depend on your support for these competitions. Perhaps the competition category most relevant to TTTG members would be Woodworking Tools & Jigs and Tool Restoration. Come on, get your entry form in.

Competition details are on the following page:-

Clynt Sheehy

Hon. Treasurer

Woodworking Competition

Putting Timbers on Show in NSW 2009

Timber and working with Wood Show

in association with

FORESTS NSW

19 - 21 June 2009

Hordern Pavilion, Moore Park

Entry form & Guidelines

COMPETITION RULES

1) A category prize will only be awarded if there are 5 or more pieces entered in a published category – if there are less than 5 entries in a category those entries will be included in the General Woodworking category.

The categories with less than 5 entries will firstly be judged under General Woodworking and then judged for merit awards being equal to second and third in the category of nomination.

Pieces entered under General Woodworking will only be eligible for a prize in that category; pieces entered in another category but included in General Woodworking will be eligible for both a General Woodworking prize if successful and a merit award in the category in which they were originally submitted. A certificate (Highly Commended) will be awarded as 4th place in all categories.

2) Competition entries must have been completed after June 1, 2008 and must not have been entered into any other competition other than 'in-club' competitions of which the entrant is a member.

3) Entries must not be entered in more than one category except where the entrant qualifies for the Open Novice category and the Young Achiever category/categories as well. Open Novice and Young Achiever entrants should also nominate both in the category befitting the class of work of their entry.

4) Open Novice is restricted to those who have never won an award of any sort in woodwork competitions. An alleged breach of this condition would have to be successfully defended before the award can be made.

5) Entries in Woodworking Tools & Jigs & Tool Restoration must be designed for woodworking applications.

6) Individuals may enter up to 3 entries in the competition

7) The Young Achiever category (which has been named the Les Miller Perpetual Young Achiever Award in honor of Les Millers' commitment to fostering a love of woodwork amongst youngsters) is open to all woodworkers under the age of 20 - 2 Sections judged, HSC and Pre HSC Students – please nominate your status on the entry form

8) Entry details must be lodged with the Timber & Working with Wood Show office by June 3rd 2009

9) Entries must be delivered to the competition area in the Hordern Pavilion between 3pm & 8pm on Wednesday June17th . A receipt will be given on delivery.

10) Entries may be for sale but must remain on exhibition for the duration of the show

11) Entries must be collected between 5pm & 7pm Sunday 21st June. The delivery receipt must be shown.

12) The show management will take due care but not responsibility for damage, loss or theft. Entrants are encouraged to arrange insurance for their work

13) It is the entrants' responsibility to arrange freight for their entry to and from the competition venue

14) All entries in the "Putting Timber on Show in NSW" competition must be displayed within the designated competition area except the Young Achiever Award, which will be located separately but adjacent

15) The Judges decision will be final and no correspondence or discussion will be entered into other than an objection to the validity status of the Novice prize. An objection must be lodged prior to the prize giving ceremony on Friday 19th June

16) A prize presentation will be held in the Hordern Pavilion Friday 19th June from 4pm

17) Entries in the Tool Restoration category must include a 'Before' photo

Putting Timbers on Show in NSW Competition 2009

Prize Categories

- Furniture & Box-Making
- Woodturning
- Marquetry
- Scroll Sawing
- Carving & Sculpture
- Musical Instrument Making
- Toy making
- Pyrography
- General Woodworking
- Open Novice
- Young Achiever (2 Sections**)
- Woodworking Tools & Jigs & Tool Restoration

Prizes each Category

1st $500 Cash

2nd $100 in Product or Gift Vouchers

3rd $50 in Product or Gift Vouchers

Minimum prize pool of **$10,000** in cash and product

Criteria for Entry

A) Entries must be principally made of wood (except Woodworking Tools & Jigs & Tool Restoration Category)

B) The design must support the intended use

C) The finish must be appropriate to the function

D) The difficulty and quality of manufacture will be considered

N.B. There is No Entry Charge

- * Entries in the 'Joinery in Building' category will be judged externally – see point 18 in the Competition Rules
- ** Young Achiever to be judged in both HSC and Pre HSC Sections
- 'Joinery in Building' category to include staircases, doors, windows, fitted furniture etc

Putting Timbers on Show in NSW 2009

Entry Form

Please complete one form per entry

Name:_____

Contact Number: _____

Mobile: _____

Email:_____

Address:_____

_____

_____

Postcode: _____

Description of Entry including; timber(s) used, size, wall mounted or free standing? Plinth supplied?_____

_____

_____

Young Achiever entrants only (less than 20yrs) to complete below

Age: _____

Please Circle: **HSC Student** **Pre HSC Student**

Circle category entered

- Furniture & Box-Making
- Woodturning
- Marquetry
- Scroll Sawing
- Carving & Sculpture
- Musical Instrument Making
- Joinery in Building
- Toy making
- Pyrography
- General Woodworking
- Open Novice
- Young Achiever
- Woodworking Tools & Jigs & Tool Restoration

Entry forms must be received no later than 3nd June 2009

Post,email or fax entry forms to:

Timber & Working with Wood Show

4/10 Jarocin Avenue,

Glebe NSW 2037

Fax: 02 9518 4150

Email: philjanlake@yahoo.com.au

Putting Timbers on Show in NSW 2009

Burnt Tree Saws

Peter Evans

A couple of saws have appeared with similar marks - who made them, and when? There are considerable resources available today to answer these questions, or get close to an answer – these notes lay out a path to the answers.

Firstly there is a handsaw belonging to Tom Holloway on the Old Tool List. The stamp is clearly BURNT TREE LANE SAW CO SHEFFIELD CAST STEEL. This is a nice clear stamp.

There is a Burnt Tree Lane running off Meadow St, and so we are looking for a firm located in Burnt Tree Lane.

The other saw is a Backsaw marked BURNT TREE WORKS SHEFFIELD.

Now the marks are clearly different in layout and really in name. So we are looking for two makers.

Next we search the Directories and references for firms in Burnt Lane. Here we turn up some interesting entries. This information is summarised on the next page under the heading *The Burnt Tree Lane Saw makers*

There are errors in the Ken Roberts list, and I cannot find any reference to the "Burnt Tree Lane Works"; Roberts may be conflating the "Burnt Tree Works" and "Burnt Tree Lane". So moving onto the genealogy we sort out who is who.

1861 Sheffield Census

Saw makers

John PACEY	44	head
Elizabeth PACEY	43	wife
Thomas W PACEY	23	son

All living in Sheffield

1851 Sheffield Census

John PACEY	35	head
Elizabeth PACEY	34	wife
Thomas William PACEY	13	son

All living in Sheffield

1841 Sheffield Census

John PACEY	20
Elizabeth PACEY	20

All living in Owlerton Bar
The 2nd Elizabeth is a bit of a mystery. The ages of John and Elizabeth are incorrect, more likely 23/22 years.

This clearly sets out the family relationships between the Pacey saw making firms. In summary:

John Pacey was a saw maker from 1841, when he was 23 years old, or shortly before, until sometime after 1872. Sometime between 1872 and 1883 John dies and his wife Elizabeth takes over the business; which raises the question – what happened to Thomas? Perhaps his father died not long after 1878 and Thomas went to work for his mother. By 1888, the business became/was absorbed by Abraham Ashton.

The Burnt Tree Lane Saw makers

DAMMS, Cocker and Co
Saw, scythe, calico printers' plates, steel busk, and hay and straw knife mfrs,
Burnt tree lane
W1833

JOHNSON, Samuel
Saw mfrs.
Burnt tree lane
W1833

MORTON, Matthew
Saw maker
Burnt tree lane
1845

TAYLOR Bros
Saw makers &c.
37 Burnt Tree lane
SB1841-52

John PACEY
Rose & Crown & Saw Manufacturer
h: Hillfoot
Henry & Thos. Rodgers Sheffield Directory 1841

ARMITAGE, William H
File Manufacturer
80 Harvest Lane
Slater1846, White (W)1852

John PACEY
Saw, file, edgetool and machine knife manufacturer
SCOTT, PACEY & TASKER
Henry Tasker
St George's Works, 3 Edward St
h. Grove Row (which is in Hillfoot)
W1849

This partnership was short lived:

TASKER, Henry
Saw, file, edge tool and machine knife manufacturer
St George's Works, 28 Edward St
W1852

John PACEY
Saw, machine knife, &c. manufacturer (PACEY & ARMITAGE),
William H Armitage
31 Burnt tree lane
h. 7 Grove Row, Hillfoot
W1852

This partnership was short lived:

ARMITAGE, William H. & Co
Associated 1910 with Sanderson Bros & Newbould
Vesuvius Works,
Henry St Portmahon
W1857-1891-

John PACEY
mnfrs of steel, files, saws, and machine knives (PACEY, John & Co)
31 Burnt tree lane
H: 223
Lower St. Philip's road
W1862, HM1856-72

PACEY & ARMITAGE
Saw maker
KR-1852-

PACEY & Co
Saw maker
Burnt Tree Lane Works
KR1854-56-

PACEY, John & Co
Saw maker
KR-1860-72-

PACEY, John & Co
Saw maker
31 Burnt tree Lane
HM1856-72, SB1854-71

Mrs Elizabeth PACEY
Saw maker
Well Meadow St
1883 and 1888-9;
10 Upper Allen St ct 1884 SB1883-89
Elizabeth PACEY
KR 1884-90

Thomas William PACEY

Pacey and Co
Burnt Tree Works, saw manufacturer
Wentworth-street (in Bidwell 10 miles from Sheffield)
SEYD AND CO 1878

ASHTON, ABRAHAM late E Pacey & Co
Saw makers 17 1/2 Meadow St
1888-93
17 Meadow St Burnt Tree Works
1895-1951 SB

Conclusions

1. The Backsaw was made by Thomas William Pacey at Burnt tree Works around 1878, when he was 40 years old. Unfortunately have not found any online census data after 1861, and there appear to be no further directory references. The backsaw in style could be consistent with this date, and in any case could not be before 1861 when he was still living in Sheffield with his parents, and probably learning saw making from his father.

2. The handsaw is more problematic. I have found no references to "Burnt Tree Lane Saw CO", and whilst Roberts and Schaffer both think the maker is John Pacey & Co, there is no evidence for this view. On the contrary, the various directory entries neglect to mention the existence of this company in any way, and certainly not in association with Pacey.

The handle is indicative of an early saw; the London pattern handle was going out of fashion by 1840; the small screws are also an early feature, however there are 4 screws, rather than the typical three; the horns are not elongated, so suggesting not before 1830. On handsaws etching had largely replaced stamping by 1850. This suggests a saw made between 1830 and 1850, but by whom?

So we can nail the backsaw fairly easily. We know where the handsaw was made, and we have the list of suspects; but as to which Burnt Tree Lane saw maker actually called his/her business Burnt Tree Saw Co.

References

[HM] Handsaw Makers of Britain, Don McConnell & Erwin L Schaffer, 2005{KR]

Some 19th Century English Woodworking Tools, Roberts, Kenneth D, 1980

[SB] Information provided by Simon Barley, 2008

Sheffield Records Online http://www.sheffieldrecordsonline.org.uk

Historical Directories Leicester University http://www.historicaldirectories.org/hd/

Handle of saw owned by Tom Holloway

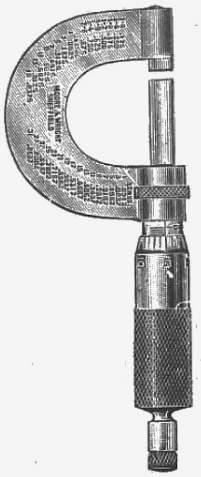
Saw marked

BURNT TREE WORKS SHEFFIELD

Thomas C Brown & Co

Reprinted from "The Ironmonger" June 24, 1933

A GOVERNMENT TASK



DURING the war, among other serious shortages of material was that of micrometers, which, indeed, became very serious, as, in those days, the production of the best micrometers was virtually a foreign monopoly. In order to prevent any repetition of such a state of affairs, some seven years ago the Board of Trade approached Moore & Wright, of Trafalgar Street, with the idea of getting them to put down a plant suitable for the production of these tools. The negotiations were concluded successfully and, after four years' research and experiment Moore & Wright were able to produce for the British Industries Fair of 1931 a British-made micrometer of the highest quality, which has since rapidly established itself in many markets in this country. Every 1in. micrometer is guaranteed to an accuracy of 1/10,000th of an inch at 68° F., and no micrometer is allowed to leave the works before it has passed this test. This production has entailed a great deal before it has passed this test. This production has entailed a great deal of research and the installation of much special machinery, designed for particularly accurate working, but the reward has been a steady flow of orders. It might be remarked in passing that such meticulous care has to be taken in the manufacture of these tools that, having regard to the importance of making provision for the elimination of internal stresses in the materials used, even the machining has been done in a room which is kept within certain definite limits of temperature. Micrometers are but one of several hundred different kinds of tools which are made in what has been called "Britain's Tool Factory."

"Moore & Wright" Micrometers are made in a special factory built for the purpose at the request of the British Government.

With compliments from—

THOMAS C. BROWN & CO.,

BROUGHTON HOUSE, 181 CLARENCE STREET, SYDNEY.

Commonwealth Representatives for

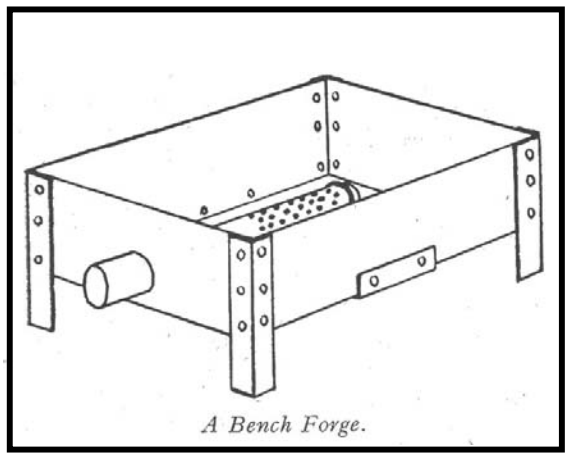
MOORE & WRIGHT, SHEFFIELD, ENGLAND

Agents for Moore & Wright and Starrett

1930s

Thomas C Brown & Co.,
Broughton House,
181 Clarence Street, Sydney

A Bench Forge



A Bench Forge.

English Mechanics

August 8th, 1930.

This is another good design that could be improved by being modernised.

The idea of using gas, whether domestic or LPG has great appeal.

One question suggests itself.

Are there standard gas fittings suitable for this application?

Maybe the Plumbers in TTTG could offer some advice.

Some people would argue that this sort of thing should be relegated to the past. After all there are real safety issues.

Having said that, and not suggesting that any prospective blacksmiths knock up such a make shift furnace, the Editor would be interested in receiving any suggestions.

I believe gadgets like this can also be found on the internet.

There are many occasions when a small forge becomes almost a necessity in the amateur mechanic's workshop. The one described herewith will be found adequate for such purposes as tool forging and tempering, brazing, and even light welding. The materials necessary to construct it are as follows :—

4 lengths of ⅛-in. iron plate, 12 in. × 4 in., 1 piece ditto, 12 in. × 12 in., 4 lengths of 1-in. angle iron, 6 in. long, 4 lengths of ditto, 3 in. long, and one piece of gas barrel, 14 in. long, and 1½ in. internal diameter. One end of this should be closed with a screw stopper.

The figure shows the construction, and is sufficiently explanatory. As will be seen, the sides are riveted to the angle iron strips, which serve as short legs to raise the forge off the bench. One of the sides is pierced with a round hole, just big enough to allow the aforesaid gas barrel to enter easily. The shorter strips of angle iron are riveted to the sides, as shown, and are to provide ledges for the 12 in. × 12 in. plate to rest on. The whole thing is, therefore, just a shallow pan, with an opening in one of its sides.

The gas barrel now calls for attention. It is pushed in through the opening provided, with the open end projecting about 2 in. or so, and is secured to the bottom plate by a ¼-in. U-bolt with the nuts under-

Before securing, however, it is necessary to drill the barrel with several rows of ¼ in. holes, to act as outlets for the blast. When in place, these holes should be uppermost, and the U-bolt drawn tight.

A layer of dry ashes is now put in the pan, just deep enough to cover the blast-pipe. The fire is then built in the usual way, with coke broken small, the blast being provided by a fan, electric blower, or foot bellows, as the case may be.

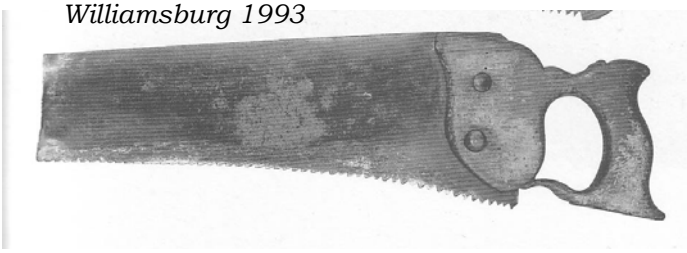
In practice, it is advisable to stand the little forge on a square of stout sheet iron to protect the bench from injury by the glowing coke which is sure to fall on it from time to time. J. A. L.

Relative Tool Pricing

Peter Evans

Detail from William Hogarth's Gin Lane

Both images from
Tools Working Wood in Eighteenth Century America
J M Gaynor & N L Hagedorn
Williamsburg 1993



A well used eighteenth century handsaw.

Joel Moskowitz of Tools for working wood in his blog discussed some interesting old court cases involving tools; lots of interesting detail including this extract from three of the cases.

Proceedings of the Old Bailey

SAMUEL MARKS, JOHN RIDER,

Theft > grand larceny, 3rd June 1767 (extract)

Samuel Marks and John Rider, were indicted for stealing a rabbit plane, value 18d. a pilaster plane, value 1s. a dovetail saw, value s. a trying plane, value 18d. and a bead plane, value 12d. the property of Absalom Hughes.

JAMES GRAY,

Theft > grand larceny, 14th September 1796

James Gray (a soldier) was indicted for feloniously stealing, on the 27th of August, a hempen bags value 4d. a saw, value 2s. a dovetail saw, value 1s. 6d. a jack plane, value 14d. a smoothing plane, value 15d. a rabbit plane, value 6d. two mallers, value 6d. two gimblets, value 4d. one gouge, value 6d. one axe, value 6d. three broad awls, value 3d. four chissels, value 12d. a Turkey oil stone, value 6d. an iron hammer, value 4d. and an augur, value 4d. the property of Charles Harding.

Note the reduced value of the dovetail saw in this case. However the saw values in the next (almost contemporaneous) case are consistent with the first case. Perhaps the saws in case 2 were worn out? Given the range of qualities (and prices) of saws in this, and later, periods the values must be considered as general in nature.

JOHN ROBINSON,

Theft > grand larceny, 23rd May 1798

John Robinson was indicted for feloniously stealing, on the 26th of March, a pannel saw, value 7s. a carcase saw, value 7s. a sash saw, value 12s. a dove-tail saw, value 5s. a stock, value 7s. Twenty-seven bits, value 13s. and one saw pad, value 1s. 6d. the property of John Westfield.

What is really interesting in the above is the relative value of various tools. I will focus on the first case above and the relative values of a trying plane at 18d (1/6s) and a dovetail saw at 5s. Saws

were expensive in the 18th century; and the relativity with today is interesting. For comparative purposes I will use brass backed backsaws as the primary comparator.

We do not know how accurate these "valuations" were, however they are probably a reasonable indicator of relative value. We do have some limited data on the period. The inventory of the London plane maker Christopher Gabriel gives some indications of 1791 relative value, even if we do not know whether these are wholesale or retail values. Iron backed tenant (tenon) saws were 7s 6d if London made, 4s 6d if made by Kenyon; a single iron "trey" plane was 2s 3d, and a double 3s 9d.

In the 1800 Gabriel inventory the values of single "trey" planes are 2s 9d, and the double 4s 3d. In this inventory there were dovetail saws - 7″ dovetail saws were 4s; 9″ were 4s 3d; a Manwaring (London maker) 9″ dovetail saw was 5s 6d. There was a range of prices of backsaws as low as 2s 9d each.

Another 18th century source is the inventory of the Benjamin Seaton chest. A double iron try plane was 4/6, and a dovetail saw was 6/-.

The James Cam/Marshes & Shepherd List c. 1830 (between 1821 and 1841) prices dovetail saws (8-10″ all same price within quality category) at:

German steel iron back	4/-
Cast steel iron back	4/8
Ditto brass back	6/-
Ditto warranted brass back	7/-

And Trying planes are priced at:

22″ single iron	4/-	[4/6]
22″ double iron	5/10	[6/2]
24″ single iron	4/4	[4/10]
24″ double iron	6/2	[6/6]
26″ single iron	4/9	[5/2]
26″ double iron	6/6	[6/10]

The 1816 Plane Price List "regulated by the trade" of Joseph Clark, Newcastle confirms the prices of the period:

	Single	double
Short trying plane	4/-	5/6
Long trying plane	4/9	6/6

The prices of the saws and trying planes are somewhat closer together. The try plane in 1767 was probably a single iron, as double irons (around from c. 1760) were not popular until late in the 18th century.

In the U S of A, S Hills and F Richards of Norwich, Mass. in 1833 were selling 22″ Fore planes for – double iron $1.92 (cast steel), $1.75 (German steel); single iron $1.50 (cast steel), $1.36 (German steel). These were probably UK irons.

In the 1897 Chas-A-Strelinger & Co Catalog in Detroit, they were selling 22″ Fore planes for $1.95 (the irons are Ward & Payne, by this time double iron). This is virtually the same as in 1833. Backsaws are half that figure. Note planes and saws are Strelinger's own brand, so probably comparable in quality – they claim "high".

Hibbard, Spencer, Bartlett & Co 1922 Catalog prices - Fore plane 22″ $4.30; a 8″ no 4 Disston iron back backsaw was $3..03. This is interesting because the saw is more than ½ the price of the plane (compare the 1897 relationship).

The Appleby Brothers London 1963 Catalogue has saws with the dozen prices illustrated.

The Illustrated Trade List of Prices of Sheffield Goods 1889 does not specifically list dovetail saws (nor planes

for that matter); however looking at 10″ back saws:

Warranted spring brass back 7/-

Cast steel ditto 6/-

Ditto spring iron backs 4/8

Ditto blued or bright backs 5/4

German steel ditto 4/-

Moving on to 1909, we have two catalogues for comparison. Firstly the Wm Marples Catalogue “Tools for All Trades” -

Try plane 22″ double iron 6/9

Common 22″ double iron 5/9

Try plane 24″ double iron 7/-

Try plane 26″ double iron 7/6

Note that the single iron has disappeared, however you could get one of these planes with a parallel iron for -/3 extra. The catalogue does not list dovetail saws, the backsaw prices (8″ and 10″ are the same price)-

Cast steel iron back 4/8

Ditto brass back 6/-

London spring iron back 5/4

Ditto brass back 7/-

German steel has bit the dust (strangely this branding became unpopular in 1914 and disappeared, was of no metallurgical meaning for almost 100 years before that time). Note that prices appear to not have moved since 1889. Secondly, prices in the 1909 Preston catalogue are identical, a testament to the price fixing in the UK at that time, and indeed up to the 1970’s.

The George Adams Catalogue 1912, has Trying planes 22″ double iron at 6/9, and 24″ double iron at 7/- and backsaws … illustrated.

An undated catalogue (c. 1930) with on the cover Governor Tools that do Better Work , has Trying planes 22″ double iron at 13/6, and 24″ double iron at 14/-. Backsaws 8″ … depends on quality –

Back	Iron	Brass
Atkins (US)	8/6	9/9

(dovetail saws same price),

Governor	6/-	7/3
Trojan	3/6	4/6
Deritend	2/9	-

The 1930 Buck & Hickman Catalogue shows that prices have increased somewhat for planes; a 22" double iron Try plane is 13/8 (a Millers Falls metal plane was 30/9, a Norris was 79/-; the pricing relativity today between the wooden and metal planes is about the same, but the Norris has increased vastly in relative value). However saw prices do not appear to have moved since 1909. 10" best quality brass back saw 6/-. Note that a Disston No 4 was 10/-, demonstrating the decline in British saws – if not in quality, certainly in market perception.

By 1939, in the Marples Catalogue Trying planes were 13/6, and backsaws are illustrated. There are no US saws in this catalogue, however the UK saws are significantly more expensive than in 1930.

In Australia, the prices in the Anthony Hordern’s 1917 catalogue are interesting (see illustration for saws).; note Disston had pushed UK saws out of the catalogue, and the Disstons are cheaper than saws in the UK.

Mathieson, Preston and Moseley Trying planes (length undefined, almost certainly double iron by this time) were 7/9. Ward & Payne double irons at 2/- were -/9 more expensive than single irons, parallel irons the same price as double irons. In the Lassetters’ Monthly commercial Review June 1917, the Disston backsaw

prices were the same as Hordern's, the Mathieson Trying plane was 7/3.

In the Ironmongeries 1930 catalogue, the W & P irons had increased in price to 2/6; the Mathieson 1st quality Trying Plane was now 18/6. This is a massive price increase compared to 1917. The saws are English in this catalogue. Lloyd & Davies is an S & J lower quality brand, Avia may also be a S & J brand, but does not appear in any references.

The 1937 Macpherson's Catalogue provides prices on Disston No. 4 backsaws - 8″ iron back 9/6, brass back 13/-. Mathieson 22″ trying plane 17/6. Interestingly S &J and Disston D8 handsaws were the same price, so perhaps UK saws were making a comeback (but no UK backsaws in this catalogue).

Moving to the present day. Looking at the well known maker Lie-Nielsen - dovetail saw $125, trying plane (metal No 7) $425. Of course the Try plane we started with is wood, not metal - so let's use a Clark & Williams 22" trying plane for comparison; the cost is $385. These planes are handmade; however looking at the handmade Gramercy/Adria/Wenzloff saws for relativity we see a dovetail saw is $135-140. These are all US makers so comparable on grounds of labour and material cost. If we look at planes made elsewhere we see the Primus (German made) try plane is $270, and the HNT Gordon (Australian made) is $240. All the above in this paragraph are US prices. There are not too many makers of (Western) wooden planes these days, but this is enough data points for our purposes.

The second hand market is a bit thin for 18th Century tools; so looking at mid 19th Century, one would expect to pick up a good dovetail saw for $50, a trying plane probably a fraction cheaper. This is probably the pricing relativity in 1850.

A historical summary ($ are US$, and £ is UK value):

Comparative values/prices

Year	Saw		Try planes 22"		
	brass back single iron		iron back double iron		
1767	5/0		1/6		
1798	5/0				
1791	7/0	4/6	2/3	4/9	
1800	6/6	4/3	2/9	4/3	
1816			4/-	5/6	
1830	7/-	4/8	4/-	5/10	
1833			$1.50	$1.92	
1863	7/-	6/2			
1889	7/-	4/6			
1897		$0.98		$1.95	
1909	7/-	5/4		6/9	
1912					
5/9	4/9		6/9		
1930	6/-	4/8		13/8	
1930	(Disston) 11/-		10/-		
1930	(Atkins) 9/9		8/6		13/6
1937	(Disston) 10/4		7/7		14/-
1939	9/6	7/4		13/6	
2008	$135		$325	$270	

So saws are progressively relatively (and in inflation adjusted terms, actually) cheaper over time.

Conclusion

In 18th century Britain a dovetail saw cost around twice as much as a try plane. By the end of the 19th century the cost was around the same. Today a (wooden)

try plane costs around twice as much as a dovetail saw (of similar quality).

Now why is that so? Are any of the following valid reasons?

1. Spring saw steel was very expensive in 1750 and has been getting cheaper ever since.

This is the most likely explanation for the change in relative pricing.

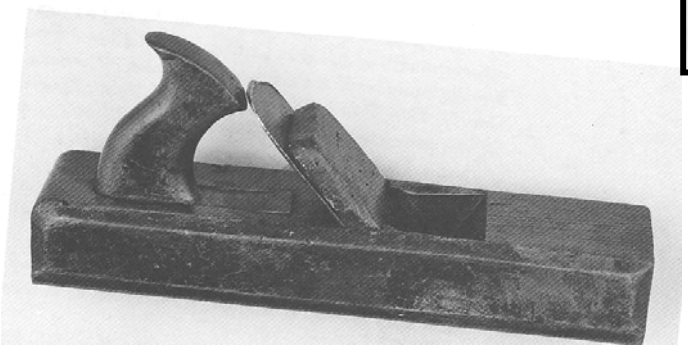
2. Quality timber for plane making has been getting relatively more expensive, and hard to find, over time.

The timber cost is probably not a major part of the cost, and in any case beech is not rare today, nor 100 years ago.

3. There is more labour in a wooden plane, and labour has become more expensive over time.

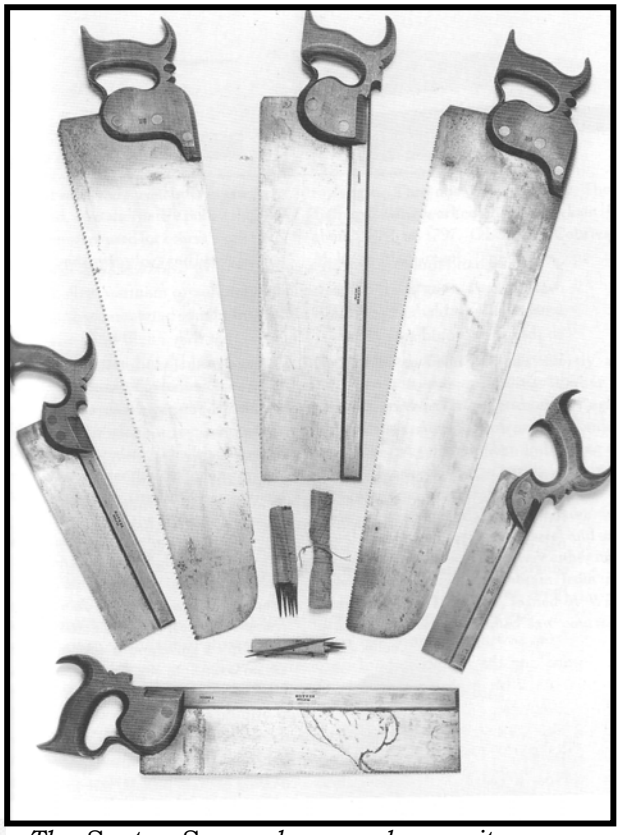
The labour proportion of the cost is probably higher; however this is true for saws and planes – and would not account for the substantial changes.

4. More skill is required to make a plane than a saw, and skilled labour is harder to find.



This is debatable, but perhaps accounts for some of the change. Does it require more skilled time to cut the opening in a plane than shape a saw handle?
Are there other reasons? Is the pricing a matter of pricing for market expectations and perceptions, eg the relative cost single vs. double irons in the 19th century seems to have related more to marketing than manufacturing cost.

One can understand the high cost of spring steel in 1767; and by the early 20th century this should not be a significant issue - and we see this in the disappearance of the price gap by 1909. The big reversal in price gap appears between 1909 and 1930, with (perhaps) a smaller jump to 2008. I see no explanation for the big rise in the price of wooden planes between 1909 and 1930.



The Seaton Saws above and opposite an eighteenth century American Jack Plane.

Both images from

Tools Working Wood in Eighteenth Century America

Old Tool Prices

Where to find the evidence

When researching and writing the article **Relative Tool Pricing** Peter Evans consulted old tool catalogues and publications on tools.

Readers may find it useful to have a guide to these sources. When reading Peter's article refer to this guide to locate the book or catalogue he has used as reference material.

Peter originally submitted the article with end notes. The Editor considered these to be too voluminous for this newsletter but the reader can research further in the extensive following bibliography.

Responsibility for this decision rests with the Editor.

J & M Rees
Christopher Gabriel and the Tool Trade in 18th Century London.
Astragal Press 1997
Peter could not find any dovetail planes in the inventory, there is no indication of the length of the saws, also he could not find any brass backed saws

The Tool Chest of Benjamin Seaton 1797
TATHS 1994
Most of the tools in the Seaton chest were sourced from Gabriel.
Joseph Smith *Explanation or Key to the various Manufactories of Sheffield*, Edited by JS Kebabian, 1975, EAIA

[1829] Price List of J. Wilks
Quoted in K Roberts, some 18th Century English Woodworking Tools, 1980, p254

The prices for ***S Hills and F Richards of Norwich Mass.*** *Are quoted in*
www.Toolemera.com
Digital trade catalogue

1897 Chas A Strelinger & Co. Catalogue Detriot
Reprint by MWTCA, 1979,
Digital copy at
old-woodworking-tools.com/

Hibbard, Spencer, Bartlett & Co. 1922 Catalogue
Digital copy at
roseantiquetools.com/id103.html

The Appleby Brother London 1963 Catalogue
Digital copy on Google books

The Illustrated Trade Price List of Prices of Sheffield Goods 1899
Reprinted by Arnold & Walker, 1974,
There is an digital copy of the **1871 list** with identical prices on Google books

The George Adams Catalogue 1912
Digital copy on the TATHS CD No. 2 (2008)

Governor Tools that do Better Work
Digital copy on the TATHS CD No. 2 (2008).
Whilst not mentioned in the catalogue, the brands are those of John Shaw & Sons (Wolverhampton) Ltd

William Marples "Tools for All Trades" 1909
Reprint

Buck & Hickman Catalogue 1930
Reprint

Edward Preston Catalogue 1909
Reprint

Alex Mathieson Catalogue 1899
Reprint

Thomas McPherson Catalogues
Original copies

Marples Catalogue 1939
Digital copy at
roseantiquetools.com/id220.html

Anthony Horderns Catalogue 1917
TTTG CD No 1

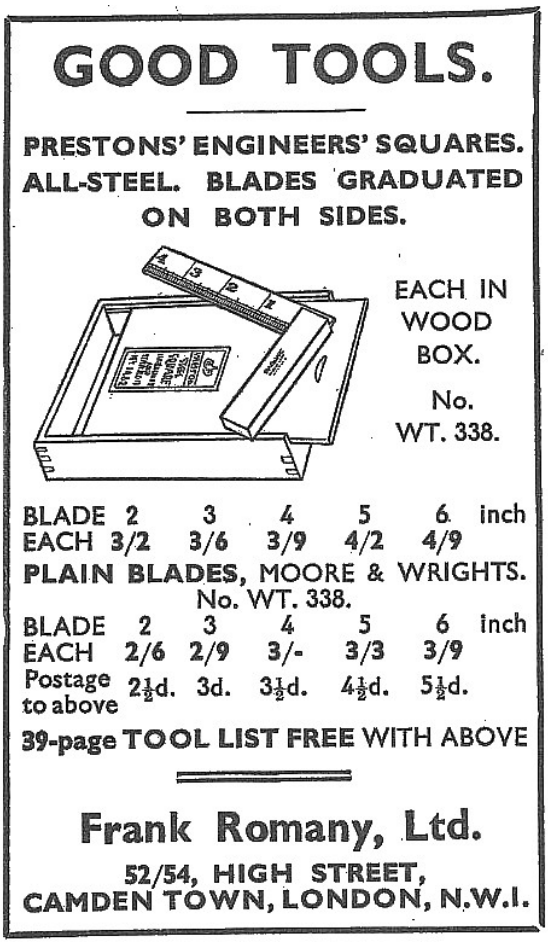
Ironmongeries Catalogue 1930
TTTG CD No 1

In 1937 the exchange rate was Aus £1.25 = UK£1, prior to 1930 it was 1=1. As at 6/1/2009 the ratio was £1.025 = UK£1 (remember £1 = A$2

Preston Engineers' Squares

The trade mark *E P Preston* is usually associated with woodworking tools. Preston manufactured a large range of quality tools including a selection of Engineers' squares.

The advertisement below from English Mechanics March 23, 1934, shows the sizes of these squares and reveals that the squares were supplied in individual boxes. The box illustrated is in fact identical to the boxes supplied with Moore and Wright Engineers' Squares. The labels are even similar! The Preston squares had graduated blades but were they significantly superior to the Moore and Wright squares despite the higher price?



Why were Preston squares more expensive than the Moore and Wright squares?

By 1934 Edward Preston & Sons, Ltd. was in liquidation. Were these squares 'old stock' and how many did Frank Romany have to sell? The advert may have been designed to sell the 'still in production' Moore and Wright squares!

There is one curious feature in the advert by Frank Romany. Both the Moore and Wright and the Preston squares have the same number, WT.338. Were they expecting any orders for the Preston squares in such bleak times?

The full range of Preston Engineers' squares is in Edward Preston & Sons Ltd. 1909 Catalogue. Four variations of steel square were offered.

1484. Solid steel stocks and hardened and tempered steel blades.

1484S. Lighter 'scotch pattern' square. Same quality and price as 1484. Sizes for both from 2 inch to 7 inch. (14 sizes).

1485. Fine divided into sixteenths of an inch. Sizes 2 inch to 12 inch. (10 sizes).

1484ED. Machine divided into sixteenths, thirty seconds and sixty fourths of an inch. Sizes 2 to 6 inch. (5 sizes).

The 1485ED squares were the most expensive.

The Preston squares in the advert are the 1485ED, which explains the price and also the box.

The 1448ED and the plain Moore and Wright's Engineers' squares were precision squares.

Can any reader identify the source of the drawing of the Preston square with box? The label has the Preston logo so it probably was taken from an earlier Preston advertisement.

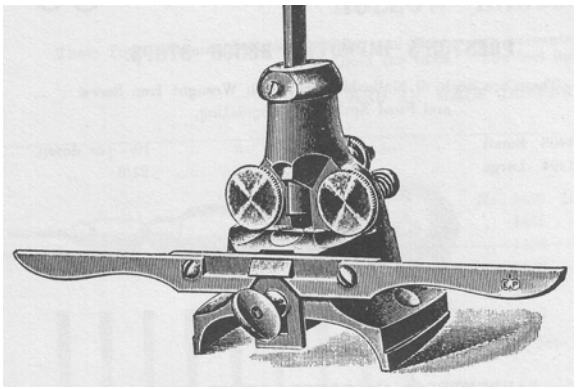
Moore and Wright's Engineers' squares came in identical boxes.

Preston Saw Sets

Edward Preston & Sons, Ltd. patented, and marketed, a significant number of 'improved' cast iron tools.

The most commercially successful cast iron Preston tools were arguably the spoke-shaves, the routers, the shoulder and bull-nose planes and the saw sets.

For each 'patented' tool Edward Preston & Sons. Ltd. continued to manufacture the older wooden versions of the cast iron tools. Preston also sold 'patented' tools by other makers.

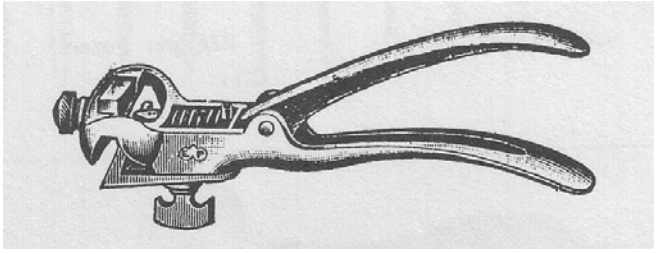


Preston's Patent Punch Saw Set.

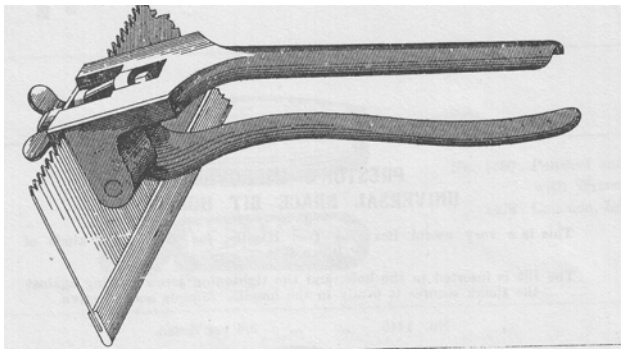
"The action of setting the teeth resembles that of setting saws by hammer and steel bed."

Innovative designs to set saws without use of hammer and plate were patented. Preston sold three patented saw sets by other makers.

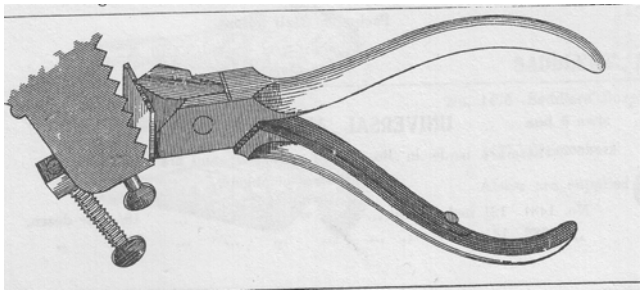
Morrell's Pattern Saw Set.



Tricket's Pattern Saw Set.

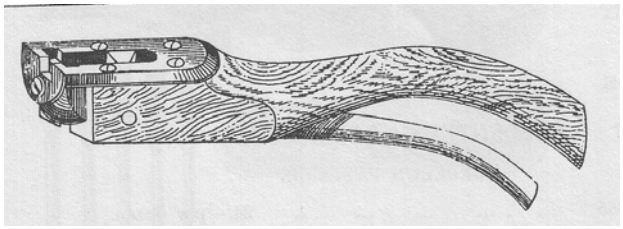


Bright Plyer Saw Set.



Edward Preston & Sons, Ltd. also sold a beech wood handled saw set.

Improved Beech Handled Plier Saw Set.



The wooden saw set prompts this question,

Was the improved beech handled saw set a copy in wood of the a patented saw set or was it an improvement on an older pattern?

All the illustrations are from the Astragal Press reprint of the 1909 Edward Preston & Sons, Ltd. Catalogue No.18.

Preston Dowelling Tools

In the late nineteenth century continental methods of furniture making were introduced into London. Commonly known 'French' these techniques followed the arrival of Jewish refugees from the programs in tsarist Russia and Poland. Chair making was particularly influenced by quicker and cheaper 'foreign' methods.

Dowel joints substituted for mortise and tenon joints significantly reduced the cost of producing all types of chairs. Dowel joints also had wide application in cabinet making and later in mass produced doors.

Edward Preston & Sons, Ltd. Catalogue No.18, May 1909 has a full page of dowelling tools. Half the page is taken up with dowel plates. Among these is Preston's Patent Dowel Plate.

Before discussing Preston's Patent Dowel Plate attention is drawn to the level of efficiency made possible by the use of Preston's range of dowelling tools. This efficient production method was possible due to the Jennings pattern auger bits.

The sizes of the plates and the accessories sold by Preston were gauged to Jennings Pattern Bits. At the time these were the only hand and machine bits for wood guaranteed to be consist in size.

Preston's Patent Dowel Plates were gauged to Jennings bit sizes. Four sizes of Dowel centres were offered matching Jennings sizes. These were the standard sizes used in chair and furniture production,

Preston offered Dowel Rounders for Braces in five sizes to match Jennings sizes and Dowel Shavers (Trimmers) in two sizes.

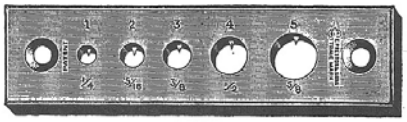
Dowels could be made using Preston's Patent Dowel Plates to exactly fit holes bored with Jenning's bits.

Dowel hole positions could be transferred exactly using dowel centres that fitted perfectly holes bored by Jenning's bits. Dowel ends could be rounded quickly and accurately with Preston Dowel Rounders or, if this accuracy was not required, they could be chamfered with Preston Dowel Shavers.

Accurate holes were not enough to win a patent application. Dowel plates were not a new idea. Roughly planed dowels had been sized by being driven through a hole drilled in an iron plate for centuries. Preston's innovation was to patent a dowel plate that not only sized dowels but also cut a groove to allow air to escape from the dowel hole.

This is explained in the description of the 1444P. Dowel Plate.

1444P.—These Dowel Plates are of superior manufacture, and have a Steel V Tooth inside each hole for grooving the Dowel Peg, which allows the air and superfluous glue to get away, thus avoiding burst holes in the work.



1444P.

Were dowel centres a Preston design?

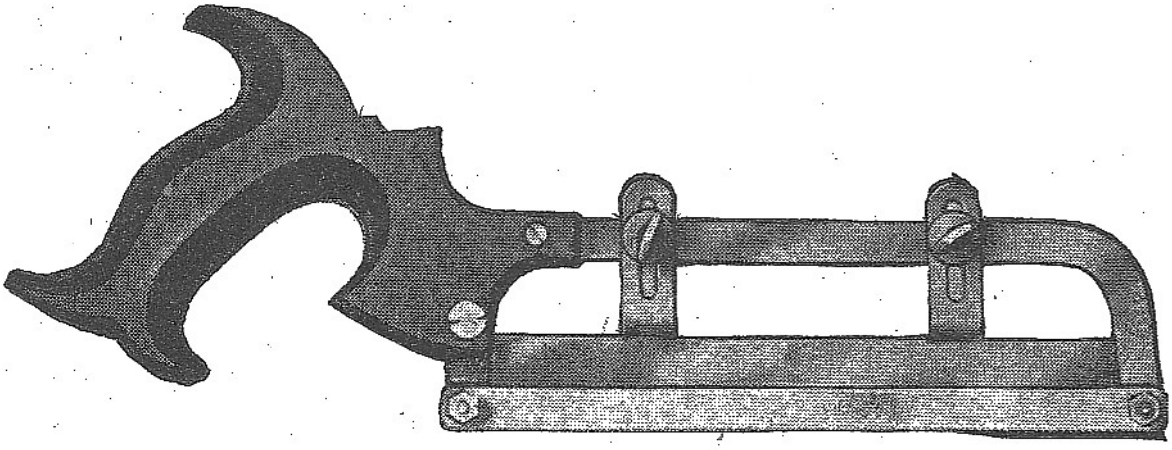
1440.

1440½.

Using Dowel Plates

The plate should be screwed to a hardwood block with clearance holes to match. Plane the dowel roughly to size before driving through the plate. Allow space under the block for the dowel to fall out of the path of the next dowel!

Comb Joint Saw

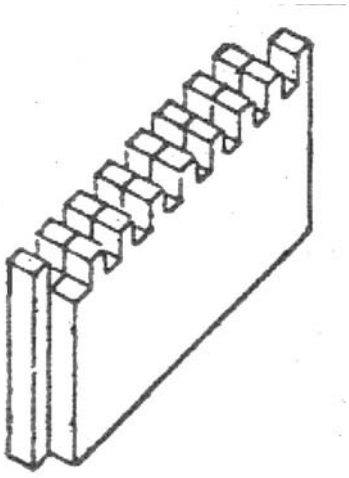


English Mechanics November 7th 1930

There are many ways of cutting comb joints rapidly with machinery. The principle shown here is the one used in jigs to cut comb joints on a circular saw or on a router table.

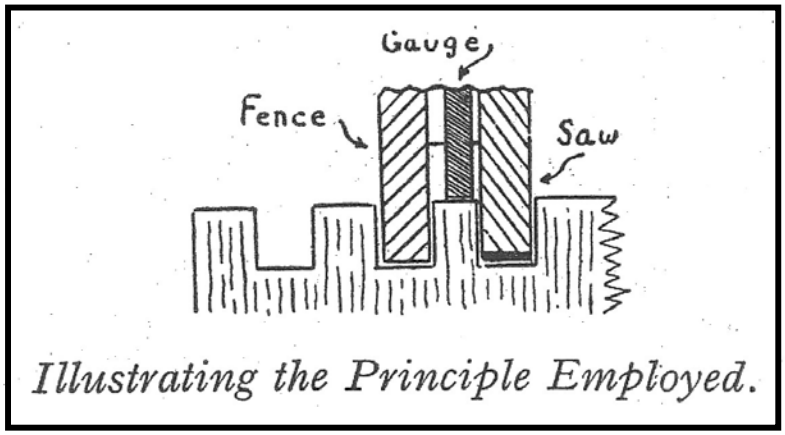
When it comes to the circular saw the idea predates this hand saw by at least several decades. Or so we assume but maybe the idea is older.

The *drawings from the original text show the basic concept.*



Some useful observations can be made from the text and the accompanying illustrations. The saw appears to be a modified hack saw.

The blade appears to be a hack saw blade. The text implies the saw was designed for comb joining plywood.



Illustrating the Principle Employed.

It would be interesting to make this saw and try it out. With a better blade it would cut quickly and well.

That said the machine methods of making comb joints offer an easier and a quicker solution.

WANTED

For less than ten dollars I purchased a bundle of Commonwealth of Australia Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Division of Forest Products, Trade Circulars.

The last circular in the bundle is Trade Circular No. 46 titled The *Air Seasoning of Timber.* The list of Trade Circulars printed to that date is reproduced on the facing page.

The bundle is not a complete set of circulars. I have done a Google search and these CSIR Trade Circulars are not easily accessible.

As these forty six CSIRO publications are such an extensive record of research into forestry practice in Australia before the Second World War they may be of interest to TTTG members.

If this is so TTTG will consider reproducing the CSIR Trade Circulars on a TTTG CD.

Naturally someone will have to volunteer to copy the CSIR Trade Circulars.

Of course I will need copies of the missing CSIR Trade Circulars. I'm sure copies can be found among TTTG members or perhaps some members have the time to locate access to the missing copies.

The missing numbers are:-

1,2,4,5,6,8,9,14,15,16,27,30,31,32,34.

My No. 42 is a badly stained copy.

If you can help contact the editor

Other similar publications may also be suitable for digital reprinting. The editor would appreciate any suggestions.

A lot of information can be loaded onto a TTTG CD at reasonable cost.

New South Wales Forestry Commission Timber Samples

A number of TTTG members have asked about these timber samples. Odd samples and incomplete sets sometimes turn up. The cards describing the samples also surface now and then. We would like to secure a set of these cards and samples for the TTTG Library.

TTTG Timber Samples

TTTG has been given a box of timber samples. Some are NSW Forestry samples and some are Tasmanian Forest samples. There are some duplicates.

Mike Williams has offered to sort through the box of samples.

Included with the timber sample was a Timber Identification Key Guide.

TTTG also has and a set of Identification Cards. There are some duplicates.

More on the samples and the descriptors in a later issue of News

Power Tool Repairs

TTTG is starting to assemble a guide to tool and machinery related services.

For example who will repair old power tools when all the repairs say things like, 'can't get the parts' or 'cheaper to buy a new one'?

Some of us will pay to have old power tools repaired when we know they will give years of good service. Electrical repairs seem to be the biggest stumbling block!

Chain Mortiser Sharpening

Is there anyone in Sydney who sharpens Mortise Chains? Is there anyone who can supply Mortise Chains and Bars?

If we can get enough names we will publish a guide to specialised services.

Mystery Brace

Terry Butcher, TTTG Southern Correspondent, has sent these photos of a brace he has acquired.

This is an unmarked metal brace, very common shape, Barber style with concealed alligator jaw chuck. Non-ratcheting. However it has an additional item behind the chuck, a ring not unlike the handle of a scissor, fitted through a rectangular hole and secured with a rivet through the shank.

I note that the length of the section behind the chuck is somewhat greater compared to similar braces. There is a very slight cam action from the extremes of movement but hardly beneficial. There appears to be no connection between this point and the clamping mechanism of the chuck. It could be complete but it is also possible that extra part may have broken off or been removed from the brace.

A point of interest, behind the rotating head the boss has worn down heavily into the frame indicating the user pressing down on the head.

Terry adds a PS in regarding of the mechanism of the brace.

I haven't the foggiest idea!

On another matter, Terry has sent some information about the Brunny Island Light House. The original lamp installed in the Light House is marked Chanceson. Readers may recall the debate regarding Chanceson, as to whether they were plane makers or merchants. The Light House lamp adds weight to the merchant theory.

2009 TTTG Workshops

The following TTTG workshops will be offered in 2009;

Sharpening Edge Tools

15 February 2009

Plane Tuning

29 March 2009

Saw Sharpening

Date to be advised

Blacksmithing

Date to be advised

These are the *core TTTG Workshops; they will be offered* each year

TTTG needs your feedback on the possibility of offering other workshops

Possible Workshops include:

#Using Woodworking Planes 1

This is an advanced course building on the ***Plane Tuning*** workshop.

Basic timber preparation, face and edge, widening joints, planing wide boards, end grain, difficult grain etc

#Using Woodworking Planes 2

Following **Using Woodworking Planes 1**

Special purpose planes, combination plough, rebate, bull-nose and shoulder planes. How to use them and what to buy

#Using Woodworking Saws

Following ***Saw Sharpening***, learn how to use hand and back saws efficiently

#Using Woodworking Chisels

This is an advanced course building on the ***Sharpening Edge Tools*** workshop

Safe and efficient methods of using chisels, what chisels you need, where to get the chisels and how to use the chisels

#Spoke Shaves, Scrapers and Scratches

These tools are often work quicker and cleaner than expensive and ear bashing modern machines. We show how to make and use these mystery tools

#Joint Cutting 1

Cutting dovetails quickly and neatly by hand methods

#Joint Cutting 2

Cutting tenons and other joints quickly and neatly by hand methods

#Workshop Savvy

Common sense advice on how to get started
Bring your problems and we will work on them

This workshop could end up as a therapy session but who cares?

#Metal working for Wood Workers

Basic fitting skills, sawing, filing and heat treatment plus an introduction to the Drilling Machine, the Lathe and Shaper

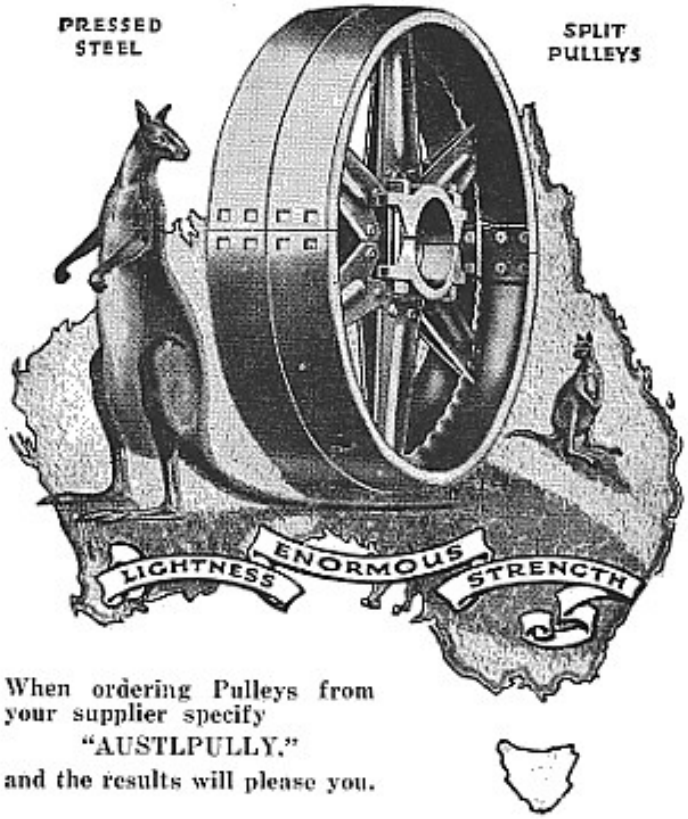
TTTG could not offer <u>all</u> these courses in any one year and for some workshops the cost may have to be increased

If you want any of these courses to be available contact TTTG

If ten people want a workshop we will try and run it!

Registered Trade Mark

"AUSTLPULLY"



When ordering Pulleys from your supplier specify
"AUSTLPULLY,"
and the results will please you.

The "Austlpully" combines the best features of all the older makes, together with our well-known exclusive details, and thus it stands to-day the best pulley the world has yet produced.

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