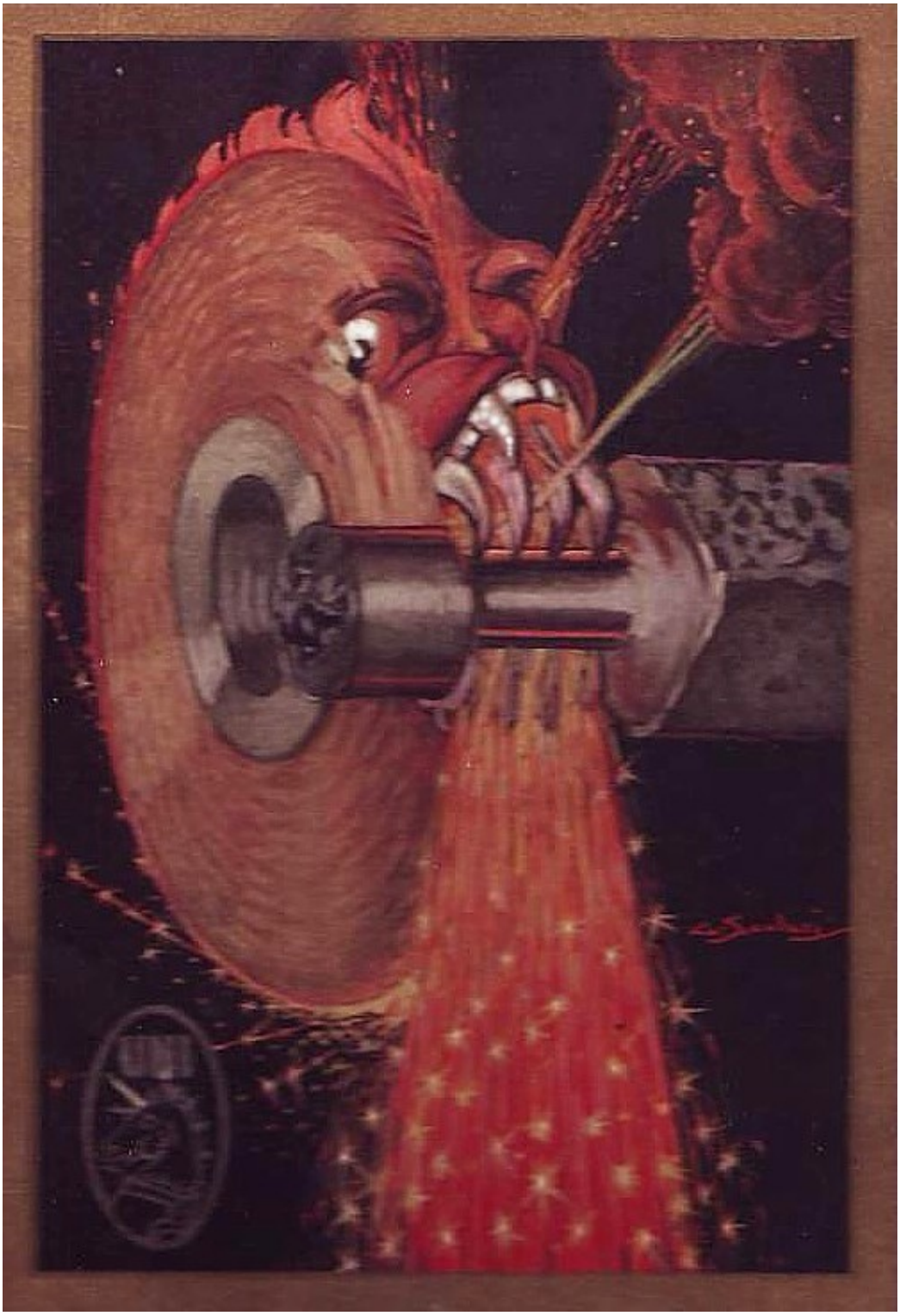
NEWS 109



OCTOBER 2009

TTTG Inc. www.tttg.org.au

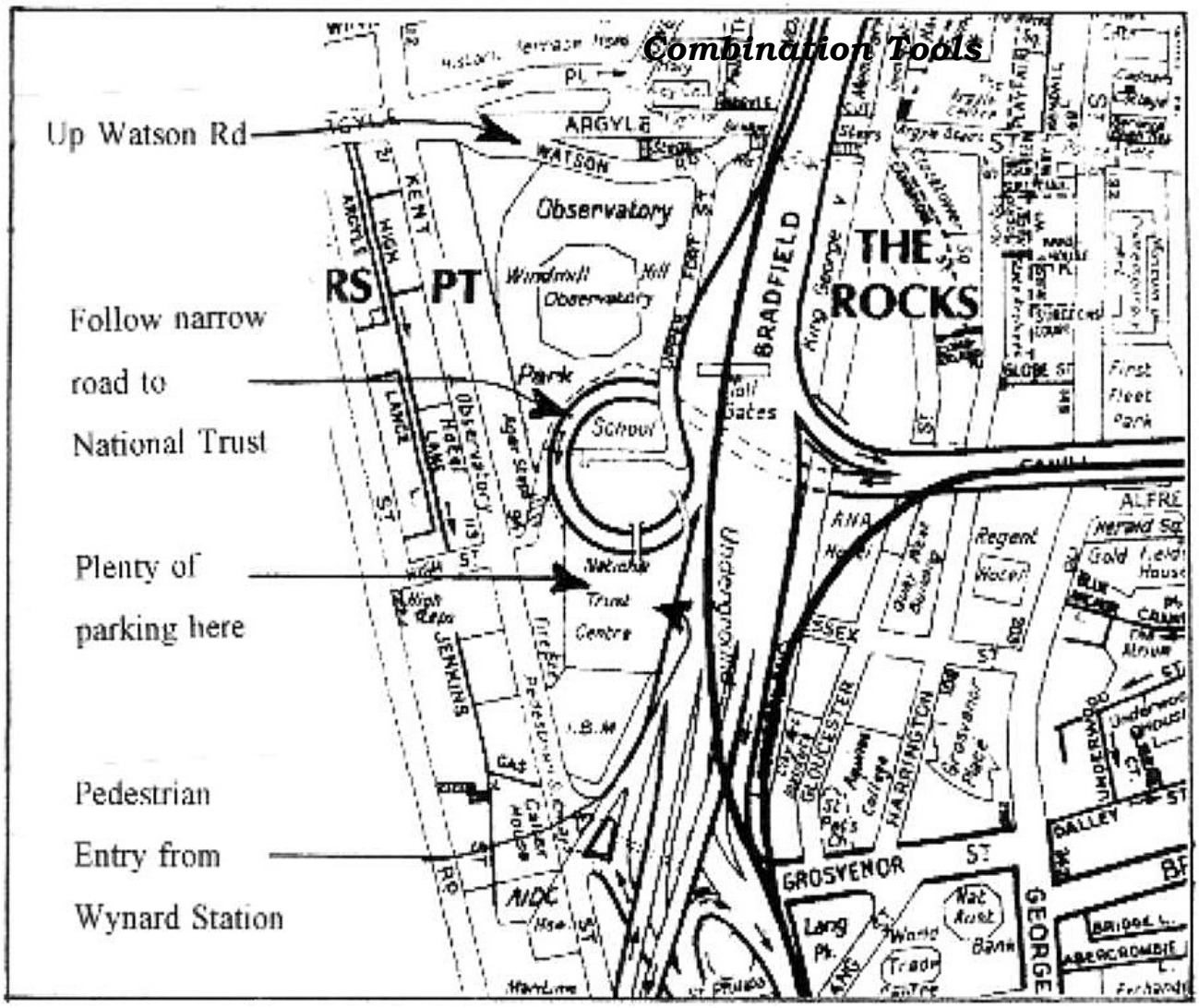
Next Meeting

National Trust Centre
Annie Wyatt Room

***"Doors Open"* at 7pm**

Entry $5

Combination Tools



Postal Address

P.O. Box N240 Grosvenor Place

Sydney NSW 1220

Membership $35

Enquires

Mike Williams 02 9144 6356

Bob Crosbie r.crosbie@bigpond.com

www.tttg.org.au

NEWS 109 CONTENTS

The TTTG Treasurer

Clynt, our long serving treasurer is a man of many accomplishments. Recently his skill as a draftsman has been revealed by drawings published in News. Clynt is also a modest man so he often under values his skills. For some reason he is reluctant to write articles for News even though the editor has acknowledged his abilities as a writer. As a treasurer he is outstanding, if a little obsessive. But that obsession with accounting for every cent is why he is such a good treasurer.

It is perhaps no surprise that Clynt likes things to be complete. For years he has been looking for a chuck for a chain drill. Recently I found a damaged chain drill with a perfect chuck and offered it to him. He declined the offer as acceptance would mean that he would have two incomplete chain drills. *Someone must have a chuck!*

Next Meeting

Tuesday 13 October

Combination Tools

The concept of universal tools has a long history. For economy and for convenience the combination of several tools in one tool has appealed to inventors and users.

The cast iron household hammer dating back to the sixteenth century can still be found in the 'two dollar' shops in any Sydney suburb. As can cheap versions of adjustable spanners and other tools that combine more than one function.

As well as these cheap household tools there is a large selection of quality tools classified as combination tools.

The presentation will display and discuss a selection of quality combination tools. This will include tools as diverse as:-

Pliers, Gauges, Bevels & Planes

The Auction

This auction will offer a large assortment of tools and associated ironmongery.

*All lots will be in **as found condition**.*

Vendors are requested to present sale items in secure boxes such as milk grates!

Warning

Examination of auction lots before the auction must be approved and supervised by a TTTG Committee Member.

Plastic toys, old phones and similar will be returned to the vendor. Recidivist offending delinquent vendors may be banned.

The BARGAIN TABLE

Opens before the Auction
All items $1, $2 or $5.
Prices set by the TREASURER!

Previous Meeting

Tuesday 11 August

The Annual General Meeting

All previous TTTG Committee Members were nominated and elected

Presentation of user-made tools

The meeting featured a vast array of tools made by tool users.
Most of the tools were quickly identified but some had everyone thinking!

An enthusiastic panel discussion ended the presentation.

The TTTG Tool Collection

TTTG has amassed a large collection of old tools over the years. In a true sense this has happened almost by chance.

The tools are stored in various locations and the Committee is acutely aware of the criticism some individuals must endure for storing 'other peoples junk".

Now that the 2009 Sydney Tool Sale is but a memory the Committee intends to try and document the tool collection.

The first step will be to collect all the TTTG tools in one location.

The tools will be evaluated in terms of rarity and conservation needs.

A decision will be made to dispose of any redundant tools.

The second step will be to organise the

TTTG Tool Collection Action Day

Date to be announced

Possible venue: Strathfield Men's Shed

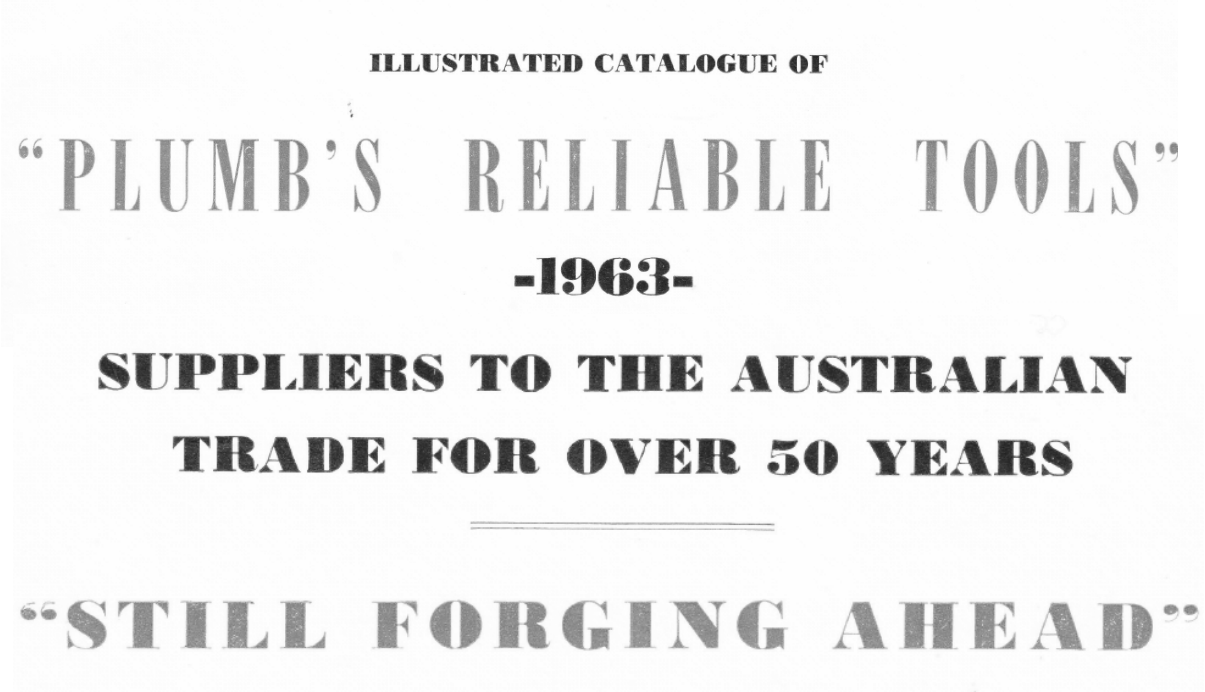
Conservation programme and Sale of unwanted TTTG tools

Cover Pages

Back Page

Plumb's 1963 Catalogue provided the image for the back page of News 109.

A CD of Plumb's 1963 Catalogue has been given to TTTG by Stephen Richardson.



Front Page

Price List T.25
Universal Grinding Wheel Company Ltd
Stafford England [undated] provide the image for the cover of News 109

John Bates managed to find a copy of this catalogue in Egypt.

The 2010 Hands-On Expo
Royal Hall of Industries

Moore Park Sydney
19th to 21st March, 2010

TTTG will be represented at this event

Planning will start soon

Volunteers are wanted

Contact a Committee member or

Step forward at the next meeting

Next TTTG Workshops

Woodworking Tools 1
Sunday 25 October

Woodworking Tools 2
Sunday 29 November

Asquith Boys' High School

Registration starts at 9:15 am.

Combination Plane

The Stanley 45 plane is perhaps the best known combination tool but it is only one of numerous universal tools. Some are remembered but most are forgotten.

You will be able to examine 45s and 55s and equivalent planes from Stanley's rivals at the next meeting as well as many unfamiliar combination tools.

The advertisement reprinted below is from *Popular Mechanics January 1929*

For Decorative Woodwork

YOUR WORK in wood can be **beautiful** if you will let a Stanley **Forty - Five** Plane help you produce **flutes, beads, reeds, rounded corners and other finishing touches.**

This remarkable plane combines seven planes in one in a convenient and practical form. Furnished with a large number of cutters, it cuts rabbetts, dadoes and fillisters; and also does a great deal of work which ordinarily must be done in a woodworking shop.

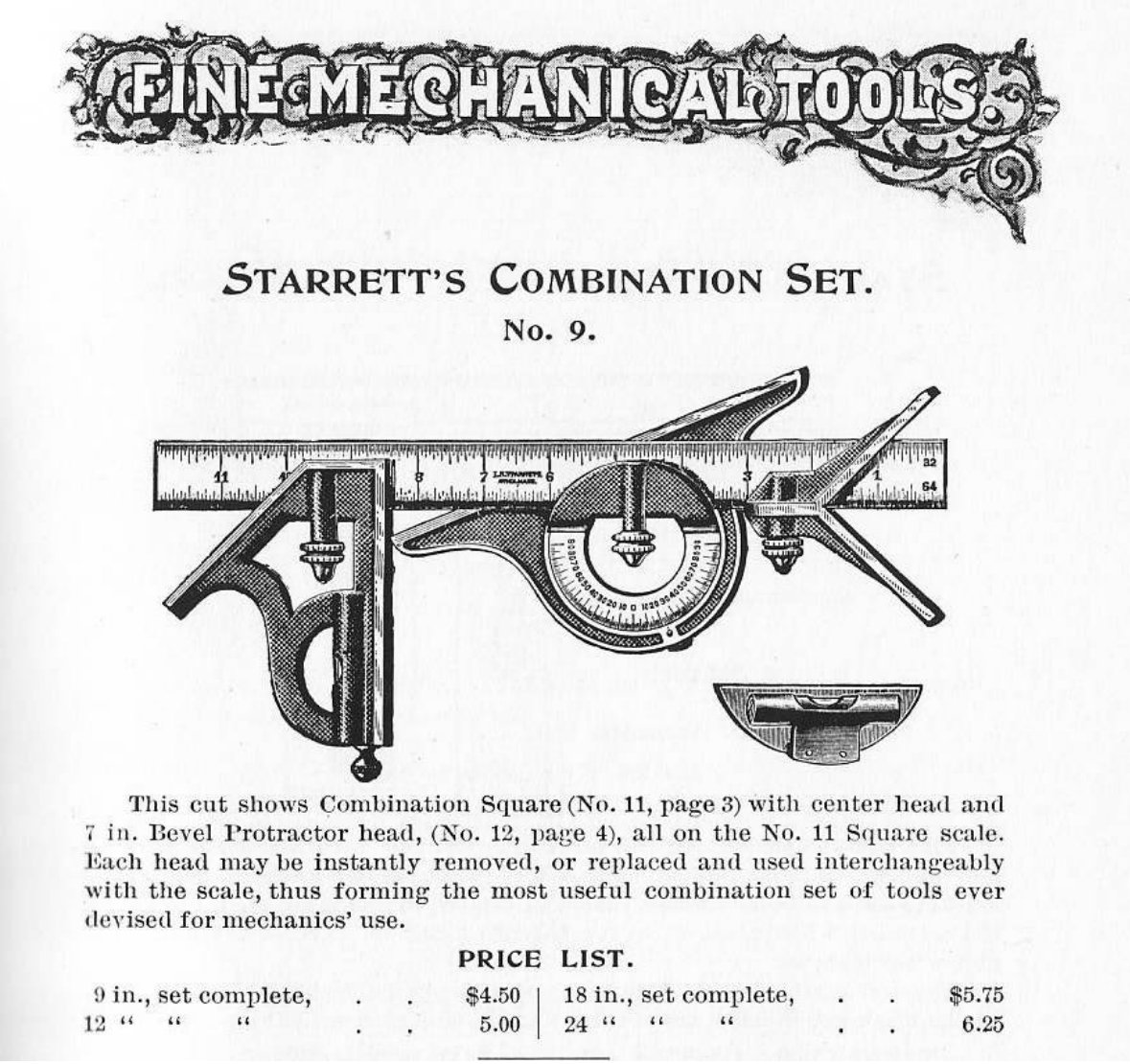
Stanley Plans and Books

Stanley offers you a complete series of Plans giving step by step instructions for making 25 useful articles, also a book "How to Work with Tools and Wood" which is invaluable to the amateur for instructions in woodworking, finishing, etc.

Your hardware dealer can supply you with Stanley Plans and Books. If he does not have them, write us. The plans cost only 10 cents each, Books $1.00. Address The Stanley Rule & Level Plant, New Britain, Conn.

STANLEY TOOLS

Combination Square



FINE MECHANICAL TOOLS.

STARRETT'S COMBINATION SET.

No. 9.

This cut shows Combination Square (No. 11, page 3) with center head and 7 in. Bevel Protractor head, (No. 12, page 4), all on the No. 11 Square scale. Each head may be instantly removed, or replaced and used interchangeably with the scale, thus forming the most useful combination set of tools ever devised for mechanics' use.

PRICE LIST.

9 in., set complete, . .	$4.50	18 in., set complete, . .	$5.75
12 " " " . .	5.00	24 " " " . .	6.25

L S Starrett Catalogue and Price List
No. 13 July 1895
Reprinted by Bud Brown Publishing Co.
Reading, PA October 1989

The Starrett No. 9 Combination Square is probably the best known and most useful combination tools.

The No. 9 is still in production and has been continuously copied by rival manufacturers. Originally designed for metalworking machinists the No. 9 was quickly taken up by other industries.

The Stanley 45 plane and the Starrett No 9 square are iconic combination tools.

All serious metalworkers are familiar with the combination square while all ambitious woodworkers have heard of the Stanley 45.

Attend the next meeting and see a large selection of diverse combination tools.

TTTG Workshops

The continuing growth of TTTG is in large measure due to the broad scope of the group. TTTG is not an association of tool collectors, though many collectors are members. TTTG caters for anyone with an interest in traditional technology.

This doesn't limit TTTG's canvass to old hand tools. TTTG members are interested in all types of mechanical devices be they powered by human muscle or by power.

Many TTTG members are tool users. Some are experienced tool users; some are in the process of acquiring experience.

The success of the TTTG workshops is one of the group's proudest achievements.

The workshops are seeing more young people, and women, signing up to TTTG.

Groups that cater only to tool collectors are experiencing an aging member profile. TTTG has a healthy age distribution among its membership.

TTTG Workshops are 'hands on' affairs. The catering may be rough and ready but the workshops always see happy people leaving with a bit more confidence and hopefully the basis more skills.

2010 TTTG Workshops

Edge Tool Sharpening	Plane Fettling
Saw Sharpening	Blacksmithing
Turning and Routing	Tool Repairs

The above are the proposed workshops to be offered in 2010

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

If you have any ideas for the workshops speak to a TTTG Committee member.

All dates for the 2010 Workshops will be announced later in 2009

2009 TTTG Workshops

The last two 2009 workshops are:-

Using Woodworking Tools 1

Using Woodworking Tools 2

These workshops should appeal to people wanting to learn traditional techniques. All basic hand tools will be included.

Rules, gauges, marking knife, planes, saws, chisels, hammers, drawknives and other tools

Advanced tools will be explained and the techniques of using these tools taught.

Back saws, block, shoulder, rebate, grooving, toothing and other planes

Both workshops will include a session on workshop safety and an introduction to

Safe use of woodworking machinery

As with all the workshops the structure will be flexible to make it possible to cater for the individual. Tools will be provided but those attending are encouraged to bring some of their own tools.

Using Woodworking Tools 1

Sunday, 25 October 9am Asquith BHS

Planes and chisels

Optional exercises include

Pair of Winding Sticks & Marking Gauge

Using Woodworking Tools 2

Sunday, 29 November 9am Asquith BHS

Saws and Setting-Out Tools

Optional exercises include

Dovetail Template & Diagonal Rod

2009 Workshop details
www.tttg.org.au

TTTG Workshop Snaps

Above: Members taking a break, looking over Bob's bargain table. Bob never fails to bring along a distraction.

Below: Several advanced 'students' are given some finer points.

These action shots were taken at the May 24 Saw Sharpening Workshop.

Correspondence

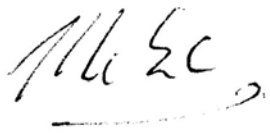
The Editor,

I am having a go at writing something about timber bending and while I was checking something out, I came across this old Photostat. It's about Hely Brothers that were at Hamilton, Newcastle. This firm I did business with for a lot of years and they helped me with their considerable knowledge of Wheel-Wrighting and timber bending as well as suppliers of quality timber now and again. I also bought from them the big wood bending machine which is now at Sovereign Hill, Ballarat as well as other stuff.

The article is from the Australian Hardware Journal 1984 so it is still under copyright and anyway, I don't think it is good enough for reprinting. If you read through it you will find the different brand names they used in marketing their handles. This could be of interest to our members should they have original handles with stickers still attached. Maybe a copy could be put in our library.

Anyway, I hope you find it interesting and good luck with the wood show.

All the Best,



M. C. HENDRIKSON OAM

Editor's note

I would be willing to risk breaching copyright but unfortunately the copy Mike has provided is not suitable for reprinting.

The article is about Hely Brothers Pty Ltd. Hely Brothers made tool handles for one hundred years using local timbers. Any additional information will be appreciated.

The Editor,

I got quite a shock when I opened my post this morning and found the item on page 31. I just hope that the article gets yet more positive replies from your members. I must say that for my comments to get similar treatment to a letter from Ken Hawley is a genuine honour.

I like the two pictures on page 9. They support my theory that old tools breed if left in an unused workshop - look what happened between the pictures taken in 2002 & 2009. Or did Irish immigrants to Australia bring Leprechauns with them who accumulated all those new items? My congratulations to Ray Faul. I just wish I lived near enough to see the models in three dimensions.

TTTG is clearly much more "hands-on" than TATHS with all those workshops. I loved the article on restoring plane irons. The device for wet-grinding is truly ingenious and worthy of Heath Robinson.

I am again in the throes of assembling a Newsletter. My appeal in NL106 brought in several handwritten articles which had to go out to a typing bureau - I just don't type that well at a speed which is sensible. All I have to do now is select/ edit the photographs to go with them and insert the whole lot into the DTP program. Oh for a sub-editor! I got to version six yesterday and decided a major shift around of material was required. Halfway through it, the dear computer crashed and I lost a lot of the layout. I always keep a separate back up record of each item, so it's not total disaster, but I have lost all the formatting on about 20 pages. I couldn't have done much worse if I had been batting for England at Headingly.

Brian Read TATHS Editor

Correspondence

A Couple of Points from Jim Bradman

1) Can we set a time for Linnwood? I turned up at Linnwood and hung around for quite a while but could see no evidence of TTTG. It is a bit annoying to have this sort of thing happen.

Jim this was a bad day! Only Clynt could attend, which would have worked out but it rained early in the morning and Clynt was told the event was cancelled. If you want to come to the next Linnwood open day ring Clynt and you can be on the TTTG table. See below for details of Linnwood.

2) I would suggest that considering the depth of tools available to TTTG that we should consider setting up a variable display such as

Tools That Built

Maybe aim for about twenty year periods. While some research would be needed and the setting up of some display signage this may be a way of encouraging members who have little experience of talking to the public to get more involved in the group. It would also make it easier for TTTG to attend historic houses open days and other relevant events. Hopefully it would encourage members to think in terms of developing historically relevant skills that they could display. It should also assist in recruiting new members.

3) I would like to develop the ***Tools as Art*** idea suggested earlier, perhaps at the next Wood Show.

Editor's note

We have one valid criticism and two great ideas from Jim. All three suggestions do high light the need for more volunteers to assist in planning and in manning TTTG events. Please step forward and become involved in developing Jim's ideas.

Events

Kiama

Second-weekend in March 2010

Kiama Woodcraft Expo

Linnwood

Next open Day Sunday November 8

September 13 at Linnwood

Another well attended event with Clynt, Darcy and Bob promoting TTTG Inc.

TTTG and Linnwood

The Committee is planning a special TTTG meeting at Linnwood sometime in 2010.

A selection of Joiner's tools will be used to illustrate how the joinery was made.

Wanted

TTTG Reviewer

The editor needs a volunteer to read the publications of similar associations and to write regular reviews for News.

The reviews should be comprehensive but not a critical critique of the content.

The reviews should provide a brief synopsis of each journal's content.

The reviewer can be anonymous!

Any reviews providing a critique of an article will be published with authorship.

The editor still awaits volunteers!

News 110

News 110 will include a reprint booklet.

RECORD Woodworkers' Vices, Cramps, Etc. (1939) Additional copies $5

JD's

John Daniel

'Good things usually come in threes'

The saying 'Good things usually come in threes', although an old superstition, they seldom do. On this occasion, however, three annealed iron planes came my way.

I had the good fortune to meet a retired gentleman whose grandfather, a cabinet maker, immigrated to Australia from England in 1905, bringing with him his tools of trade. All three planes have been stamped with the family name and have always been together-luck I suppose.

The planes possibly were made at the latter end of the nineteenth century, although there is no maker's mark on any of the planes, they were obviously the product of a competent plane maker.

The planes had been stored for many years and were covered with the usual surface rust and grime.

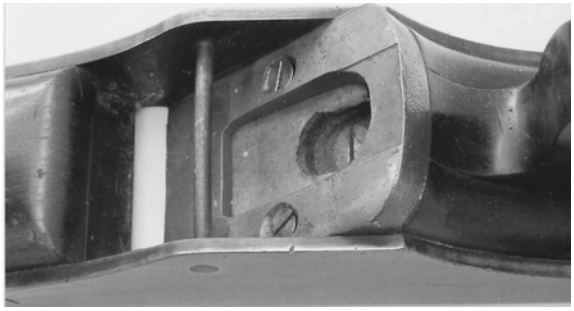
A bit of sympathetic attention revealed three very efficient well designed tools.

The sixteen inch rosewood in-filled panel plane was the first to undergo scrutiny. A full seven pounds in weight, comfortable handle and knob and the overall 'feel' of the plane, conveyed a reassurance that it would perform well-and it did.

The plane's fine mouth allowed a very clean cut, leaving a surface equal to that of any correctly tuned plane.

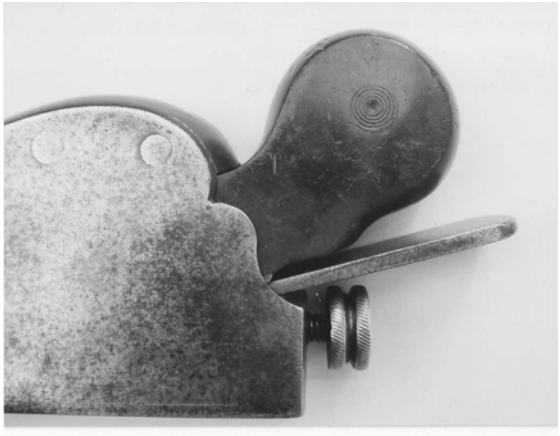
The plane came with a two and three eights inch wide and three sixteenths inch thick parallel Marples iron fitted with a Marsden Brothers back iron.

One interesting feature is the brass tapered frog plate which supports the blade at 47 degrees to the sole and when removed, allows the blade to drop back to 40 degrees.



Another point of interest is the screw cap. Instead of the screw cap being a permanent fixture with the majority of in-fills, this one is removable due to its unique design. This would have been necessary to allow access to the screws securing the brass frog plate.

The second plane to lobby for my attention was the one and an eighth inch wide rebate plane. It has a seven and three quarter inch sole and, as can be seen from the photo, very pleasing lines with modest embellishment on the mahogany in-fill and wedge.



The unique feature on this plane is the depth adjustment, surprisingly, the engagement slots in the blade are roughly formed giving the impression that it may be a replacement.

Another feature that I hadn't seen before (that is not surprising as I don't get around much) is the brass slide plate under the wedge allowing smooth adjustment. The low blade angle of 15^0 to the sole makes this a very efficient tool although the wide mouth tends to be counter-productive. All considered this is a very special little plane.

Lastly, the coffin shaped smoothing plane.

This seven inch long, unhandled rosewood in-fill is quite a chunky little plane, weighing in at a little over three and a half pounds.

The in-fill is secured with screws which have been dressed flush. The brass screw cap is secured by two screws which allow it to hinge. It is fitted with a two inch by one eighth inch thick James Howarth blade, and it performs exceptionally well.

Although the unhandled smoothers may look clumsy, they do fit the hand and run over timber nicely, and don't deserve the avoidance that many collectors practice.

All these planes belong together and give credit to the cabinet maker who originally selected them.

Not being in their shoes, I find it hard to understand how people can part with family heirlooms, however when it happens it gives us an opportunity to preserve them for the next generation, and while doing so, give us just another glimpse into the past.

New TTTG publication

John Daniel's regular column is a popular feature of News.

Out Soon *JD's* on CD

2009 Sydney Tool Sale

Tool enthusiasts were champing at the bit to be in the first wave in the door at Henry's 2009 Tool Sale and Swap on 16th August. There had been no sale last year and now with the new venue at the Strathfield Men's Shed, it was a highly anticipated event. The tables were stacked with tools of every type from metal working to woodworking, from complete tool sets to those hard to get parts and spares.

Appreciation is due to the members of the Men's Shed who had worked hard to complete much needed repairs to the building flooring prior to the event and had cleared the main hall of their woodworking machines to make the venue available. Parking was off-street and well organised and the central location was convenient for people right across Sydney to get to easily.

Buoyed by the success of this year's sale, Henry plans to hold another sale in 2007 at about the same time of year at the Strathfield Men's Shed. Don't miss it!

Henry's Sydney Tool Sale & Swap 2010

August 2010

Strathfield Men's Shed

2010 TTTG Tool Market

At our Workshop Days we usually have a few tools for sale associated with the Workshop topic. This, together with the success of our previous Swap-Meets at Asquith has encouraged your committee to hold a proper Tool Market at **Asquith Boys' High School.**

To ensure that it in no way clashes with Henry's Tool Sale in August, the **TTTG Tool Market will be held in mid April 2010.**

- **There will be over twenty stalls selling old, rare and user hand tools.**
- **Everything will be under cover.**
- **Plenty of parking**
- **Close to 2 railway stations**

Final date and times, including a map of how to get there will be published in the February TTTG Newsletter.

Not in the Catalogue

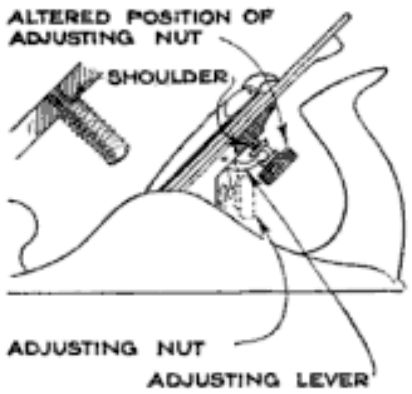
Tools by known makers are sometimes offered for sale or referred to in books or on blogs as *'not in the catalogue'*. Some of these are obviously modifications made by previous owners but some seem to be of the same manufacturing quality as the genuine catalogued tool. Crude owner made modifications are obvious but are all these *'not in the catalogue'* tools really undocumented variations?

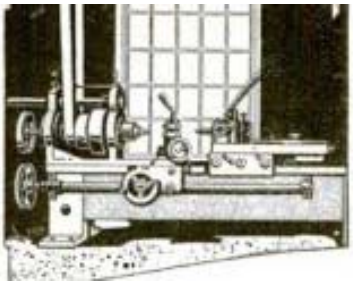
Planes *'not in the catalogue'* are likely to fetch high prices so the problem is not merely academic. Any good machinist in say the 1920s with a good idea could buy an off the shelf Stanley plane and carry out some modifications using the same basic materials and screw threads as in the original plane out of the maker's box.

The extract opposite may only be one recorded modification among many anonymous alterations that in the passage of time have resurfaced and been interpreted as a variant plane *'not in the catalogue'*.

Making the Plane Adjustment Easy to Reach

The drawing shows how a woodworkers' plane of a familiar type was rearranged to bring the adjusting screw within easy reach of a short-fingered workman. The screw was removed from its original position, as shown by the dotted lines, and a shoulder was turned and threaded on one end, as in the detail. The pin holding the lateral adjusting lever was driven out, and a hole drilled and tapped for the shouldered screw. The end of the screw should project a trifle and be riveted over. In reassembling, the adjusting lever is reversed to fit into the nut, as shown. The job is a simple one, and when completed, the adjusting nut is right at the user's finger tips, so that he need not remove his hand to set the plane.
—M. E. Duggan, Kenosha, Wis.





BUILDING A SIX-INCH TURRET LATHE

By J. V. ROMIG

Turret Lathe article *July 1922 Popular Mechanics*

To illustrate how capable and willing to stick to a task were the metal workers of the recent past I could not resist copying the title from an article in the same issue of Popular Mechanics. Apart from the machining involved, making this lathe involved building the formwork for a concrete stand and pouring the concrete.Readers who want to build this lathe will be given a copy of the article on request.

Or read it online via Google Books

THE LEDGER

New Members

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

Ian Wright	**M 549**
Mike O'Callaghan	**M 550**
John Buchhorn	**M 551**
Peter Jennings	**M 552**
Graeme Barnes	**M 553**
Alistair Feast	**M 554**
Richard Dudley-Smith	**M 555**
Frank Canty	**M 556**
Martyn Wyles	**M 557**
Norm Kelk	**M 558**
Peter Stewart	**M 559**
Robert Douglas	**M 560**
Alan Flett	**M 561**

Anonymous Member

A member has sent me a Money Order for $30 (probably for a subscription) but the member has failed to include his, or her, name and address. The MO was purchased at Asquith Post Office on 13th July, 2009 (MO 35540176 74). Please let me know who you are at treasurer@tttg.org.au

When was my saw made?

At TTTG's Saw Sharpening Workshops, the question is often asked as to when their old saw was made. TTTG President, Bob Crosbie, who runs the workshop, is able to assess a saw's age with good accuracy. For Disston saws, the detail on the saw's medallion can provide valuable guidance.

See the website:
http://www.disstonianinstitute.com/medezguide.html

The Disstonian Institute main website is also worth looking at:
http://www.disstonianinstitute.com/index.html

TTTG Workshops

On Sunday 25th October, 2009 at Asquith Boys' High School, starting at 9:30 am, TTTG will be holding our new all-day **Woodworking Tools 1 Workshop.** Come along and have an enjoyable day learning how to use woodworking tools properly. **Everyone** who comes will gain from their attendance. If you have a tool that you're not sure how to use (or even what it is), bring it along.

On Sunday, 29th November, 2009, your skills will be further extended at TTTG's **Woodworking Tools 2 Workshop** (same time same place).

TTTG workshops teach not just skills but provide a day of enjoyment and camaraderie. Many of our members joined TTTG as a result of their attendance at our workshops.

Both workshops $20 members; $40 non-members, (non-members may join on the day for a total of $50 to enjoy the numerous delights of TTTG membership). No need to book, just turn up. Tea/Coffee and bickies provided; bring your lunch if you need to. Enter Asquith Boys' High School from Jersey Street Nth; drive 'round past the playing field to the Manual Arts Building.

Rise in TTTG Subscriptions

TTTG Subscriptions have remained unchanged at $30 p.a. since the club's inception in 1991. However, price rises have meant that your $30 subscription no longer covers the cost of printing and posting out your copy of TTTG News and these costs have been borne partially by other income such as workshop fees.

This was brought to the attention of members at TTTG's AGM on 11th August, 2009 when I delivered our financial report. The members supported (without any voiced opposition) a move to increase the annual subscription to $35 for (and from) the 2010-11 financial year. (The subscription for CentreLink pensioners and for those members living in Australia but more than 50 km from the GPO, Sydney will rise from $25 p.a. to $30 p.a.)

However if you pay in advance your 2010-11 (or subsequent year) subscription prior to 30th March, 2010, the $30 rate will continue to apply. (One of our members has paid for ten years in advance which will be covered at the $30 rate.)

Some dates to note for 2010

Sydney Hands-on Expo

(Moore Park) 19-21 March, 2010

Sydney Timber and Working With Wood Show (Moore Park)

18-20 June, 2010

Sydney Tool Sale & Swap (Henry's tool sale)

Sunday 15 August, 2010

Linnwood

The Traditional Tools Group will be represented at Linnwood's Open Day on Sunday 8th November, 2009 (and on Open Days throughout 2010).

The historic house, Linnwood, at 25 Byron Road, Guildford was built between 1889 and 1891 by architect company partner, George McCredie (1859-1903) who was married to Susan Blackwood, daughter of engineering supplies company family, James Blackwood & Son. George McCredie in 1891 was elected to the Council of Prospect/Sherwood (now Holroyd) of which he became mayor in 1892. In 1894 he won the parliamentary seat of Central Cumberland.

The Linnwood estate later became Guildford Truant School for Boys (boy do we need some of those schools to-day), then subsequently a residential girls' school for state wards and in 1966 a special home science training school for girls from deprived backgrounds. Since 1999 the Friends of Linnwood have endeavoured to preserve and protect the estate.

Linnwood holds open days, the next being on Sunday, 8th November, 2009 from 11 am to 4 pm. I would recommend that TTTG members and their families

drop in at Linnwood and check it out. It's free onto the grounds and a $2 donation at the door to have a look around inside the house (and you might win a prize from your ticket number).

Members who would like to serve on the TTTG bench should contact President Bob on 9869 7487 or see Bob at TTTG's October 13th meeting at The National Trust Building on Observatory Hill.

Clynt Sheehy

Treasurer

Record Floor Cramps

David Lynch

I'm not sure when Record started manufacturing Flooring Cramps. The earliest I can go back is to the C & J. Hampton, Record No.8 Catalogue 1920.

However I'm sure that Record made flooring cramps earlier than 1920.

The first patterns were the No.150 and the No.151. The No.150 being a side action cramp and the No.151 being a top action cramp, both patterns being made from malleable iron.

There were three patterns of The No.150 and No.151 to suit joists 1 1/2" to 3 1/2", 1 1/2" to 4 1/2" and 1 1/2" to 6" in thickness.

The No.150 Side Action cramp weighed 24lb and the No.151 Top Action 28lb.

Catalogue No.14. 1935 announced the introduction of the new unbreakable Record Easy Flooring Cramp No. 152. This Top Action cramp was light in weight at only 13lb.

In the re-print of Catalogue No.16 1959 the Record Flooring Cramp No.153 was introduced. This cramp superseded the No.150, No.151 and No.152.

The No.153 Top Action cramp's weight was 11lb and it was enamelled red!

Catalogue No.17. 1963 saw the Record Flooring Cramp No. 153A with the gears totally enclosed, to suit joists 1 ½" to 4 ½". The No. 153A was enamelled Record Blue and weighed 14 ½lb.

The No.153A may be a copy of the Woden Pattern Flooring cramp which was manufactured by Woden for many years. In 1958/9. Woden became part of C & J. Hamptons Record brand.

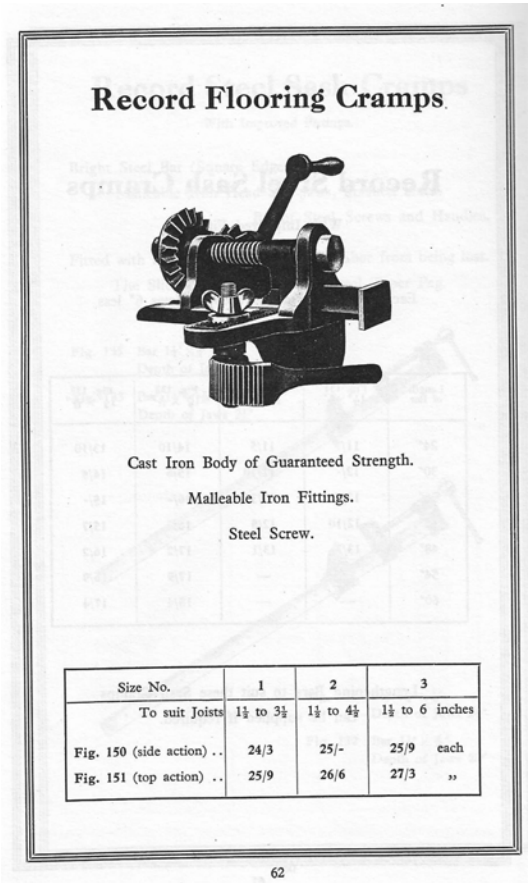
For information on Record Tools go to David's website from www.tttg.org.au link

The No.153A was re-numbered M153 when it was marketed under the Marples Brand when Marples became part of Record Marples Brand during 1972/3.

The M153 was again re-numbered when Record became part of The Record Irwin Group. The new number being MFC153.

In about 2007 MFC153 was renumbered TMFC 153. In 2009 the number was changed back to MFC 153. Enamelled Record Blue at a retail price of $880 Australian a pair!

I would like to thank Mr Leslie Harrison for his help in getting some of the early information on the Record Flooring Cramps



Record Flooring Cramps

Cast Iron Body of Guaranteed Strength.

Malleable Iron Fittings.

Steel Screw.

Size No.	1	2	3
To suit Joists	1½ to 3½	1½ to 4½	1½ to 6 inches
Fig. 150 (side action) ..	24/3	25/-	25/9 each
Fig. 151 (top action) ..	25/9	26/6	27/3 ,,

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Record Tools List No. 11

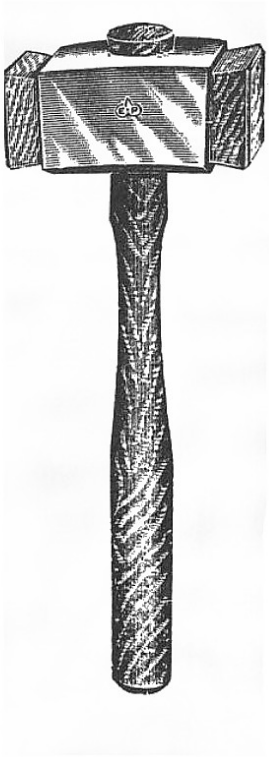
This Record catalogue was reprinted by TTTG Inc. A limited number of copies are still available.

Chris Vesper's Mallet

Chris Vesper has an excellent web site.

Posted by Chris on his Blog 29/07/2009. *Another one of those tools sales two weekends ago bought some treasures home to rest. Amongst them, and about the cheapest item I bought for $8 was this cast head mallet. Now doesn't that look a bit like the ones I am trying to make?*

Chris included a photo of a mallet that looked like this one from the E P Preston 1909 Catalogue but was a brass alloy. My guess would be a pattern maker's copy.



Readers may be aware of Chris's ongoing aim to manufacture a limited edition series of bronze mallets.

The Preston mallets were made from malleable cast iron.

The editor has seen a few of these mallets. Most of them had experienced a hard life. As expected some were broken or cracked. Cast iron can only take so much thumping!

Preston's sizes and 1909 prices are below.

The photo above shows prototypes of the mallets Chris hopes to produce. Quality is never easy and Chris has to invest a lot in the tooling to produce bronze mallets.

Chris observes: -
'I still need to experiment a few things before releasing them for production. The size of the head for one, I think they are too heavy at the moment, and my casting techniques. They are fitted with Sugar Gum handles and inserts. I am unable at this stage to even give a ball-park figure on the price except to say that they will of course be good value for money'.

These mallets will become collectable so you might consider talking to Chris and maybe placing an order.

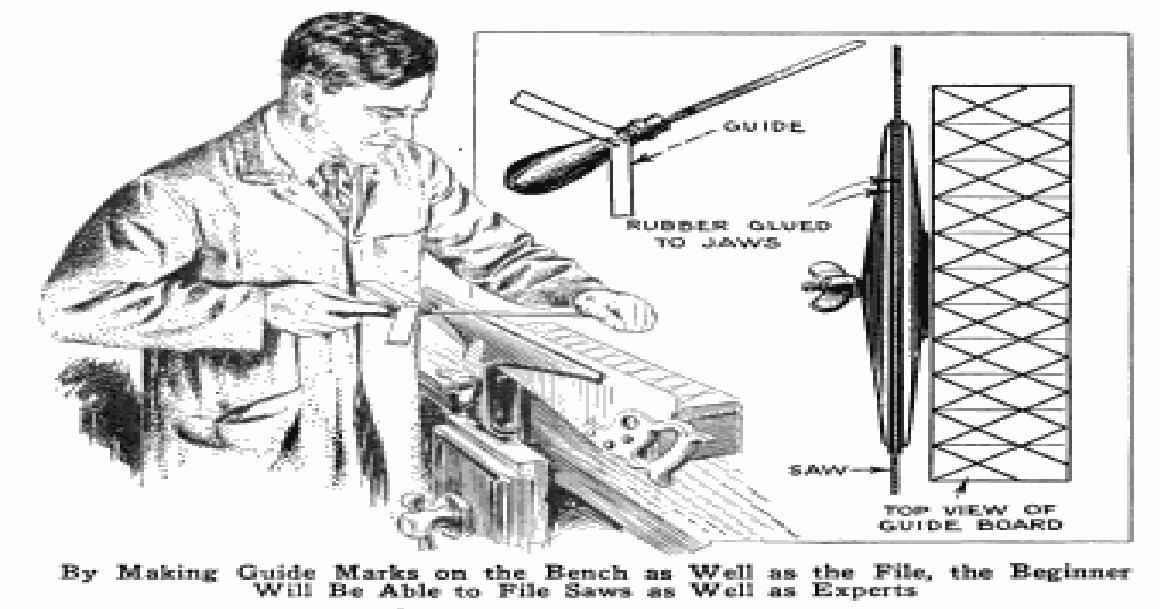
Go to Chris's blog by following the link to Vesper Tools on the TTTG site.

CARPENTERS' IRON BOUND MALLETS.

Malleable Iron Frame, with Beech Handle and ends, which may be renewed when worn.

	No. 1	2	2½	3	4	
	Size of Frame 2⅝	3	3⅜	3⅝	4	inch.
No. 1466 Iron Frame	23/-	27/-	34/-	40/-	50/-	per dozen.
,, 1467 Brass ,, ...	34/-	39/-	48/-	54/-	66/-	,,

Saw Filing Aid



By Making Guide Marks on the Bench as Well as the File, the Beginner Will Be Able to File Saws as Well as Experts

Popular Mechanics January 1931

The drawing above and the accompanying article contain two useful suggestions for inexperienced saw filers.

The first recommendation is to glue strips of rubber to the jaws of the saw vice. The writer has found that thick leather is equally effective.

The second suggestion is the substantive part of the discussion. The idea to draw the filing angles on the edges of wooden saw chops was well known in 1931.

In this article the concept is applied to metal saw vices by placing a wide board, with inclined lines, behind the vice. By sighting down while filing the saw filer can file at consistent angles.

To make this alignment easier a guide is attached to the file handle. By sighting the guide parallel to the saw vice jaws, as well as sighting the file blade above the inclined lines, correct placement of the file is greatly simplified.

Devices such as the one described will allow the patient filer to get good results.

However to be truly proficient it is really necessary to have an understanding of the basic principles of saw sharpening.

One way to gain this understanding is to attend a Saw Sharpening Workshop.

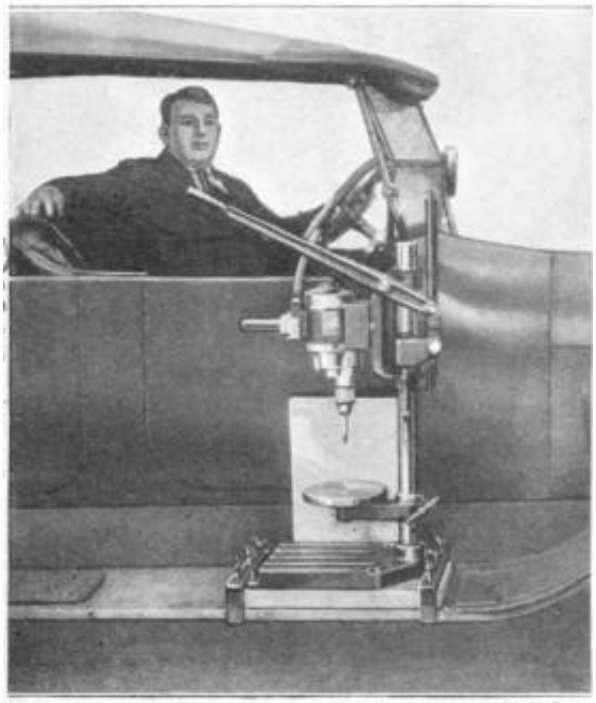
2010 TTTG Workshops

Saw Sharpening Workshops
Your saw will be as sharp as new!
Sharpening & Plane Fettling
Scary Sharp
Spindle Turning & Pattern Routing
Get turning and machining!
Tool Repairs
Care and repair for all tools.
Blacksmithing
Will be at the Maritime Museum
Woodworking Tools 1&2
All the essential woodworking skills.

See the TTTG Workshop Leaflet for details of 2009 Workshops.

Old time Salesmen

The first example of 'how to sell' comes from *Popular Mechanics February 1922*



This Drill Stand Holding a Portable Electric Drill was Placed on a Salesman's Car for Demonstrating Purposes

Sophisticated sales technique can be seen in the two adverts from *Popular Mechanics March 1923*

The advert above is directed to the male householder.

The advert to the left seems to be directed at the American Mom.

It is one of many placed by the marketers of *Tide Water Cypress Pine* Not only selling timber but creating America!

Black Smithing

The editor attends all the Workshops. Naturally he enjoys all the workshops and even is involved in some of the teaching. *That said the one he really enjoys the most is the Blacksmithing Workshop.*

Blacksmithing is the one workshop where I step back and let others handle the organising and the hands on stuff. Every time I learn something but I also get to see others demonstrating real skill.

At the last workshop I watched Andrew and Hugh carry out a complicated forging. It wasn't just the skill with which they worked but the realisation that every move was the culmination of centuries of trade tradition.

When I teach someone to use a plane or saw I'm aware that they probably think I'm crazy when I say 'stand like this' and 'let the tool do the work'. When I use a plane or saw it looks effortless because when I started to learn these same words were said to me until I got it right!

TTTG is fortunate to have people with real skills, who are also capable teachers, who willing to pass on their skills.

Some of the cumulative knowledge of the centuries can also be found in old books. I can never understand why people spend time online reading largely spurious stuff on blogs when they could be reading old trade textbooks.

Recently I was lucky enough to buy, at a good price, several volumes of the I.C.S Reference Library.

I think these books were published in the 1920s but some of the material appears to be older. I have a few duplicates and I also have noticed that different reprints have different contents. They are a rich source of information as the contributions were written by experienced artisans.

These illustrations came from *Forging.*
The volume content is:-
SMITHING: Angle, Plate, Spring, Tool.
COACH SMITHING. HEAT TREATMENT.
AUTOGENOUS WELDING.

Black Smithing will reprint selections from this book. No. 1 is opposite.

Black Smithing

Number 1

41. Flat Drill.—Flat drills are made with either round or square shanks, the latter form being the more difficult to forge. For a $\frac{1}{2}$-inch drill with a square shank a $\frac{3}{4}$-inch square bar of good tool steel is heated slowly at the end, for about 3 inches, to a bright red heat, and is drawn down with a sledge hammer to form a taper $\frac{3}{8}$ inch square at the end and about $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. Care must be taken not to work the steel below a cherry red, and to avoid this the piece will require to be heated frequently With a set hammer, shoulders are formed on the four corners, as shown dotted in Fig. 20 (*a*) at *a*, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the end, and then with a flatter the corners are worked down until the section of the tapered end is octagonal. The end of the bar is now worked down to $\frac{3}{8}$ inch round for a length of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and the extreme end is beaten down to a chisel to a **V**-shaped point, as shown in (*c*) ; this is preferably done by cutting one side *d* first, then turning the drill over and cutting the side *e*, thus bevelling both cutting edges in the direction in which they will subsequently be ground. The drill is cut off the bar 1 inch back from the shoulders, and with the cutting end gripped in the tongs the square end is heated and drawn out, as shown in (*d*), to a taper *f*, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches long and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch square at the end The method of tempering the drill is illustrated in (*e*). After heating to a cherry red the drill is plunged into water to cool it off, and the point is rubbed bright with a stone. The drill is then laid on a piece *g* of hot iron, with the flat end *b'* 1 inch away from the iron ; and when the temper colour runs down to a dark straw, the drill is plunged into water again until cold.

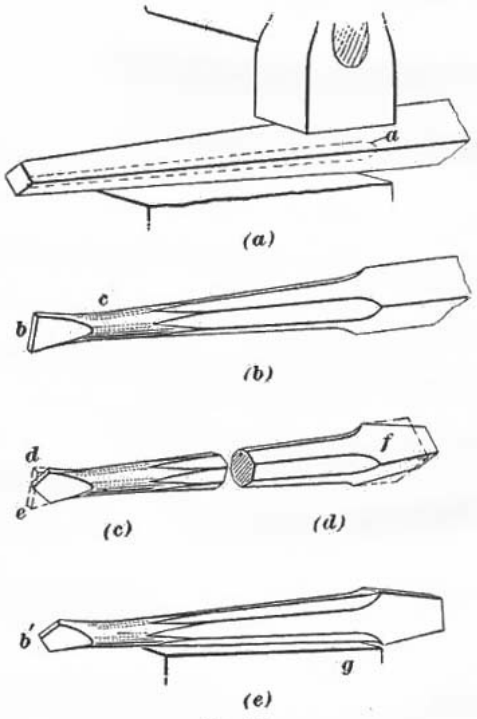


FIG. 20

Blacksmithing Workshop
early 2010
Maritime Museum Rozelle
Details in NEWS 110

Robert Towell Planes

Colin Sullivan sent this email to Fred

Dear Mr. Murrell,

I am a TATHS member and spend one day a week at Amberley museum where we have our tools on display.

Some time ago I came across TTTG news letter no.82- April 2005 and saw your request for info on Robert Towell.

TATHS have an R T. mitre plane that is almost the same size I believe as the one shown in the Wood Worker Nov 78

The wedge and iron was missing so I have made the correct one in rose wood as you can see in the photos that I will send separately, it is 10 1/4" long by 2 3/8" wide and I have got it working well.

I also have a very good shoulder plane with a very clear RT stamp, original iron and wedge and the mouth is very fine.

In 1984 I made a drawing of another RT that was 9 7/16" long by 1 9/32" wide, 21 degree pitch, that a friend had and I think sold in David Stanley's sale later.

Also in 1985 I drew up another mitre plane by RT that was only 7 5/16" long by 2 3/16" wide, 22 degree pitch. This plane was also sold as above.

I hope this is useful and look forward to hearing from you.

The editor contact Colin and asked for permission to publish his drawings in News 109 and received this reply

Glad to hear you are interested in the stuff I sent and if you are going to put it in the news letter you may as well have all of it. *So here are the drawings I have made each time I come across another RT plane. If you need any more info just ask.*

The editor did ask and Colin sent more!

Dear Bob,

As yet I have not made a dovetailed plane but I have made a copy of the Stanley no.9 in S/S shown below. It is of all welded construction, which is quick to do and means you get a result before you lose interest!!! The mouth is adjustable and the sizes were taken from an original Stanley plane and the important bit it works well.

Below that is a copy of the Stanley 164 made from any early no.4 body which has just enough material to take the centre screw that holds the cap, the next model and all others do not have the thickness there to do it. Again it works well in spite of not having an adjustable mouth, and as you know they are almost priceless reaching over 2000 pounds in auction to my knowledge.

Feel free to publish this if you want to.

Colin.

The drawings and photos are so good that I decided to publish all of the drawings and a selection of the photos.

Index to Collin Sullivan's drawings

Index to Collin Sullivan's photos

These two photographs are the first images the editor received from Colin. They are photos of the R$^{T.}$ Towell Mitre Plane that Colin made a rosewood wedge for and got working well.

As editor I would have been elated to get these photos and comments and nothing else but the additional drawings and photos are a real windfall.

Anyone who has the privilege to handle a Towell plane is impressed by the quality of the materials and the fabrication. When new Towell planes must have shouted out, *'for the best work you need me'.*

Yet little is known about Robert Towell.

TTTG is about sharing knowledge and passing on traditional skills. Recording tools such as these Towell planes adds to the body of knowledge about the past.

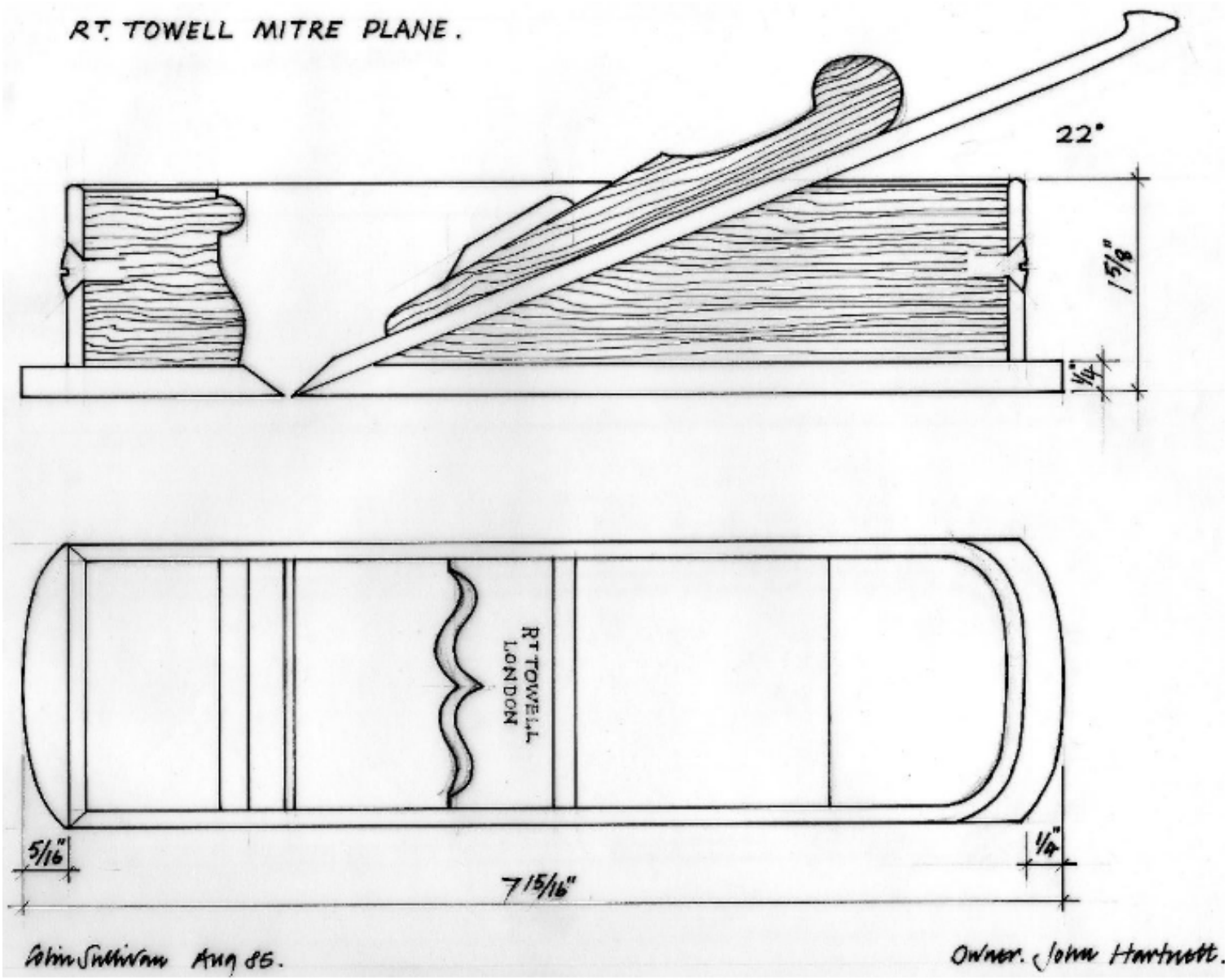
This isn't just about acquiring rare tools but also about learning from these tools.

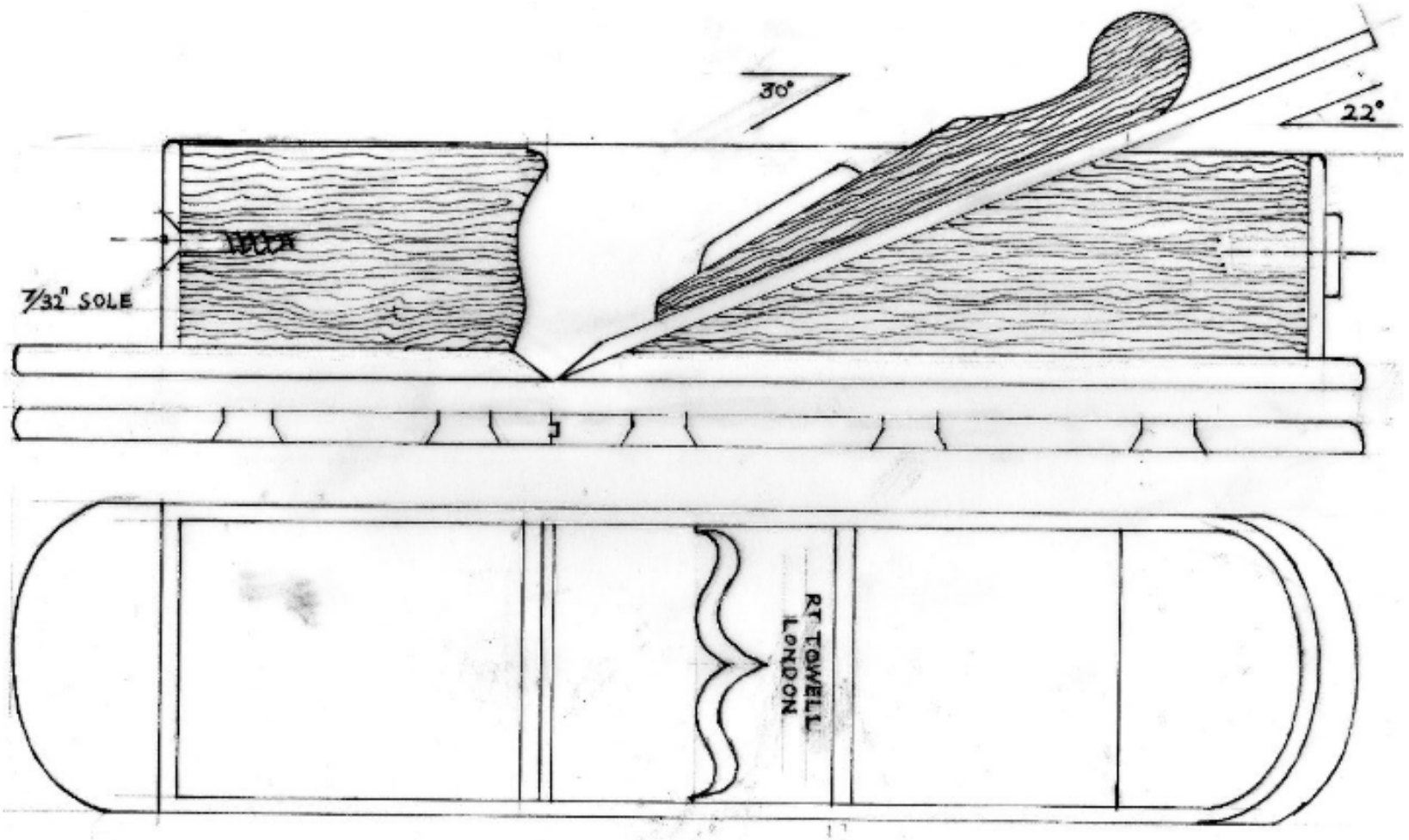
The editor always welcomes drawings or photos of old tools for possible publication in News. Equally he welcomes photos of tools made by readers.

Colin's innovative solution to getting a tool that is out of most people's means is to be commended. There is no better way to develop skills than by making tools for your own use.

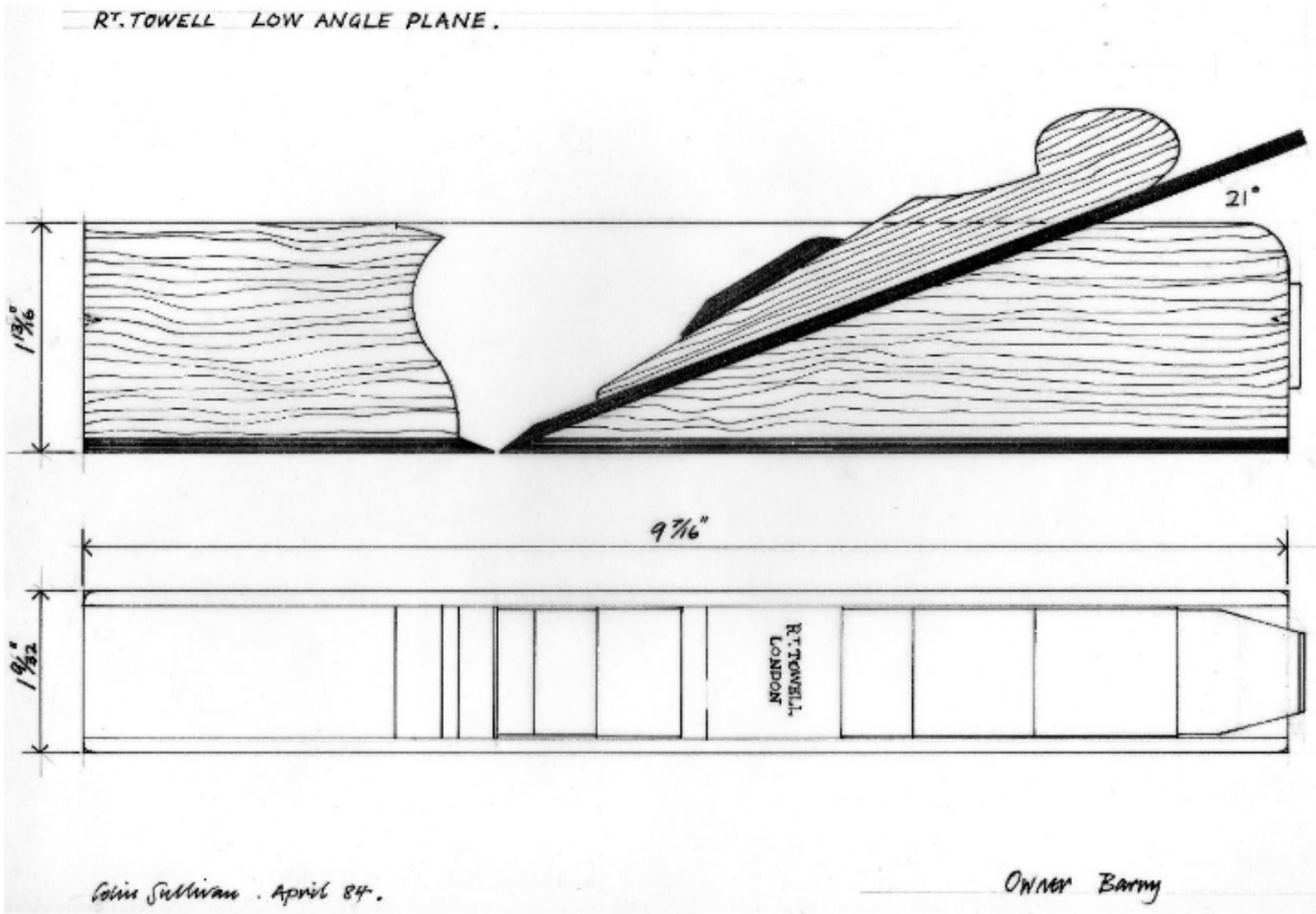
If you have similar planes please send a photo (or drawing) to the editor.

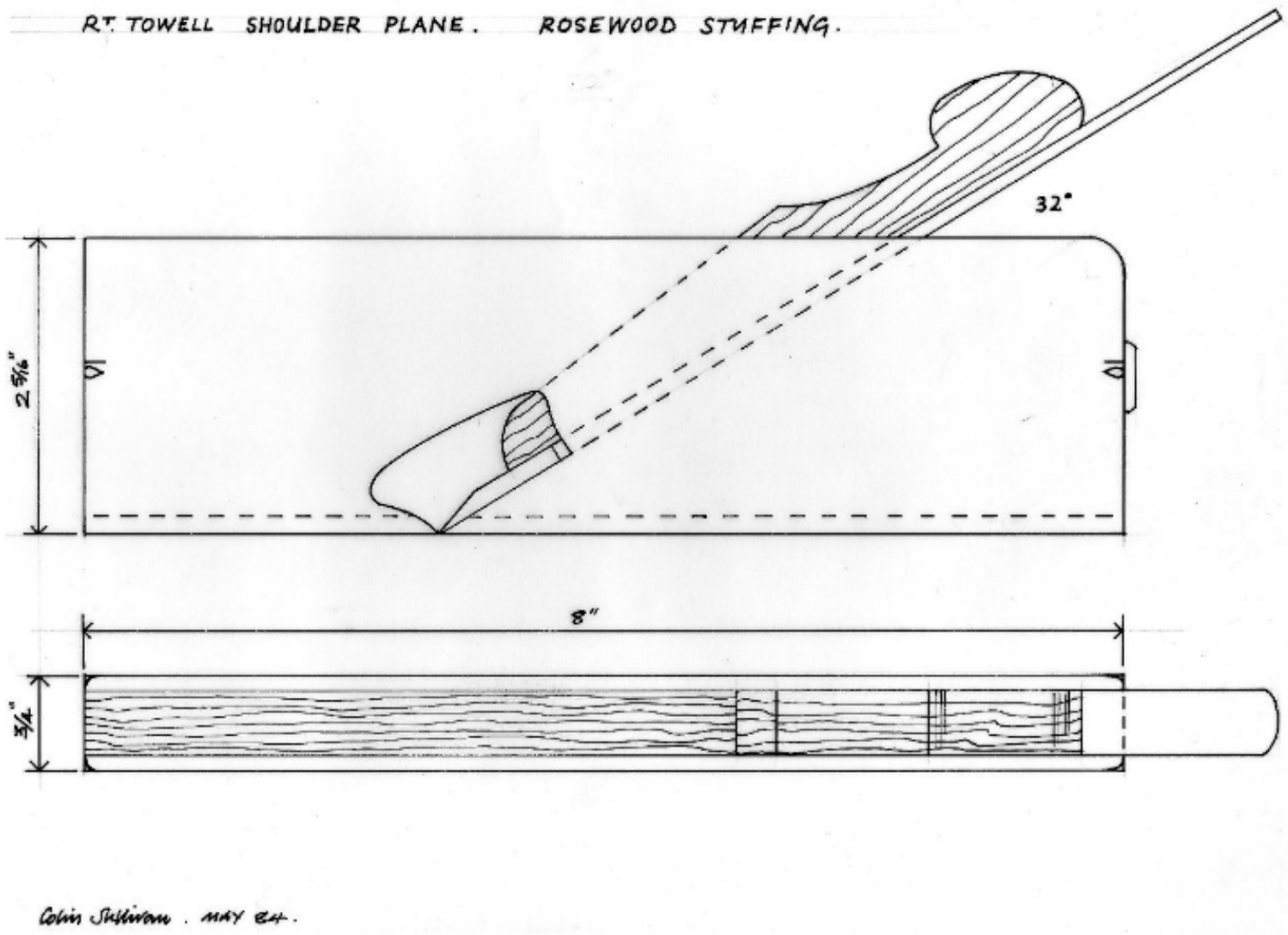
TTTG's Treasurer Clynt, an accomplished draftsman, can draw planes lent to TTTG.


RT. TOWELL MITRE PLANE.
22°
15/8"
1/4"
RT TOWELL
LONDON
5/16"
1/4"
7 15/16"
Colin Sullivan Aug 86.
Owner. John Hartnett.

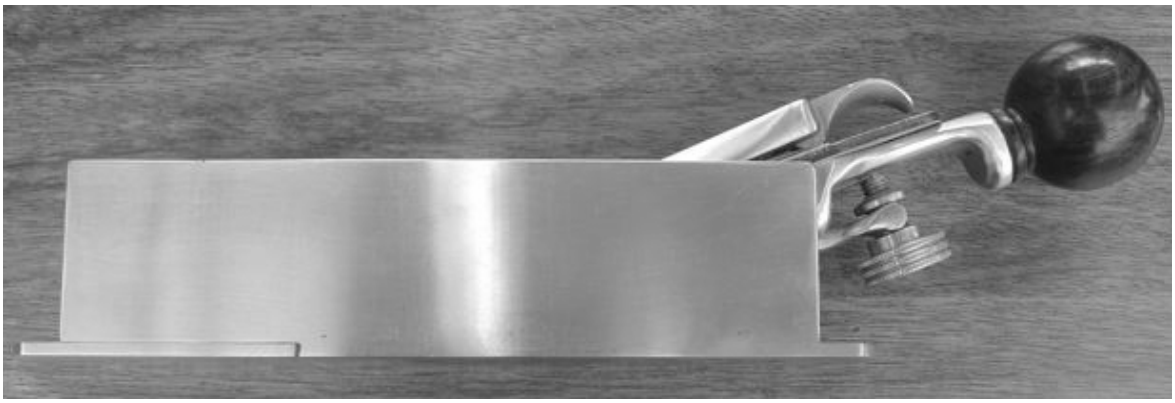


Colin Sullivan AUG 09 ROBERT TOWEL MITRE PLANE TATHS AMBERLY MUSEUM.


Rt. TOWELL LOW ANGLE PLANE.
21°
1 13/16"
9 7/16"
1 9/32"
R.T. TOWELL
LONDON
Colin Sullivan . April 84.
Owner Barry


RT. TOWELL SHOULDER PLANE. ROSEWOOD STUFFING.
32°
2 5/16"
8"
3/4"
Colin Sullivan . MAY 84.

Colin Sullivan's No. 9 Plane



Colin's No. 9 is welded Stainless Steel. Stainless Steel is better than Cast Iron. Welding is better than dovetailing!

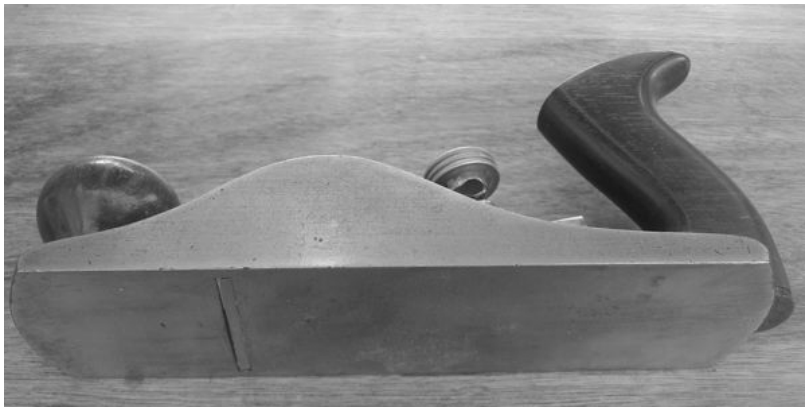
The Photo left shows the quality of the workmanship in this copy of the No. 9.

Colin Sullivan's 164 Plane

Colin had to use an early Stanley No. 4 body as the later No. 4 castings do not have enough metal in the right place for the hold down screw.

Three views of the No. 164

In colour some 'original' Stanley parts stand out!



Even without having an adjustable mouth Colin's plane works well!

Tools in Sydney two hundred years ago

Sydney in 1809 was a fairly ramshackle settlement but advance forward by twenty years and Sydney was a well laid out and thriving town. If you know any history you will credit the changes to Macquarie.

The popular image of the period is still one of convicts building everything with their bare hands while the toffs and free crims lined their own pockets. Readers of News are probably more interested in the tools than in the History of early Sydney.

Some readers may even be old enough to have had grandparents who told stories of Sydney before the streets were lit by gas and used terms like *'government stroke'* and *'being lumbered'* while stressing that *'we weren't lagged out'*. These stories, of course, came from their grandparents.

If we want to know what tools were used in Sydney in the Macquarie period we only have to open old books on trades that were published in the *'old dart'.*

Books such as Nicholson's *Carpenter's Guide*, Martin's *Circle of the Mechanical Arts* and Rees' *London Cyclopaedia* all contain images of the tools used in penal Sydney, and in all the other settlements.

These can be supplemented by the images of tools in *Smith's Key* (1816) and various artistic drawings and by archaeology.

The surviving buildings from this period provide solid evidence of the complexity of the technology available to the invaders and colonisers of this country.

If you can visit the Hyde Park Barracks in Sydney and reflect on how this building may have been erected. You will quickly realise that it is the product of a complex technology and of a structured society.

I intend explore the theme of the tools used to build of the Hyde Park Barracks.

The Hyde Barracks was similar to the new industrial mills being built in Britain in the Regency Period. Such buildings were suitable for a number of uses such as a cotton mill or a convict barracks.

When you walk through the Hyde Park Barracks remember that the internal walls are not load bearing. Remove the internal walls and install a beam engine and you have a Manchester cotton mill. When you reach the top floor look up at the King Post trusses spanning the exterior walls. *Everyone is impressed!*

I am going to present some contemporary images of the tools that were used in creating the material culture of early Sydney. *In the future TTTG may be able to present some of the original tools that were available in the colony in such a building.*

How can we identify the tools used in the building of early Sydney? Here is a hint. If you have a tool made between say 1770 and 1840 and it has a small arrow, *a dart,* stamped into it you may have a tool that may have been supplied to and owned by the colonial authorities.

The small arrow, *dart,* is the '*broad arrow*' or government mark. The practice was continued up until recently by the various government departments. So *R.W.* is more likely to be railways than it is to be the initial of an early settler.

All government tools were marked with the 'government mark' and all government servants worked at steady pace defined in common usage the '*government stroke'*, acknowledged in folk lore as doing just what you had to do.

So what did the tools look like?

Two basic hand tools will be examined. These are the **axe** and the **hammer**. Everything started with clearing the site involving felling trees with axes and most trades used some form of hammer. 'Some form of' are the key words!

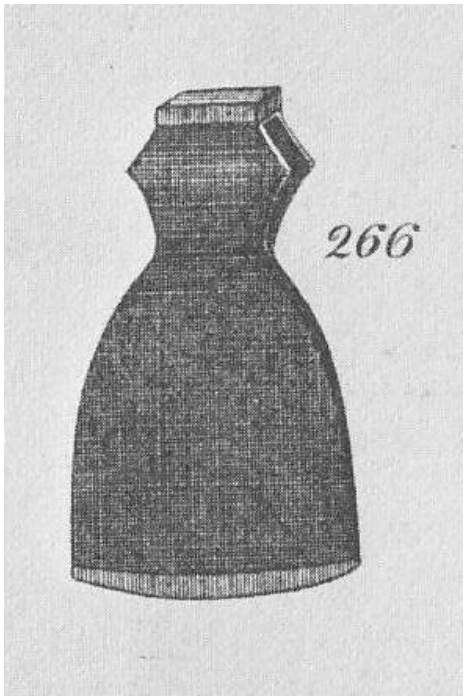
The search starts in the pages of a pattern book, *Smith's Key to the Manufactories of Sheffield* (1816). The 'Key' was intended to provide merchants with images of all the patterns of 'tools' made in Sheffield.

Sydney was a long journey from London so it was to expected that transporting people and technology would have inherit problems. Commodities such as tools were supplied to the penal colonies by a contracting system.

There was inevitably a fine balancing act between cost and quality just as some fine judgement was needed to determine what was needed in the distant settlements. Those in command in the penal colonies naturally were critical of any shortfalls in the quality and supply of tools.

The English felling axe was the first tool to be found poorly suited for the task of felling the timbers of New South Wales. Historians have assumed this was due to the quality of the axes supplied but it is more likely to have been due to the design of the English felling axe.

Below is one the felling axe heads from Smith's Key.



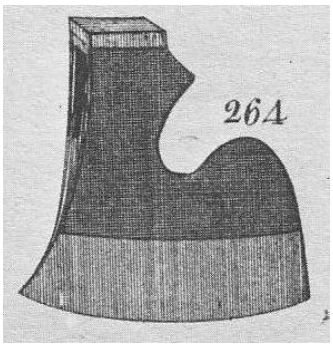
This type of axe was found to be a poor tool for felling native trees. Such axes were too light the steel was not suitably tempered. The same problem was faced by the settlers of America in areas where the native hardwoods were no match for English felling axes.

The administrators of transportation had foreseen such problems and had included enough trained smiths and enough 'stuff' such as wrought iron, shear, blister and cast steel in the cargoes of transports. The system suffered from endemic corruption but at least it provided options.

Given the choice of starving or making it work it is not surprising that blacksmiths were making axes suited for local timbers in the first years of settlement. The typical Australian pattern axe quickly emerged. By the 1850s this type of felling axe was being manufactured in America and exported to the Australian colonies.

Axes were such a common tool that they were rarely described or illustrated in detail. There was no one pattern of axe being used to fell trees locally in the early colony. Without doubt axes were made and remade by smiths responsive to the comments made by axemen.

With specialised hewing or dressing axes this was not the situation. Early colonial coopers, wheelwrights and carpenters all used English pattern axes.

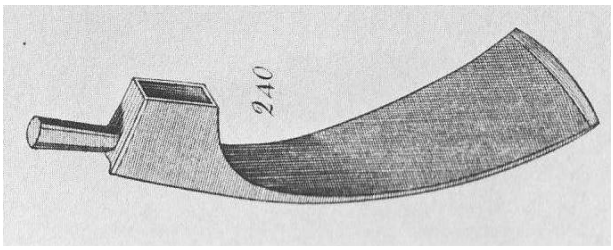


This is the wheelwright's side axe head in Smith's Key.

Wheelwrights from London to Sydney used this pattern of side axe.

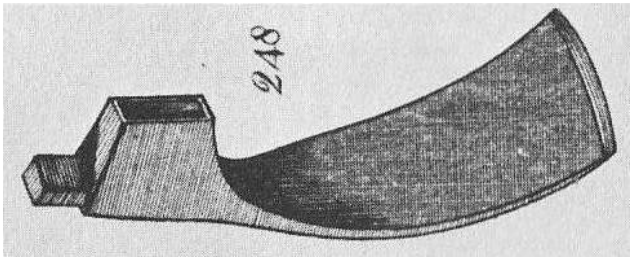
Adzes also followed the stock English patterns. These efficient dressing tools were capable of working any local timber.

Each trade had a preferred adze pattern.



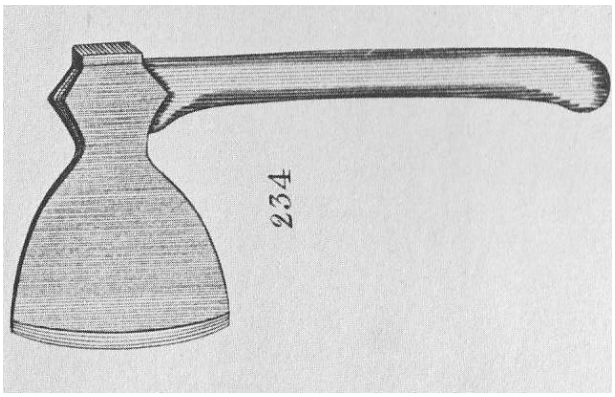
Above is the carpenter's adze

Below is the wheelwright's adze

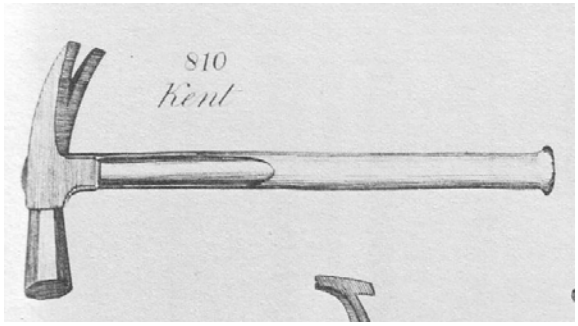


The handles fitted to these axes and adzes were not similar to modern handles. The curved modern handle is American. Older English pattern axes and adzes had straight plain handles.

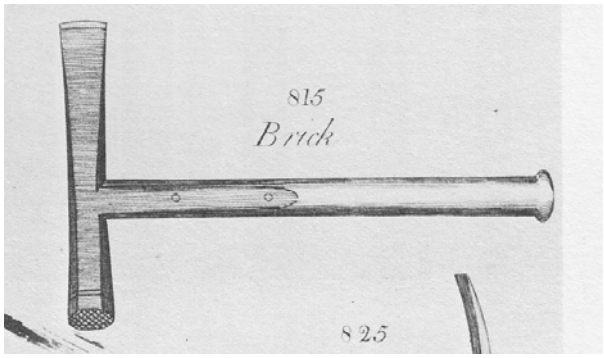
These handles were similar to the handle on the hatchet from Smith's Key below.



The hammer was a tool common to many trades. Two examples will illustrate the basic design of hammer modified for the diverse trades of early Sydney.



The Kent pattern hammer shown above was the common type of hammer. This was the general purpose hammer used by carpenters on site.



The Brick hammer shown above was used by bricklayers. Plasterers and roofing shingle fixers used similar hammers.

Most hammers in this period used straps and rivets to secure the straight handle.

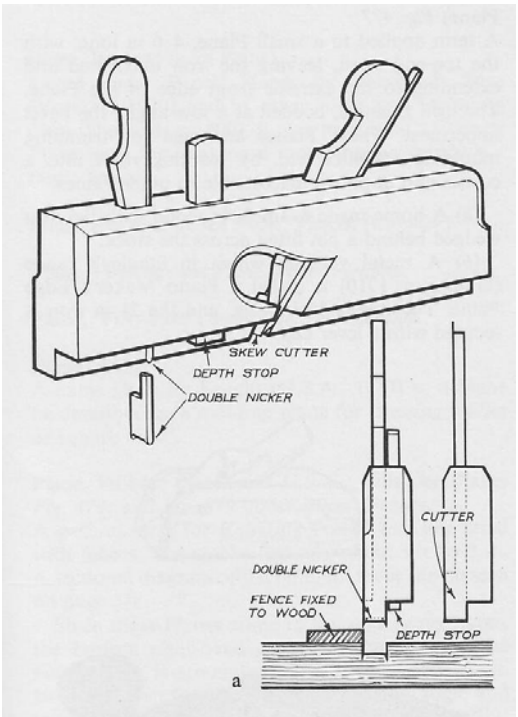
All trades used tools which were variations on common patterns as well as tools unique to particular trades. A simple example is to compare the planes used by joiners to the planes used by coopers. Both tradesmen used planes but the planes used by the cooper would be of no use to the joiner. The specialist tools of each trade were designed to lessen labour and to improve productivity.

A good example of a specialist tool is the Dado Grooving Plane. This plane is described in one of Peter Nicholson's textbooks *The Mechanics Companion* published in Philadelphia in 1832. Early versions of this book were published in England in the 1790s. Nicholson's texts were used in all English settlements.

The dado grooving plane is also called the trenching plane. To joiners it was a very important plane. Examples of its use can be readily identified in building such as the Hyde Park Barracks. There no need to elaborate here on the uses of this plane. Perhaps I can demonstrate its use at a future meeting in an historic building.

§ 29. *Dado Grooving Plane,*

Is a channel plane, generally about three eighths of an inch broad on the sole, with a double cutter and stop, both placed before the edge of the iron which stands askew; it throws the shaving off the bench. The best kind of dado grooving planes have screw stops of brass and iron; the common sort are made of wood, to slide stiffly in a vertical mortise, and are moved by the blow of a hammer or mallet, by striking the head, when the groove is required to be shallow: but when required to be deep, and consequently the stop to be driven back, a wooden punch must be placed upon the bottom of the stop, and the head of the punch struck with the hammer or mallet, until the guide of the stop arrives at the distance from the sole of the plane that the groove is to be in depth: the use of this plane is for tongueing dado at internal angles, for keying circular dado, grooving for library shelves, or working a broad rebate across the fibres.

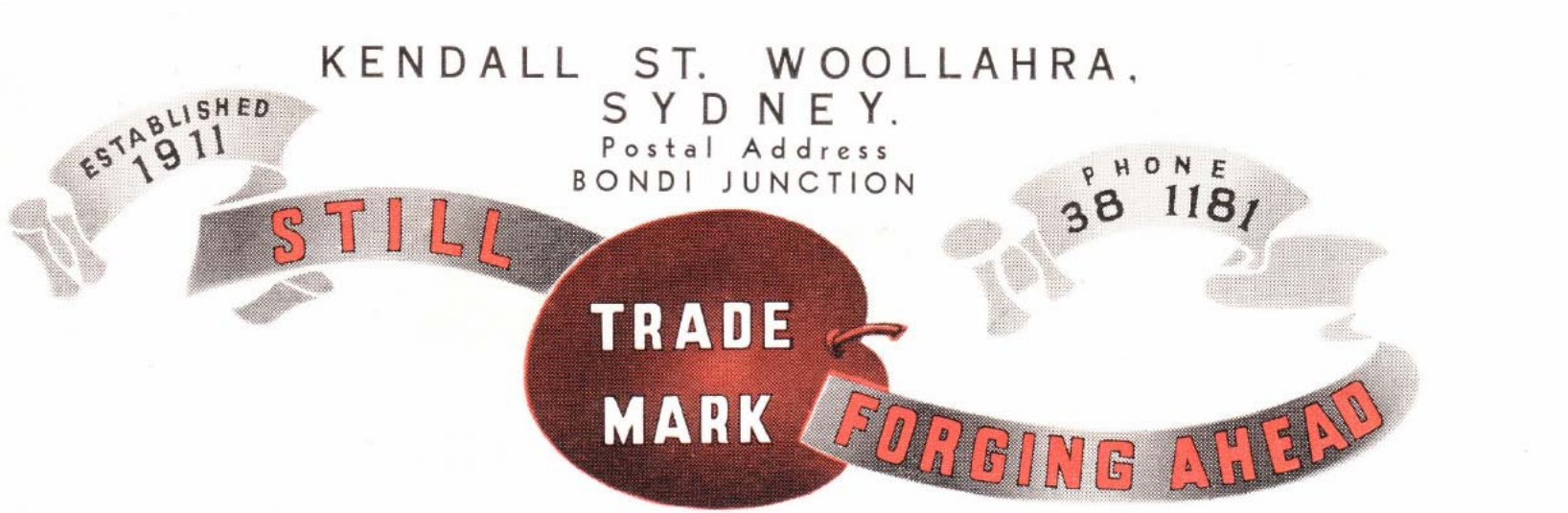


Drawing of a Dado Grooving Plane from *Dictionary of Tools used in the woodworking and allied trades c. 1700-1970.* R A Salaman George Allen and Unwin Ltd. 1975

These planes were made in a range of widths and rapidly produce accurate and clean trenches across the grain.

The detail shows the method of use.

The plane illustrated has a simple wooden depth stop. Planes with brass screw stops were available in the early nineteenth century.



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