

# ***NEWS 112***



***April 2010***

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

**Next Meeting**

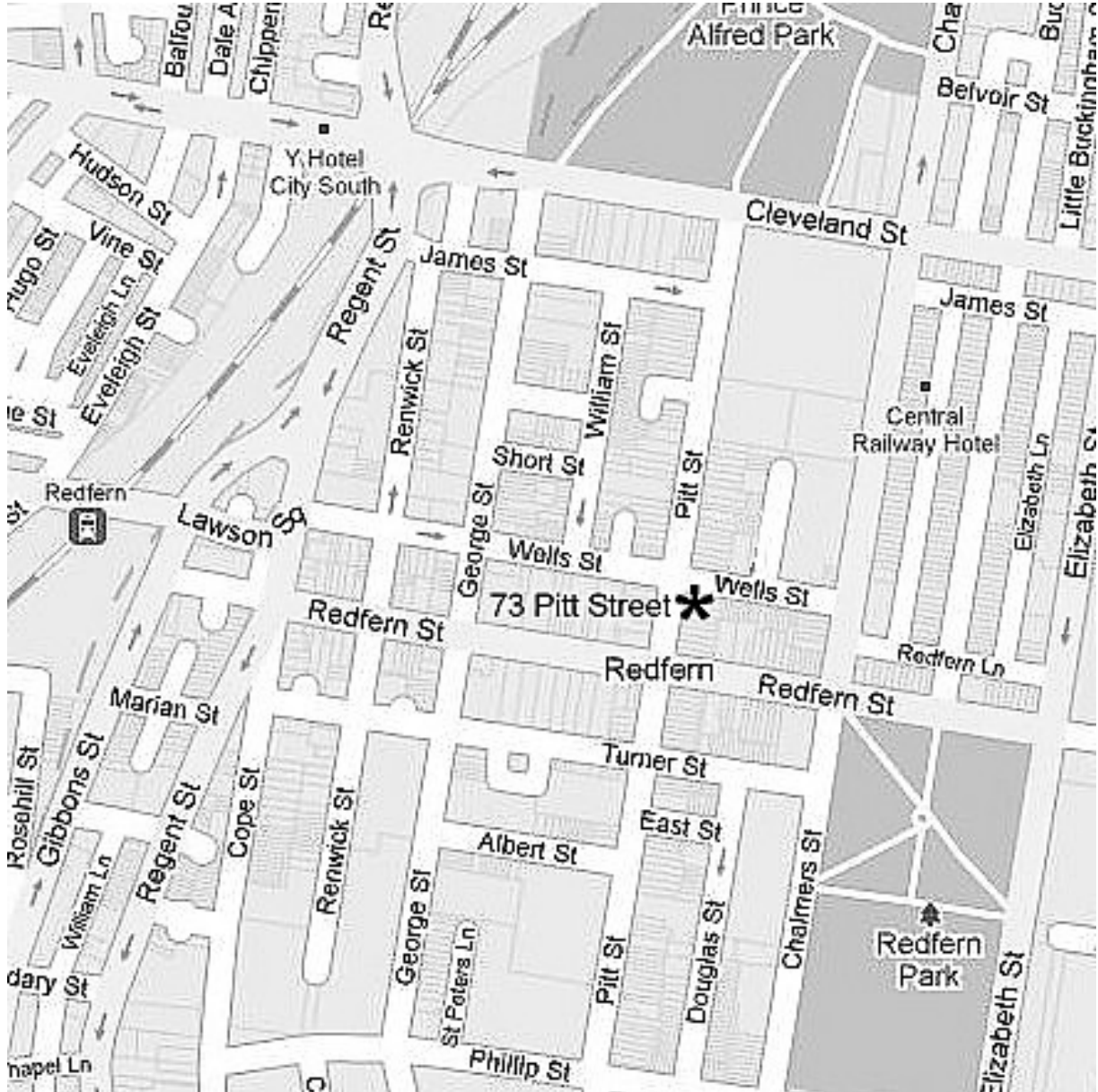
**Redfern Town Hall**

**Tuesday April 13**

**Entry \$5**

**'Doors open at 7pm'**

**Tool Sale Adventures**



**Enquires**

**Postal Address**

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**Membership \$35**

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## Cover

The illustration on the cover page of NEWS 112 is copied from the cover of Popular Science May 1923.

The spray gun was a recent invention being promoted as the replacement for the paint brush. The illustration sells the concept that anyone could use the new painting technology.

This is an example of advertising at a high water mark, both in terms of the graphical images and the subliminal messages communicated.

An advertisement in the same issue for Stanley Braces also included a woman in a tool advertisement.

Variations on females in tool adverts appeared throughout the 1920s.

The psychology of using women to promote sales was perfected by the tobacco sellers. Stanley also used the inclusion of women in their tool sale promotions very effectively.



**There's fun  
in using a Good Brace**

## Next Meeting

***Tuesday April 13***

### **Tool Sale Adventures**

*The May 2 Tool Sale is getting closer and to get members excited the next meeting will be devoted to the theme of Tool Sale Finds.*

Several well known members will step forward and share the great bargains or rare discoveries they have found at tool sales.

*This will be a 'tell it all' session where the speakers will not only boast about the great finds but also confess to any memorable misjudgements.*

The audience will be invited to share their experiences.

This promises to be an evening of both congratulations and commiserations, tempered with good humour.

### **Tools for Sale**

TTTG has received a consignment of tools from a vendor in Queensland and a selection of these tools will be offered for sale at the upcoming meeting. The tools are all over 60 years old and are still in excellent condition. **The tools are marked with fixed prices and no bargaining will be entered into.** As they will not form part of the Auction, they will be displayed before and during the meeting at a separate table where you will be able to purchase them

### **Warning**

**The Redfern venue is Alcohol Free**

**Please respect this condition or we will not be able to continue to use the venue**

## Previous Meeting

***Tuesday February 9***

The temporary location at Redfern proved to be very successful although lugging quantities of tools for the talk and auction up the stairs was annoying. The talk, or to be more precise, talks, as we had several speakers, were highly informative and were supported by slides and a wealth of tool examples from the collections of our members.

The success of our evening talks can always be judged by the number of questions and ensuing discussion from the floor and by this criterion, it was indeed very popular. In fact, the subject probably was too broad for one evening, ranging as it did from timber-getting through conversion to final joinery. Your committee therefore determined that we should have another similar talk later in the year and concentrate on only one of these aspects.

### ***TTTG Tool Collection***

TTTG has amassed a large collection of old tools over the years.

The bulk of the TTTG Tool Collection is in the Strathfield Men's Shed.

The TTTG Library is being gradually moved to this location.

Eventually members will be able to access the Tool Collection and Library at this location by prior arrangement with the committee.

*TTTG will continue to accept gifts of tools and printed material and will continue to acquire items of significance.*

## Correspondence

From Trevor Semmens

A couple of things in response to News 111 which I rec'd yesterday.

1). Buying books on the internet - comments from me.

- Over the past few years I have found this way of getting books most worthwhile, being cheap and of good quality. *Some ostensibly second hand I reckon are what we would call here 'remainders' and are actually new.*

My main source has been Alibris which I have been very pleased with in terms of quality & service. Through them I have purchased the following - *Tools Rare and Ingenious* &

*The Art of Fine Tools*

both by Sandor Nagyszalancy,

*Japanese Woodworking Tools*

by Toshio Odate,

*A Splintered History of Wood*

by Spike Carlsen,

*300 Years of Housekeeping*

*Collectibles*

by Linda Franklin (for my wife who is a laundry iron collector), and a CD,

*Tool Classics* by Woody Phillips.

I have also used Amazon books and I have looked at other sites such as Abebooks. com  
Bookfinder.com  
Thebookdepository.co.uk

2). Re JD's article on page 12 and referring to the middle item in the picture at the bottom of the page, that is the Capewell tool.

I have one exactly the same as this except the spring is missing.

Two things about what is written and which mine definitely show -

a). Cheshire - Co. should be Cheshire. CT, with the T smaller & with the top cross piece level with the top of the C.

b). Patent details are -

PAT NOV 25 1873

On another front, I would have liked to be able to attend the big tool sale in Sydney on Sun. 21st. March, however that weekend HTPAA are having their tool conference in Melbourne which I am going to.

### **Editor**

*Trevor what about attending the big TTTG Tool Sale in Sydney on May 2?*

## **TTTG Tool Sale May 2**

Hans Brunner to the TTTG Treasurer

*Hi Clynt,*

*I spoke to John Daniel a while ago about the sale and I had it listed on my site for quite some time. There was a lot of interest and because I would like to spend more time with live sales in the future I will make the trip to Sydney in May.*

*Please put me down for 3 tables, I think that will be enough for a start.*

*Many thanks, Hans*

Hans has been moving house but by the time you read this he will have some great tools at unmatched prices on his website.

If you don't know Hans web address just Google Hans Brunner.

### **Meet Hans at the May 2 Tool Sale.**

Hans will have some great tools.

## 2010 Tool Sale

**May 2 Asquith Boys High School  
Jersey Street (North) Asquith**



***This sale is a 100% TTTG Sale!***

***Entry fee is only \$5***

***Good parking and refreshments***

***Entry by Old Pacific Highway***

*TTTG Inc. makes these commitments:*

- Sales will be held each year at set times
- Everyone trading will hire selling space
- No trading on the TTTG Table
- TTTG will demonstrate tool use
- TTTG will identify tools

## Tool Sale Bulletin

*Table bookings are going well. If you want to sell at the sale book now!*

Remember the commitments TTTG is making for all TTTG Tool Sales.

Horacio has responsibility for all the information given to the public. This means he will approve and distribute all printed and electronic information.

Clynt is the contact person for the TTTG Tool Sale. Any questions about the sale should be directed to Clynt.

Clynt is taking bookings for tables at the TTTG Tool Sale.

A team of TTTG members, *known to do a bit of buying and selling of tools*, has drawn up an eligibility list of potential traders. Clynt is actively contacting approved vendors and he will issue invoices and arrange to collect payments.

***Interest from potential sellers for the TTTG Tool Sale is still strong***

TTTG will ensure everyone has the best possible chance of buying and of selling at the TTTG Tool Sale.

Uniform tables have been purchased for the tool sale. All vendors will have identical tables. Vendors can rent more than one table.

***The cost of each table is \$50***

Vendors will not be permitted to add false tops to the rented tables or to trade off the floor.

***Want to sell but don't want a table?***

Contact Jim (with the hat).

## **May Sale TTTG Tables**

***Jim Bradman (with the hat).***

*I will be coordinating a table or two for members to sell excess tools.*

I'm doing this as a favour to members and not trying to make money. I have done this sort of thing before.

***The following RULES apply.***

*Telling me that I should do it another way immediately invokes rule 1.*

### Rule 1

Subject to the numbers of tools offered for sale the cost will be 2-5 dollars per item offered for sale. I don't do percentages. The price will be set by me. Obviously it would be good if members lend a hand minding the table during the sale.

***I reserve the right to not allow items on the TTTG table/s.***

### Rule 2

Plies of plastic handled tools and braces, socket sets, rust encrusted items etc are not acceptable unless the set has particular worth/interest.

### Rule 3

No items with a value less than \$5. Sets of tools must be in a suitable container so they do not get separated on handling.

### Rule 4

No rearranging of table contents.

### Rule 5

The price must be clearly marked. Labels must be firmly attached.  
*Unpriced items will not be displayed.*  
It is your responsibility to make sure the price stays in place.

### Rule 6

No variable prices. I will not negotiate prices on your behalf.

### Rule 7

Table Payment must be made before the tools go on the table. Bring some small change for payment of table fee.

### Rule 8

I will collect tools at the meeting prior to the show unless they are heavy or large. Unsold tools will be returned at the next meeting.

*The pickup of unsold tools can be arranged at my convenience. I will not be delivering unsold tools. Tools can be delivered and collected at the show. Payment of sold tools will be made in cash at next meeting or on the day*

### Rule 9

An A4 sheet of paper listing item/s price and your contact details must be supplied with the tools. Please type or print clearly

### Rule 10

***First come best dressed.***

Excess tools will be put on the table as space becomes available.

I would suggest that small valuable tools are connected to something larger such as a big piece of red tape etc to prevent any light fingered gentry for stealing tools.  
Stolen tools are not my responsibility.  
*'Seller beware'*.

***Ring me with any queries in the morning on 0800-1200 only.***

Messages will not necessarily be returned. Do not text. Note as I work shift work in a secure area I do not necessarily have the phone with me all times. 0409 073 976

## New TTTG Workshops

### Brad van Luyt has some suggestions for a workshop

*I have been thinking about the workshops that TTTG run. We have numerous sharpening fests (edge tools and saws), blacksmithing, learning to use various tools but I was wondering if we could have a day on repairing and restoring old tools. A day about how to clean, protect and preserve our old and often precious pieces.*

*At previous workshops and meetings Bob has spoken on repairing the mouth of wooden planes and John has briefly spoken of his avoidance of citric acid when removing rust. Fred Murrel has a collection in beautiful condition and I'm sure many (especially new chums like me) could learn from his experience.*

*Could these fine gents actually get a workshop together and show the salient points of such jobs as re-mouthing a plane, talk about the pros and cons of citric acid, molasses and electrolysis and just how much gunk one should remove form an old tool to bring it back to some semblance of its former glory without turning it into an over-polished hood ornament.*

*So many budding tooly types have wire brushed and estapoled grandpa's old plane/saw/chisel and, at least from my point of view, ruined them. I think a workshop on restoration could be well worthwhile.*

These suggestions were sent by email to the TTTG Treasurer, Clynt, who immediately forwarded the email to the TTTG Editor, Bob.

Clynt emailed this reply to Brad.

*Good idea, Brad, such a workshop, I feel, would be well received.*

*I've cc'd your E-mail on to Bob. He may be able to schedule your suggested workshop into the second half of 2010.*

The Treasurer was impressed by the suggestions. The editor immediately wanted to offer such a workshop.

### Another workshop suggestion from a new TTTG member

Alan Jacobs has also sent a request.

*'I suspect that this is heresy but - I was wondering if anyone would be prepared to put on a weekend workshop on (electric) routers? Dare I suggest that we could pay obeisance to the Traditional part of the Tools Groups charter by starting off with the use of the good old Stanley hand router or even the much maligned Carter version! Hope I have not made myself a social outcast because of the above suggestion ... put it down to youthful exuberance and the fact that I am a very new member.'*

Clynt replied

*Glad you liked the "Hands On" Workshop. Unlike our Melbourne equivalent, TTTG does not limit "traditional tools" to hand tools. Electrically driven woodworking and metalworking machines and equipment have been around for well over one hundred years; in fact for more than half the time since this country was founded in 1788. Therefore your suggestion of a workshop on electric routers is in no way heretical and I've passed it on to President Bob for his consideration. An electric routers workshop could embrace some of the jigs which help to make routers the most versatile of all power tools. Bob does make the point, however, that it is often quicker to grab a moulding or plough plane and produce a short piece of moulding/ploughing in the time it would take to set up an electric router and its necessary fences and jigs. For a larger run of work, the electric router is the bee's knees.*

## TTTG Workshops

### **Workshop Venue**

Asquith Boys High School  
Jersey Street (North)  
Asquith

### ***Plane Tuning***

**18 April 2010**

#### ***Experience using a fettled plane***

A refresher on sharpening plane irons

Flattening plane soles, repairs and replacement parts

Tuning all planes, metal & wood

Jim Davey will have a range of sharpening products on sale

Jim will demonstrate his new router jig for shaping replacement handles

*Even Carter planes are welcome!*

### ***Saw Sharpening***

**16 May 2010**

#### ***Experience using a sharp saw***

Learn how to sharpen and set hand and back saws.

*All basic tools are provided.*

Files and some old saw-sets will be offered for sale.

## Second Half 2010

The popular TTTG workshops will be repeated plus two new workshops.

The old favourites are:-

### ***Plane Tuning***

### ***Saw Sharpening***

### ***Black Smithing***

The Black Smithing Workshop will be at the Maritime Museum.

Two new workshops will be offered.

### ***Restoring Hand Tools***

*What to do & not to do.*

*A 'hands on' experience where you can learn how to repair old tools*

- Rust Removal
- Cleaning and refinishing
- Repairing metal parts
- Repairing wooden parts
- Plane Re-mouthing
- Your Specific Problem

### ***Routers & Jigs***

*Using the electric router*

- Making tool handles
- Jigs and devices
- Safe and intelligent routing

The programme for the Second Half 2010 Workshops will be published in News 113 and posted on the website in the same week News 113 is posted.

## ***THE LEDGER***

### ***New Members***

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

<b>Geoff Greenwell</b>	<b>M569</b>
<b>John Hammond</b>	<b>M570</b>
<b>Dick Dower</b>	<b>M571</b>
<b>Bill Vickers</b>	<b>M572</b>
<b>Hagen Jewell</b>	<b>M573</b>
<b>Fergus Hanson</b>	<b>M574</b>
<b>Phil Lambe</b>	<b>M575</b>
<b>Alan Jacobs</b>	<b>M576</b>
<b>Warren Beveridge</b>	<b>M577</b>

## **IMPORTANT ! !**

### ***New Venue for Meetings***

Due to renovations The National Trust meeting room will not be available for our use for a few months. Our meetings of 13th April and 8th June, 2010 will be held at:

Second Floor Meeting Room  
Redfern Town Hall  
73 Pitt Street  
Redfern

The hall is booked from 6:30 to 10:30 pm. We got a very good roll-up at our February meeting and members reported that parking is fairly easy to find at 6pm.

See NEWS 113 (June, 2010) for further information.

### ***Tables at TTTG's Tool Sale***

Could vendors at TTTG's Tool Sale on 2nd May, 2010 who have not yet paid for their tables, please send me their \$50/table (to TTTG Treasurer, PO Box N240 Grosvenor Place, Sydney, NSW, 1220). There are a few tables still available.

Tables are 1800 x 800 mm and are provided by TTTG at a rental of \$50 each. If you are interested in selling tools at the Sale, give me a call on (02) 9416 7134

### ***Friends interested in tools?***

Do you know anyone who is interested in tools, their use, their history, their maintenance? Why not suggest to them that they join TTTG. If they join in April, May or June 2010, for their \$35 they will receive membership up until the 30th June, 2011; i.e., they'll get the remainder of this financial year gratis.

### ***TTTG Workshops***

TTTG's next two Workshops will be our ever-popular Plane Tuning Workshop on Sunday 18th April, 2010 and our Saw Sharpening Workshop on Sunday 16th May, 2010. You know you'll never get around to sharpen that blunt saw at home so bring it to the Workshop. Bring a fairly coarse saw (say 5 to 10 points per inch) and a sharp triangular file (say a 150 mm [excludes tang]).

Our Workshops cater for people at all skill levels from beginner to advanced artisan. No matter what your skill level, you will learn a lot at our Workshops.

These all-day Workshops are held at Asquith Boys' High School, Jersey Street North (J-12 on Gregory's/UBD Map 191), starting at 9:30 am.

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.

Workshop entry costs \$20 for members; \$40 for non-members, (non-members may join on the day for a total of \$55 to enjoy the numerous delights of TTTG membership). 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 unfortunately needed to be increased to \$35 p.a. Subscriptions had 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 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2009 when I delivered our financial report. The members spontaneously 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.)  
**See Subscription Renewal Notice included as a separate sheet in this mailout.**

### ***Why didn't I think of this before?***

At TTTG Sales and Auctions you will acquire quite a few rusty twist drills for next to no outlay whereas to buy drills new they are quite expensive.

To get the rust off the old drills, I used to rotate them by hand against a rotary wire brush held in the chuck of a power drill mounted on a horizontal stand. But getting the rust out of the flutes this way takes some time and you wonder if it's worth the effort. I hit on the idea of mounting the twist drill in the jaws of a second power drill, switching on both drills and applying the rotating twist drill to the rotating wire brush with the flutes parallel to the plane of the wire brush.

In one operation, this cleans the rust from the outside and flutes of the twist drill in no time flat.

We'll show you how to sharpen blunt twist drills at any of TTTG's workshops.

Wear eye protection for both rotary derusting and sharpening.

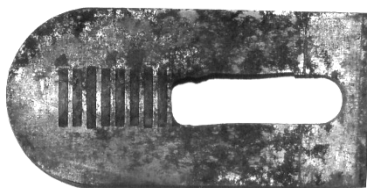
Clynt Sheehy  
Hon. Treasurer

## **How Could It Happen?**

There it was, the heel end of a metal plane that had nose dived into a pile of discarded relics that had been stored under a house for many years. I should have guessed that these temptations only reveal their parts of worth, that failings are always kept hidden; however, the optimism in a collector fills in the hidden detail. To my disappointment and my curiosity, I saw evidence of an abusive past.

With this little victim sitting in the palm of my hand wanting to tell its story, what choice did I have but to investigate? One must ask **'how did this little wreck arrive in such a state?'**

Was it abuse way beyond its stress tolerances? Or was it poor design not allowing for an unsympathetic handler? Perhaps it was the result of the technology of the day with too thin or brittle casting?



*One must firstly examine the obvious. The Stanley #220, manufactured in the 1920's, no doubt had an active life evidenced by the amount of wear on the blade. The slot has been crudely extended to get access to the last quarter inch of cutting edge or clinically put 'to get the last breath out of it'.*

*The depth adjustment mechanism is well designed and worked for the life of the plane, actually it is still quite functional.*

The cam lever is missing from the lever cap; this may have worked loose and fallen out although inattention from the user would have been a contributing factor, tightening the securing screw compensated. The break and missing section of the lever cap may have been the result of careless handling. The plane may have been dropped or perhaps the cap may have been hammered into place without slackening off the holding screw.

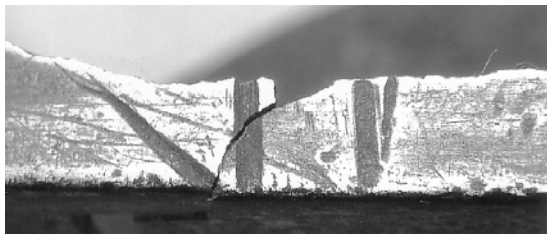
*Although the casting is very thin on one side as can be seen in the photo, I doubt that this was a factor, although it did reduce its suitability for rough handling.*



### ***Now let's examine the body***

There is a large piece broken out of the side. Was this the result of an accident, or was it the end result of a possessive owner who wanted his initials permanently cut into his tools for identification?

*Where is the prosecution going with this line of thought?* On many of the other discarded relics there were deeply filed initials. On all of these marked tools an 'N' is boldly cut.



On a closer examination of the tool in question, one can see the corner of an 'N' filed carelessly close to the mouth, resulting in a crack running back to the mouth, then up the side of the plane- possibly a sudden stop on a concrete floor may have completed the chain of events causing the side piece to separate.

*As for the knob with its twitch of wire!*

I won't speculate on the cause of this as there are so many variables. Perhaps the wire was the most common solution for a cracked knob, closely followed by black masking tape while the third possibility in line is perhaps the hose clip.

### ***To sum up***

I came to the following conclusions;

This is a well designed plane and if used within the parameter of the design brief the plane would function admirably over a long life time. This is substantiated by the number of these planes surviving several generations of users.

*The plane under discussion, although it functioned for the full life of its blade, was subjected to neglect beyond excuse.*

Some of the damage may have been caused by genuine accident, however, to file initials on the side of a metal plane so close to the mouth of the plane shows an owner unaware of the consequences of such an action.

*Storage under a house for many years completed the neglect by wrapping the victim in a shroud of rust.*

Will I let this plane rest in peace, leave it as found as a testament of ill treatment or should I rescue the depth adjustment mechanism and holding screw for parts and send the body off to be cremated for scrap metal? Perhaps I need to sleep on it.



Fig. 151 T.  
Stanley Block Plane.  
No. 220. 7½ ins. long, 1½ cutter. Screw adjustment

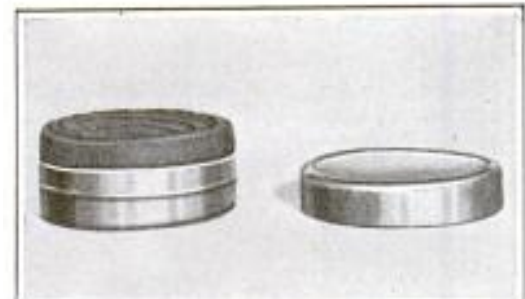
Stanley 220 illustrated in the 1921 Danks & Son catalogue. *Perhaps the plane was purchased from Danks?*  
(Ed)

## Tool Care

### How the Mechanic Can Keep His Tools Bright

THE machinist or other metal-worker who uses steel rules, squares, bevel-protractors and other instruments that are graduated in inches and fractions, finds that they soon acquire a slight coating of rust upon their surfaces, which makes it difficult to read the markings. The rust is caused by perspiration of the hands, as well as by dampness in places where the tools may be laid away while the artisan is working in mill or factory. The method of keeping tools bright adopted by machinists, is to polish them frequently by means of oil and an old piece of emery-cloth, kept especially for the purpose. The tools are scoured from time to time, as is judged necessary.

The graduations on these articles being shallow, it is not long before the tool is rendered useless by having its markings wear away as well as its edges and corners wear around. As an "ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure;" the writer devised the simple appliance illustrated, which



*Popular Science July 1920*

### **SAFETY WARNING**

#### **Chloride of tin:**

*This is nasty stuff!*

The editor cautions against using chloride of tin to remove rust.

*Citric Acid is a safe alternative.*

has given satisfactory service for over fourteen years.

To construct one of these oilers, obtain a lacquered tin ointment-box of  $2\frac{2}{16}$  in. in diameter and  $\frac{5}{8}$  in. depth (measured without the cover on). It can be bought for a few cents from a druggist. Also get a five-cent jar of vaseline. From a dry-goods store procure  $10\frac{1}{4}$  ft. of red felt, if your box has the diameter mentioned; if it is smaller, it will require less of the felt. This material should be  $\frac{7}{8}$  in. wide. Spread a newspaper on the floor and rub the vaseline on both sides of the felt, then roll it up tight so that it will make a snug fit in the box. Put a pin through it to hold the roll together while it is being placed in the box. It is then ready for use. Lubricating oil can be used in place of vaseline if desired, but most oils contain a trace of acid which, small as it is, darkens the surface of the tools. Vaseline, being derived from petroleum, keeps the surfaces bright and free from rust.

To use the appliance, take the cover off and rub the greased felt on all sides of the tool. Do this every day before going home from work. Your instruments will always be bright, rendering the taking of measurements easier as well as resulting in greater efficiency by saving time. Keep the cover on the box to exclude dust when it is not in use.

Should a person possess a rule or square that has been allowed to accumulate much rust, chemical means may be necessary to remove it. Heat 1 qt. of distilled water and dissolve in it a quantity of chloride of tin in small portions. As fast as it dissolves, add more, shaking the bottle each time, until the water will not dissolve any more. This is called a "saturated" solution. Place the rusty rule in a dish filled with the solution, and allow it to remain over night. Then remove it, rinse it carefully in water, wipe it dry with a cloth, and the job is done. The rule will be a silvery-white color. Grease it with the oiler to keep it in condition. The tin solution should be poured back into the bottle.—W. S. STANDIFORD.

## Sharpening Files

### Re-Cutting Worn Files to Renew Them

**I**N these days of efficiency and high prices, every effort is made by managers of machine shops, automotive plants and other factories to keep operating costs as low as possible. The utilization of articles that were formerly regarded as waste, once they were used, is receiving the attention of various manufacturers who are saving large amounts of money yearly by reclaiming used lubricating oils, dirty waste thrown away by workmen and other articles. The railroads are leaders in this respect, having worked out the problem with the greatest efficiency.

The writer has found during his travels over the United States and Canada, that in the average machine shop, using quantities of files in a year's time, the foreman does not always know that worn files can be re-cut and so, allows them to be thrown in the scrap heap. In spite of the



In these high cost of everything days the need to re-use old tools is great. Files can be made new this way

extensive use of machinery, there is some work which has to be done with a file, since there is no substitute for it in certain lines of work. Files as cutting tools are used so extensively that it will pay to re-cut them, and

this can be done by the man who sweeps out the shop. It takes only a few minutes of his time, if too many are not allowed to accumulate at one time. Two dozen can be conveniently handled by the shopman without the work interfering with his other duties.

The acid mixture is cheap in price. In fact, many mills and factories have a supply of the acid on hand, as it is used to remove the scale from iron or steel. In the formula given, the proportions of sulphuric acid and water are so combined as to do the recutting in from 10 to 12 hours. All the shopman need do is clean the files and put them into the acid solution before leaving the shop at night. In the morning they will be ready to remove, and they will be found as clean and bright as new.

To get the best results first clean the files with a "file-card." Then put them into a mixture of four ounces of washing soda and one quart of very hot water, scrubbing them with a brush. This removes any oil from them. Then rinse thoroughly so no soda solution will remain, and transfer them to the acid fluid.

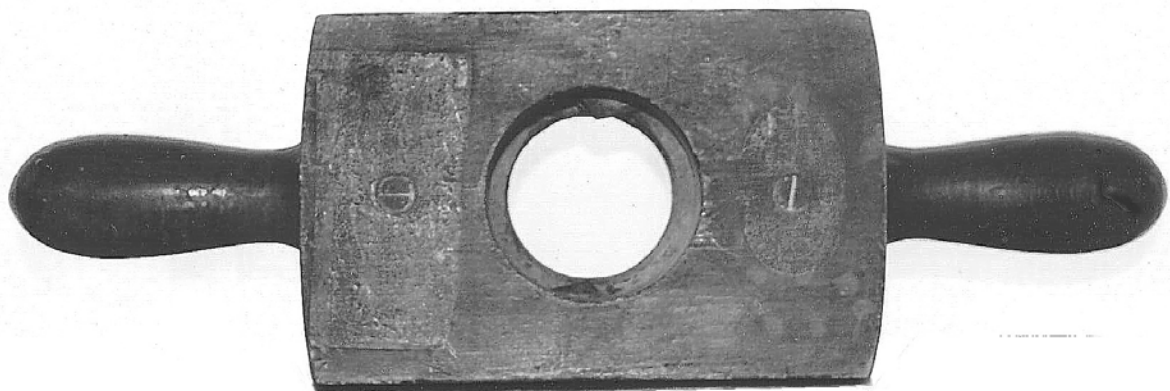
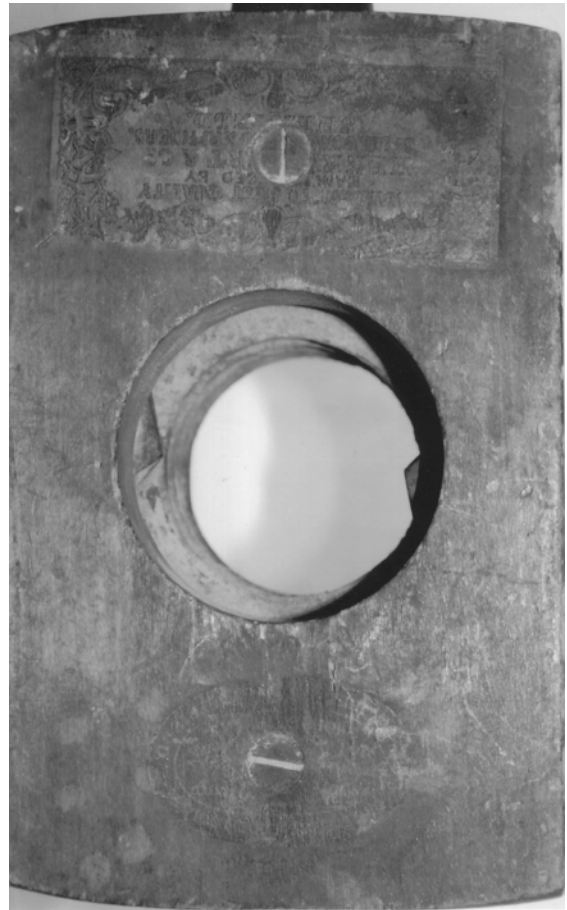
This is made of four ounces of sulphuric acid and one quart of water. To mix it, pour the acid into the water slowly, stirring it with a piece of glass or a stick. Do not reverse this proceeding, or the acid will fly up into your face. Too great care cannot be taken when handling acids. Mix the acid solution in an earthenware or glass vessel, making enough to cover the files. After the files have remained in the fluid 10 or 12 hours, rinse thoroughly in water to remove all traces of the acid, then dry and oil them and put them away until they are wanted for use.

In some localities, the water is alkaline and more acid must be used to counteract this quality. Distilled water will obviate the necessity of adding more acid in using alkaline water. The re-cut files will do good work, and reduce the "overhead cost" to some extent.—W. S. STANDIFORD.

*Popular Science July 1920*

## Largest Thread Box

Terry Butcher has sent photos of a thread cutting screw box he bought at auction. Terry observes that there must be larger screw boxes but notes this is the largest in his collection.



The screw box cuts a tread three inches in diameter. Unfortunately the tap was not with the screw box! The largest listed size of commercial screw boxes was three inches so Terry does have the largest standard screw box commercially made.

### **The paper labels**

*Maker Warranted Best Quality*

*Henry...R<sup>t</sup> & Co. Steel*

*Con...&Refiners Sheffield*

Second label

*Saws Files Edge Tools*

*Phoenix Works Sheffield*

## Terry Butcher on Ethics

*The following is Terry's response to the article in News 110.*

May I reply to your ethical issues?

Given such an item you have only two choices, restore or leave it alone. To restore covers many degrees from wiping off the dust the dust to a complete work over. I compromised to a partial work over.

In order to establish a maker it was necessary to remove the crud from the toe of the plane and having found it I couldn't bear to leave that part cleaned and not the rest. May I say it was missing only one ferrule the arm ends on the fence were originally as they are in the photos.

Are the keys and wedge incorrect? I copied these from another Mutter plane of the same period.

Yes I did destroy the original patina as it was knee deep in dirt heavily encrusted on all surfaces and set quite hard. I soaked it all in a mild solution of caustic then scrubbed the muck off with steel wool. The wood surface after cleaning was worn but dry and very oily. One coat of F.P. then several coats of L.O. gave it a very respectable finish. \*

You questioned the use of epoxy and plasti-bond. Well the arm was broken with pieces missing. The glue, though not reversible, will last as long as the plane, as where the chip missing around the break, rather than key in pieces of wood it seemed logical to use a small amount of plasti-bond coloured to match.

Lastly consideration of repair and restoration to a plane and to a colonial piece of furniture though due thought and consideration must be taken into account; I do not think require the same approach.

If I had left it as found I may have removed the blade and the brass depth stop and what would I do with the remaining fire wood? Just to keep it complete as found is surely a mark of respect. My work is not value adding but to bring back to life a once well and often used tool. Now it still works and can be admired for the beautiful thing it is.

But maybe you are right and I think it a good idea that you will make a subject for a meeting and debate and discuss the pros and the cons of restoration. After all that is what TTTG is all about.

*\*Editor*

*L.O. Linseed Oil*

*F.P. French Polish (Shellac)*

## Editor's reply

I have removed this sentence regarding epoxy '*Ray don't feel too bad remember it was you who taught me this method of repair*'.

Terry has assumed the article in News 110 was written by Ray Gurney. In fact the editor was the author. Articles not acknowledging an author are written by the editor. I stand by everything I wrote in the previous article. The 'remaking' of old tools is a serious matter when the tools are very old or very uncommon. The abuse and neglect of once common artefacts is itself historically significant. *To remake is to falsify.*

## Kimberly Universal Plane



Kimberley Universal Planes are rare and complete planes very rare.

*The photograph above is taken from a Patrick Leach tool sale list.*

By subscribing to Patrick's site you get great pictures and dialogue.

*The following information on David Kimberley and Kimberley Tools is from the HTPAA Web Site.*

David Kimberley, D Kimberley & Sons are listed in Goodman at various addresses in Birmingham from 1854 to 1906. In 1908 they were taken over by Wynn & Timmins & Co, but continued into the 1920's, later to become the Highgate Tool Co.

After 1934, the business continued as "Tools & Instruments Ltd".

The Kimberley name can be found on quality planes and also on a range of other tools.

*Tools seen to date include:*

Hammer & Tool Pad with 12 bits, Combination Tool, Dividers - 2 styles, Pincers No 5, Backsaw, Chisels - assorted, Heavy Gouge, Wire Gauge, Centre Bits, Pein Hammer and Strap Hammer. Considering the relative rarity of Kimberley tools, it is amazing to see just how many have made their way to Australia.

*Also seen are the Kimberley Plough Plane and Kimberley Sash Fillister.*

## Chisel Edge Claw Hammer



This perfectly balanced 1-pound hammer is made of tool steel. It has chisel-edged claws, without altering the claw feature. It has two small claws right and left to reach close corners next to wall. The head is correctly balanced making it possible to remove 10's at one pull. Write for fully illustrated folder.

Chisel-Edge Claw Hammer Co.  
H. A. Ayvad, Hoboken, N. J., Dept. E  
**CHISEL - EDGE - CLAW HAMMER**

**A Claw-Hammer and Cutting Tool in One**

THE chisel edge on the end of the claw makes this hammer a cutting tool of a hundred uses, without altering the claw feature. Small side claws make it easy to pull nails in close corners. The off-set position of the head gives far greater leverage—pulling ten penny nails with ease. A perfectly balanced one-pound hammer forged of tool steel. If your dealer cannot supply you write us direct.

Price \$2.00

CHISEL-EDGE-CLAW HAMMER COMPANY  
H. A. Ayvad—Dept. E  
Hoboken, N. J., U.S.A.



**Hewing to the line is easy with this chisel-edge claw Hammer**

HERE is something new in hammers. The one-pound head of forged steel carefully tempered has a chisel-edge on the end of the claws. It is perfectly balanced and the two extra side claws makes it possible to pull nails in close corners or next to the wall.

In 1927 the chisel edged claw hammer appeared in a run of advertisements in the magazine Popular Science.

The article and adverts from the magazine detail the potential uses of the Chisel Edge Claw Hammer.

**Has the reader ever seen one?**

I suspect this hammer caused many cuts and a few serious accidents!

**Was this another good idea that never captured the market?**

HERE is something new in hammers. The one-pound head of forged steel carefully tempered has a chisel-edge on the end of the claws. It is perfectly balanced and the two extra side claws makes it possible to pull nails in close corners or next to the wall.

The distinct curve to the claws creates a fulcrum that makes it possible to pull out large nails with one pull.

The chisel-edge claw hammer has been tested and approved by the Popular Science Institute of Standards.

Every man doing carpentry work or odd jobs around the house will find hundreds of uses for the three-in-one hammer. It will do everything any other hammer will do. Besides it can be used as a chisel and it will get at nails that other hammers won't reach. The price for this new hammer is only \$2.00.

If your hardware dealer hasn't the chisel-edge claw hammer in stock write to us sending his name and we will fill your order direct

Chisel-Edge Claw Hammer Company  
H. A. Ayvad Dept. E Hoboken, N. J.

**CHISEL-EDGE CLAW HAMMER**



## How to speak eBaylish

Michael O'Mahony

When using eBay to buy tools I quickly learned that vintage or antique or collectable often means nothing more than “not currently available at Bunnings” and/or “rusty”.

I also came across some quaint examples of my mother tongue and some very interesting spelling. If you are looking for a plane on eBay, don't forget to search for plain, planer or even planner. I have seen marking gauges described as carpenter's scribe, wood scribe and woodwork measuring guide and sliding bevel gauges listed as adjustable square and adjustable bevel and, with considerable enthusiasm, as a fantastic vintage foldable wood and metal T-square.

Spelling is not the strong point of some sellers. I wonder what you would get if you were the successful bidder for a hydraulic rams pump duel soloniod ect. Other interesting spellings include culippers (callipers), micrometre, scrapper (for paint removal, not for fighting), theodolyte, numatic drill, spindal molder, squiril tale block plane, woodworking chistles, pederstal grinder (also pedistal) and filletster. “Acetylene” has countless variations. “Bakelite” has appeared as Bakerlite and Bakalite.

Some item descriptions are intriguing:

- Boat deck corking chisels – for shaping bungs?

- Angel grinder –for taking the rough edges off your cherubim?
- Dust extractor: single faze – being fazed once is more than enough when it comes to extracting dust.
- Goggles – braising, welding – dual purpose, for kitchen and workshop.
- Manuel drill – from Barcelona?
- Mechanical taco – for measuring the rotational speed of your burritos?
- A length of steel lentil- – for vegetarian builders?
- Penal saw – for hard labour in the prison workshop?
- Mortice and tenor machine – a soprano and tenon machine would complete the set.

Shoemakers lasts are often listed as anvils. Some sellers even have trouble spelling “last”: one offered a set of three lasses. Kinky.

What was obviously a wooden tinmans mallet was described as a Judges Gabble Auctioneers Hammer.

Probably the best case of hyperbole was a Stanley No 4. Plastic handles. Very rare tool.

Two Bradles were actually a bradawl and a gimlet. An old circumference tool was a pair of dividers. Slide ruler and spokeshaver seem to have completely replaced the names we used to employ.

And for wooden plane collectors, I have news of a newly discovered maker – Mathie & Son.

## Titan Chisels

Peter Robinson  
[pjrlist@gmail.com](mailto:pjrlist@gmail.com)

Having been gathering together a small assortment of chisels made by Titan Manufacturing Co., I decided I might like to build up a complete set and so started a little research to find exactly what sizes were offered.

After looking at some scans of catalogue pages from catalogues by McPhersons Ltd, provided by various helpful friends, and also having purchased a couple of catalogues, I have begun compiling a list of the chisel and gouge shapes and sizes that were sold at various times.

The list is coming together slowly, with some 1951 data and also through the 1960s. Since Titan started manufacturing chisels in about 1945, there is a gap from then until 1962, except for the single instance in 1951.

I also know I have gaps in the data because I have seen at least one type of chisel that does not appear in the catalogues I have seen so far. This chisel is a long paring chisel with plain edges rather than the usual bevel edges.

Having given up hope of building a complete set of chisels because of the variety I had not previously known about, I find myself more interested in studying the varieties rather than the impossible task of trying to actually own a full set.

For anybody interested, the list I am compiling may be seen here:

<http://galootcentral.com/membersites/peterrobinson/titanchisel/>

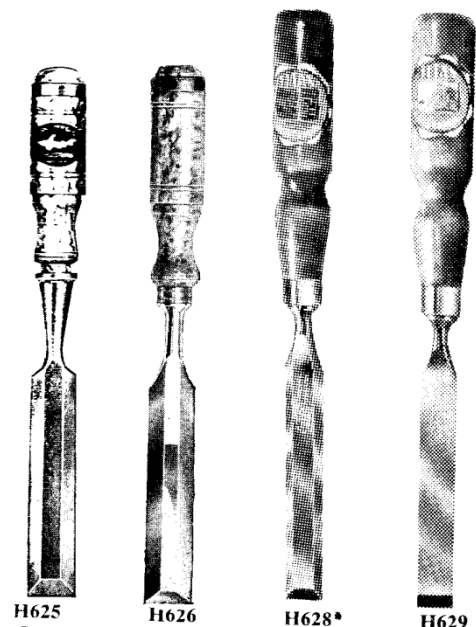
*I would much appreciate if any members having old Titan catalogues, or hardware company catalogues containing Titan chisels and gouges, would contact me.*

***I'm looking for information from 1945 to the early 1960s.***

### **Editor**

Peter is in Brisbane, Australia  
And is also slowly working on his spokeshave index as well as his Titan chisel page

<http://peterrobinson.galootcentral.com/spokeshaves/>  
<http://galootcentral.com/membersites/peterrobinson/titanchisel/>



Some Titan chisels from an undated Goodall & Co catalogue.

**More on Titan in News 113**

**THE  
MECHANIC'S COMPANION,**

**OR, THE  
ELEMENTS AND PRACTICE**

**OF**

**CARPENTRY, JOINERY, BRICKLAYING, MASONRY, SLATING,  
PLASTERING, PAINTING, SMITHING, AND TURNING,**

**COMPREHENDING THE LATEST IMPROVEMENTS**

**AND CONTAINING A FULL DESCRIPTION OF**

**THE TOOLS**

**BELONGING TO EACH BRANCH OF BUSINESS;**

**WITH COPIOUS DIRECTIONS FOR THEIR USE.**

**AND AN EXPLANATION OF THE**

**TERMS USED IN EACH ART;**

**ALSO AN**

**Introduction to Practical Geometry.**

---

**BY PETER NICHOLSON.**

---

*Illustrated with forty Copperplate Engravings.*

---

**NEW-YORK,**

**PUBLISHED BY W. C. BOBBADAILE, 82 WILLIAM-ST.  
CORNER OF HAIDEN-LANE.**

**1831.**

*Stereotyped by T. Seward.*

## 19th Century Plane Use

### § 7. To Fix and Unfix the Iron.

In fixing the iron in the plane, the projection of the cutting edge must be just so much beyond the sole of the plane, as the workman may be able to work it freely in the act of planing. This projection is called iron, and the plane is said to have more or less iron as the projection varies: when there is too much iron, knock with the hammer on the fore end of the stock; and the blows will loosen the wedge, and raise the iron in a certain degree, and the head of the wedge must be knocked down to make all tight again: if the iron is not sufficiently raised, proceed again in the same manner, but if too much, the iron must be knocked down gently by hitting the head with a hammer: and thus, by trials, you will give the plane the degree of iron required. When you have occasion to take out the iron to sharpen it, strike the fore end smartly, which will loosen the wedge, and consequently the iron.

Going back to primary evidence is always a first principle for any research. When researching old technology published material can often be found on the internet by logging onto Goggle Books. Everything hasn't been copied and the quality of the copies is very variable. There are many frustrations but also the occasional reward.

***Read the old stuff yourself before the opinions of the instant experts on the internet forums.***

Peter Nicholson's books were the standard texts for the trades for over a hundred years.

***Maybe he got it right!***

Nicholson's style is plain and clear.

*Consider the passage above.*

This provides every essential fact you need to know about setting a wooden bench plane. Nothing is superfluous. With careful reading and practice any intelligent person can learn how to set a wooden plane, given the time.

Of course those fortunate enough to have had the advantage of instruction from an experienced joiner would have avoided a few frustrations. Judging the amount of iron to give a plane is a skill that takes a long time to master. Adjusting the amount of iron by striking the ends of the plane or the top of the blade also takes lots of practice. The many old wooden plane blades with mushroomed tops and wooden plane stocks covered in hammer marks are witness to the fact that not everyone was skilled.

## Sharpening Plane Blades

*Nicholson's description of  
sharpening plane blades.*

### § 6. *To Grind and Sharpen the Iron.*

When you grind the iron, place your two thumbs under it, and the fingers of both hands above, laying the basil to the stone, and holding it to the angle you intend it shall make with the steel side of it, keeping it steady while the stone is turning, and pressing the iron to the stone with your fingers; and in order to prevent the stone from wearing the edge of the iron into irregularities, move it alternately from edge to edge of the stone with so much pressure on the different parts, as will reduce it to the required convexity; then lift the iron to see that it is ground to your mind—if it is not, the operation must be repeated, and the steel or basil side placed in its former position on the stone, otherwise the basil will be doubled; but if in the proper direction it will be hollow, which will be more as the diameter of the stone is less. The basil being brought to a proper angle, and the edge to a regular curvature, the roughness occasioned by the gritty particles of the grindstone may be taken away, by rubbing on a smooth flat-wet stone or Turkey stone, sprinkling sweet oil on the surface; as the basil is generally ground something longer than what the iron would stand, for the quicker despatch of wetting it, you may incline the face of the iron nearer to the perpendicular, rubbing to and fro with the same inclination throughout: having done it to your mind, it may be fixed. When there is occasion to sharpen it again, it is commonly done upon a flat rub stone keeping the proper angle of position as before, then the edge may be finished on the Turkey stone as before: and at every time the iron gets dull or blunt, the sharpening is produced by the rub stone and Turkey stone, but in repeating this often the edge gets so thick that it requires so much time to bring it up, that recourse must be had again to the grindstone.

Close reading of this passage clarifies traditional sharpening practice for all single bevel woodworking tools. These include plane blades, chisels, draw-knives, side axes and adzes. Only the grinding and honing of plane blades is explicitly explained in the extract.

**The Grindstone** used is a large diameter abrasive stone rotated by foot treadle or crank. A stream of water is dripped onto the revolving stone to clean the stone and to prevent the steel in the cutting edge from being overheated and 'burnt'.

**Holding the Tool** is a free hand operation. The text gives direction as to the grip and stance.

*Thumbs under the blade, fingers of both hands on top of the blade. Hold the blade firmly at the angle you want and move it across the revolving stone. Apply press with the fingers while moving the blade across the grindstone with constant pressure at the angle and degree of convexity desired. Check regularly and continue until you succeed!*

What he doesn't spell out is the amount of practice necessary!

*A few terms need clarification.*

**Basil** means bevel or grinding angle.

**Steel or basil side** is the side of the blade with a layer of *crucible steel* fire welded to the wrought iron blade. The steeled side is the face of the plane blade. As the blade is tapered in length the basil (bevel) is measured from the steeled side (the face side).

Nicholson stresses that the correct grind is *hollow ground basil* and a poor grind is multiple basils!

### **Honing**

Nicholson describes two types of honing; *honing after grinding* and *honing when the blade's honed edge is getting 'thick'*.

### **Honing after grinding**

The rough edge left from the cutting action of the grindstone needs honing to produce a suitable cutting edge. Honing was done on a *Whet-Stone*. Nicholson uses *Whet-Stone* and *Turkey Stone* as interchangeable terms. The *Turkey Stone* was the most common natural abrasive. But other stones were used and preferred in different regional locations.

The *Whet-Stone* was lubricated with *Sweet Oil*. This is assumed to have been *Neat's Foot Oil* but other natural oils, or even milk, were also used. It is clear from the description that a second bevel should be honed on the ground bevel. No angles are given. *Experience and memory were the arbitrators of grinding and honing.*

### **Honing when the blade's honed edge is getting 'thick'**

A thick edge could be quickly 'ground' on a *Flat Rub Stone* and then honed on a *Turkey Stone*. Several sharpenings could be done on the *Flat Rub Stone* followed by the *Turkey Stone* but when this became time consuming the blade needed to be ground again on the *Grindstone*.

### **The burr**

There is no mention of removing the burr left from the *Whet-Stone*. Was this part of the assumed knowledge of the reader?

**TTTG Latest publication is a study of natural abrasives. For a review turn to page 35**

## Robert Towell Plane

Terry Butcher

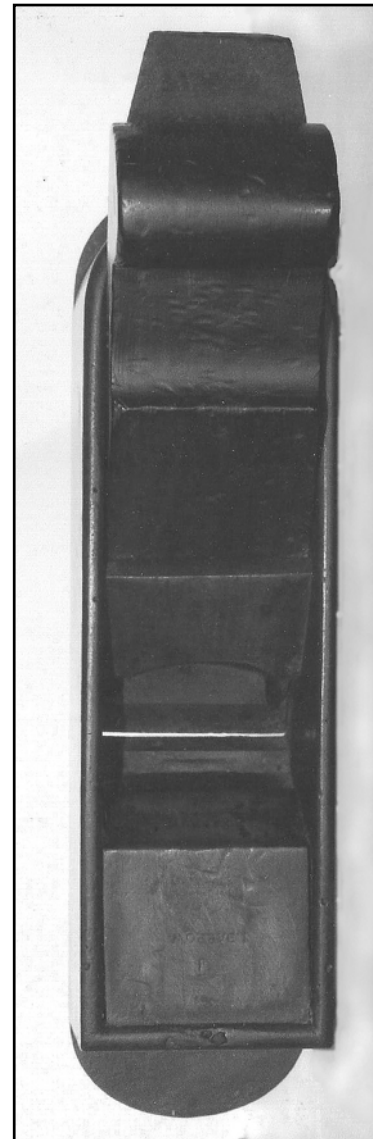
I have a plane similar to the Towell style planes featured in NEWS.

There is no name on this plane other than an owner's mark struck twice on the infill,

**I BARROW**

**J FEANEL**

The blade pitch is  $22\frac{1}{2}$  degrees.  
The plane body is  $\frac{15}{16}$  inch high and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide.  
I cannot identify the infill wood.



**PLANES FULLY FETTLED**

**TUNED AND SHARP**



**REPAIRS & TRADE PRICES ON**



**ALSO: M2 HSS ACADEMY BLADES  
LEATHER CHISEL ROLLS &  
G15 RUST PREVENTATIVE**

**Ring Jim Davey on 02 4447 8822**

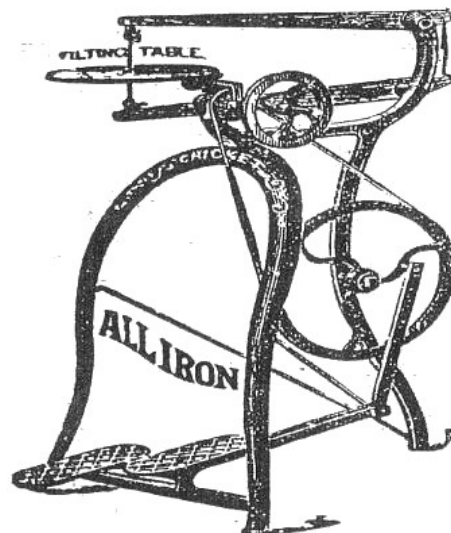
**AUSTRALIAN  
SCROLLSAW  
EXHIBITION**

**MASONIC HALL  
KIAMA, NSW**

**21-22 May, 2010**

- **Competition**
- **Display**
- **Demonstrations**
- **Supplies**

**4th Bi-annual**



**FRETSAWS.  
(Hobbies' "O.K.")**

**Contact: Ted Hawkins**

**☎ 0407 316 629**

**✉ johnakated33@dodo.com.au**

## The May Workshop after the TTTG Tool Sale

### **Saw Sharpening**      16 May

The TTTG Committee is confident in claiming that, in Sydney, only TTTG offers saw sharpening workshops. These workshops have been well attended for several years.

#### **What do you get?**

If nothing else you get good tea, coffee and biscuits and some good company. The teaching must be up to the mark as we have had no complaints so far! Put simply we will start you on the path to mastering saw sharpening.

#### **What do we offer?**

Two capable teachers explain and demonstrate saw filing, setting and sharpening in a flexible manner.

*Each workshop offers something new.*

During the next workshop you can try using an Eclipse Saw Sharpener. This is reputed to be one of the few saw sharpening devices that work. It will be interesting to get your comments.

#### **What else is on offer?**

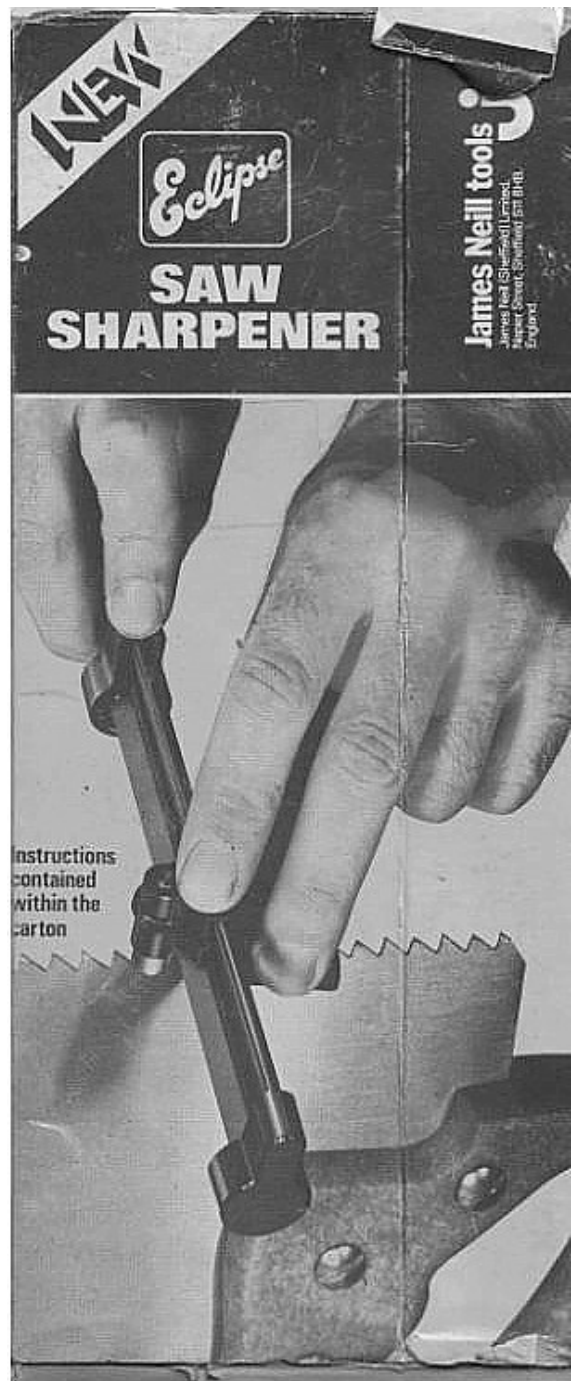
A selection of files and saw sets will be on sale as well as a few saws.

No doubt we will have some 'tools on consignment' that we want to sell.

*In other words there will be some real bargains on offer.*

#### **What do you need?**

All you need are a few of your blunt saws, if you have a sawset bring it too.



*The original box!*

The next TTTG Saw Sharpening workshop will put it to the test.

## **Morawa Museum**

This Western Australian Museum has a collection of old manuals.

*The collection is arranged under the following headings:-*

*Air Tools / Battery Chargers / Blower / Bolt Cutters / Catalogues / Chainsaws*

*DC Converter / Dies / Drills / Garden Tools / Grease Guns / Grinders / Jackhammers*

*Jacks / Nails / Rammers / Sanders / Saws / Screwdrivers / Tension Wrenches*

*Vehicle Tools / Welders / Winches*

These words are from the website;

*"The manual collection is gradually being digitalised and copies of some manuals are available on CD. If the manual you require has not yet been digitalised, please send a request and it will be done for you. This is proving to be a very popular service so we ask for your patience as there may be a slight delay in fulfilling orders, depending on the size of the manual and the time needed for scanning. See manuals page for details of current prices.*

To obtain copies of required manuals from the material listed below, please email the museum with details of your request'.

**<http://members.westnet.com.au/caladenia/index.html>**

**Numerous manuals are listed.**

Below are some examples:-

*McPHERSON'S PROPRIETARY LIMITED*

*1. "McPherson's Engineers' and Manufacturers Catalogue No. 34." [1933] [276 pages]*

*LIGHTBURN & CO. LTD*

*1. "Operating Instructions for the Lightning Garden Wheelbarrow." [Catalogue 173] [4 pages]*

*WOLF*

*1.*

*"Brochure. Ease your work. Wolf Tools for Farm and Garden. General illustrated information." [16 pages]*

*GMF*

*1. "Brochure. GMF Grinders Attachments and Accessories. General Illustrated Information and Specifications." [8 pages] [CD available]*

*CLIFF & BUNTING PTY LTD*

*MALLOCH BROS LTD*

*1. "Advert. The Leeuwin Roller Top Saw Bench and Tilting Table Saw Frame." [The Western Mail, 25 June 1942] [1 page]*  
*1. "Advert. Saw Benches built for heavy work, firewood, ripping and boring." [A.F. & H. August 1950] [1 page] [CD available]*

*WARREN & BROWN*

*1. "Technical Data and Information on the use of Warren and Brown Tension Wrenches." [June 1959] [18 pages]*

*COMMONWEALTH INDUSTRIAL GASES LTD.*

*4. "Here is your new Comweld Comet. Australia's Newest Blowpipe." [November 1962] [16 pages]*

The site is worth a look.!

# **Convict Workers Exhibition Hyde Park Barracks Sydney**

## **Late 2010**

There will be a new exhibition of convict labour during the Macquarie period in the Hyde Park Barracks late in 2010.

The exhibition will feature the tools used by skilled convict labour.

The Traditional Tools Group (Inc.) will assist the Historic Houses Trust in securing the loan of tools and in providing supporting images and activities for the exhibition.

*The Convict Workers Exhibition will provide greater public exposure for TTTG and our all members are encouraged to visit the exhibition.*

The Hyde Park Barracks is one of the surviving Macquarie Period buildings in Macquarie Street.

All the Macquarie buildings in this precinct are worth visiting.

The Hyde Park Barracks has visible evidence of the skills of the convict tradesmen who built the Macquarie period public buildings.

The King Post Trusses in the roof are testimony to the technological skills of the early nineteenth century. The roof load is carried by these trusses and the external walls.

When you visit the Hyde Park Barracks imagine that the internal walls have been removed. Think of the early Manchester Cotton Mills. This is the type of building that housed the vast machinery of the industrial revolution.

*The Hyde Park Barracks was built to provide commodious accommodation for the convict works whose skill and labour built Macquarie's Sydney.*

As is the case with the early mills the trusses are carried on sandstock brick walls. Go outside the Hyde Park Barracks and think of the brick work facade as a construction carrying the weight of the roof.

*Now go back into the Hyde Park Barracks and look for further evidence of the early fabric of the building.*

While outside you will have been drawn to the windows. These double hung circular headed sashes are examples of the skill of the convict joiners who made the joinery for the Hyde Park Barracks.

When you re-enter the building have a close look at the sashes. As you walk up the last flight of stairs to view the King Post Trusses have a close look at the treads and risers and the balustrade. This is one the original stair cases.

Most TTTG members are sensitive to old brick work, joinery and carpentry. Many will ask 'how did they do this?'

*The exhibition will go some way to answering this question.*

The most intriguing question is

*'How did they erect the roof trusses?'*

Try and calculate the weight of each King Post Truss!

## **Tools Wanted**

The editor is organising the loan of suitable old tools for the exhibition from TTTG members to the Historic Houses Trust.

*Such an exhibition of old tools has specific criteria.*

### **What Tools are needed?**

We are looking for tools available to the convict workers in the Macquarie period. This is a wide field as virtually every tool made in England was in the government workshops.

*The emphasis is on representative tools rather than rare tools.*

Tools marked with the Broad Arrow are particularly sought.

In general tools from any of the Macquarie Period building trades will be considered for the exhibition.

### **What we do not want**

*We are not looking for tools that have been polished up or restored and improved to 'as new' condition.*

Ideally the tools will be in 'as found' condition. Tools that show imprints from the hands of users are a bonus.

### **The scope of tools wanted**

I will consider any tool but this trade list should give a rough guideline.

Timber Getters and Pit Sawyers

Wheelwrights and Coachbuilders

Carpenters and Joiners

Bricklayers and Plasterers

Blacksmiths and Cutlers

## **Whom do I contact?**

*You can contact the editor via the TTTG email or postal address.*

I will be approaching the 'usual suspects' among the collectors.

If in doubt talk to me!

### **What else is needed?**

Part of the exhibition will illustrate trade skills either by means of images or demonstrations of trade practice. Members willing to demonstrate the use of joiner's tools and blacksmith's tools have already been approached.

*Other skilled members are encouraged to step forward!*

Replicas of old tools may have to be made up for the exhibition.

I'm looking for a few early nineteenth century tools that are usually *flogged to death* for copying by a blacksmith.

I have a suitable carpenter's hammer that will challenge our smiths but I'm also looking for an early splitting wedge, a bricklayer's hammer and a joiner's marking knife. Any ideas?

### **What is already available?**

Among TTTG member there is the most comprehensive collection of old tools in Australia.

TTTG is unique in not being merely a group of collectors. Not a few TTTG members use tools. Some members use traditional tools and preserve traditional trade skills.

*Given the opportunity TTTG will continue to encourage the use and preservation of old tools.*



## **Black Smithing**

The image on the facing page is from *The Mechanics Companion* by Peter Nicholson New York 1831. This book was an American version of one of Nicholson's publications from the late eighteenth century.

The drawing is representative of a Smithy in England, America or any English penal colony in the early nineteenth century.

### **What tools are shown?**

*I copied this illustration when I started to think about suitable tools for the proposed Hyde Park Barracks exhibition of convict workers.*

It is a safe assumption that the blacksmith's shop in the Sydney Lumber Yard had similar forges. Indeed there were many such forges in Macquarie's Sydney.

The image tells part of the story but we need to draw out details of some of the tools represented. All the tools would be known to a modern smith.

In the fore ground is a swage block. The artist has accurately drawn the shape of the swage block. It is used to forge work pieces into a variety of shapes. This is a process I would like to have presented to the general public either by a demonstration or by electronic means.

On the floor behind the swage block is a large hammer. Had the artist include a view to the right of the workshop we would see many more hammers hung and waiting for use.

*The artist has focused on the forge.*

Immediately front left of the forge is the water trough. The anvil is to the right of the forge. Many tongs are visible both near the fire, on the trough and in racks on the wall.

Is the small trough the water trough or is the large partitioned box a water trough? Maybe it is a tool box. I'm not sure; can one of the blacksmiths in TTTG offer an opinion?

What is clear is the way the fire is built into a brick chimney and has an iron hood. Also clearly drawn is the eighteenth century pattern anvil. The anvil stand appears to be a large section of tree trunk.

I'm sure a skilled blacksmith could draw more out of this illustration. The way the flame and fuel is shown would tell him or her exactly what work is being done.

I know enough to tell that this is an accurate image of a blacksmith's shop. Also I know how this would appeal to the general public. Fire and sparks have people entranced.

### **What tools would I display?**

Realistically the process of forging is probably best shown as a projected image at a long term exhibition but the tools suitable for display are the anvil, the swage block and the tongs.

There are a few surviving eighteenth century anvils available but I'm not aware of any really old swage blocks. The tongs are out there and I'm sure they can be secured.

***Fortunately there are a couple of Smiths keen to get involved!***

## Review

### Handtools-Our Heritage

Celebrating the Twenty -Fifth Anniversary of the Hand Tool Preservation Association of Australia

If, like me, you are a member of the Hand Tool Preservation Association of Australia you will already have read this publication from cover to cover.

Before reviewing the publication let me congratulate the HTPAA Editorial Committee on the quality. The superb layout is complemented by the high quality of the printing. Truly this publication is a visual treat.

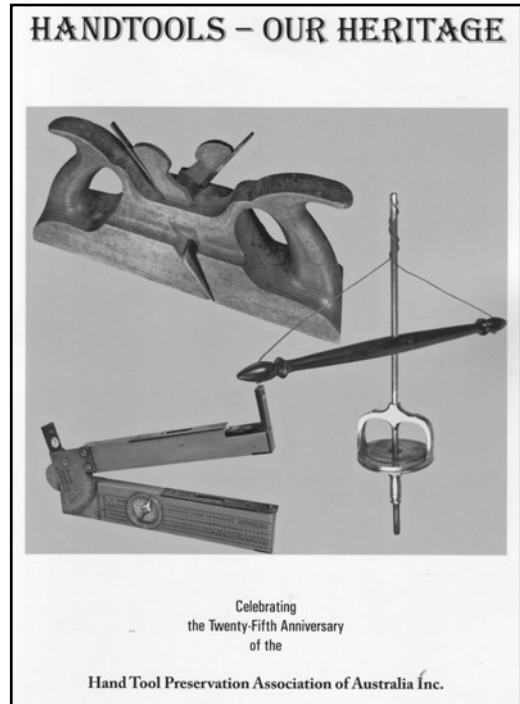
The diversity and the quality of the contents are also impressive. Every article reflects the author's knowledge of the subject discussed. In every case the illustrations are well selected and clearly reproduced.

Nothing in this publication is trivial or parochial and it will appeal to anyone with a serious interest in traditional tools and technology.

*The copyright date of 2008 is a subtle acknowledgement of how much work has been devoted to the production of this publication.*

The publication has over 140 pages of text and illustrations. The text is clear and many of the illustrations are in full colour. The binding is also substantial which is appropriate as this will read over and over by many.

This reviewer encourages every TTTG member to buy a copy of this HTPAA publication. The price is very low given the scope, content and quality.



### The titles of the articles are:-

- History of HTPA
- Elements of Tool Collecting
- Some Australian Hand Tool Makers
- Tools of the Australian Aborigines
- A New Look at John Rabone & Sons and the Birmingham Rule Making Trade
- The Mark on the Tool
- Multigrips in Australia
- Australian Technical Education: Towards a National Industry -based System
- The Evolution of Technical Drawing Instruments
- Coopering Tools and Terms
- Coopering a Lost Trade
- The Cooper's Work
- Forest Products Research and Development in Australia

### How to get a copy

As many TTTG members will want this publication we are selling copies on consignment. Current holdings are not numerous but when these sell TTTG will order more copies.

Sales are at cost so postage is extra.

**Handtools-Our Heritage**  
**\$30 plus e postag**

## Review

### Natural 19<sup>th</sup> & Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Sharpening Stones and Hones

Brian Read and Doug Morgan  
Editor Michael Williams

This is the first TATHS and TTTG joint publication. The TTTG editor read the first draft several years ago and was immediately in favour of publication. Mike Williams assumed full responsibility for editing the draft and for arranging printing.

The successful transformation from draft to publication needs to be fully acknowledged. The contents of this study are significant and Mike's editing has made it accessible to the reader lacking a scientific education.

#### ***So why would anyone buy a book on old sharpening stones?***

The author has identified the natural sharpening stones used in the UK before the introduction of the *India* artificial oilstone.

He has also analysed the abrasive cutting quantities of each natural stone using the India stone's cutting rate as the comparison bench mark. This data allows readers to identify old natural sharpening stones and to gauge the cutting efficiency of each stone. The figures are interesting and explain why the India oil stone virtually superseded most natural stones when it was developed and marketed by Norton Abrasives.

The value of this publication is not only in the importance of the author's research but in the way the data is presented to the reader.

Each type of stone is described in detail and illustrated in colour. This would be enough to identify most stones. In addition a comprehensive selection of old sharpening stone trade labels are reproduced in full colour. The colour images of stones and labels will appeal to collectors of old sharpening stones.

For readers interested in the cutting characteristics of natural abrasives the graphs of surface finish and cutting rate will be invaluable.

The publication also includes a list of producers of natural abrasives and reprints extracts from the catalogues of some sharpening stone makers.

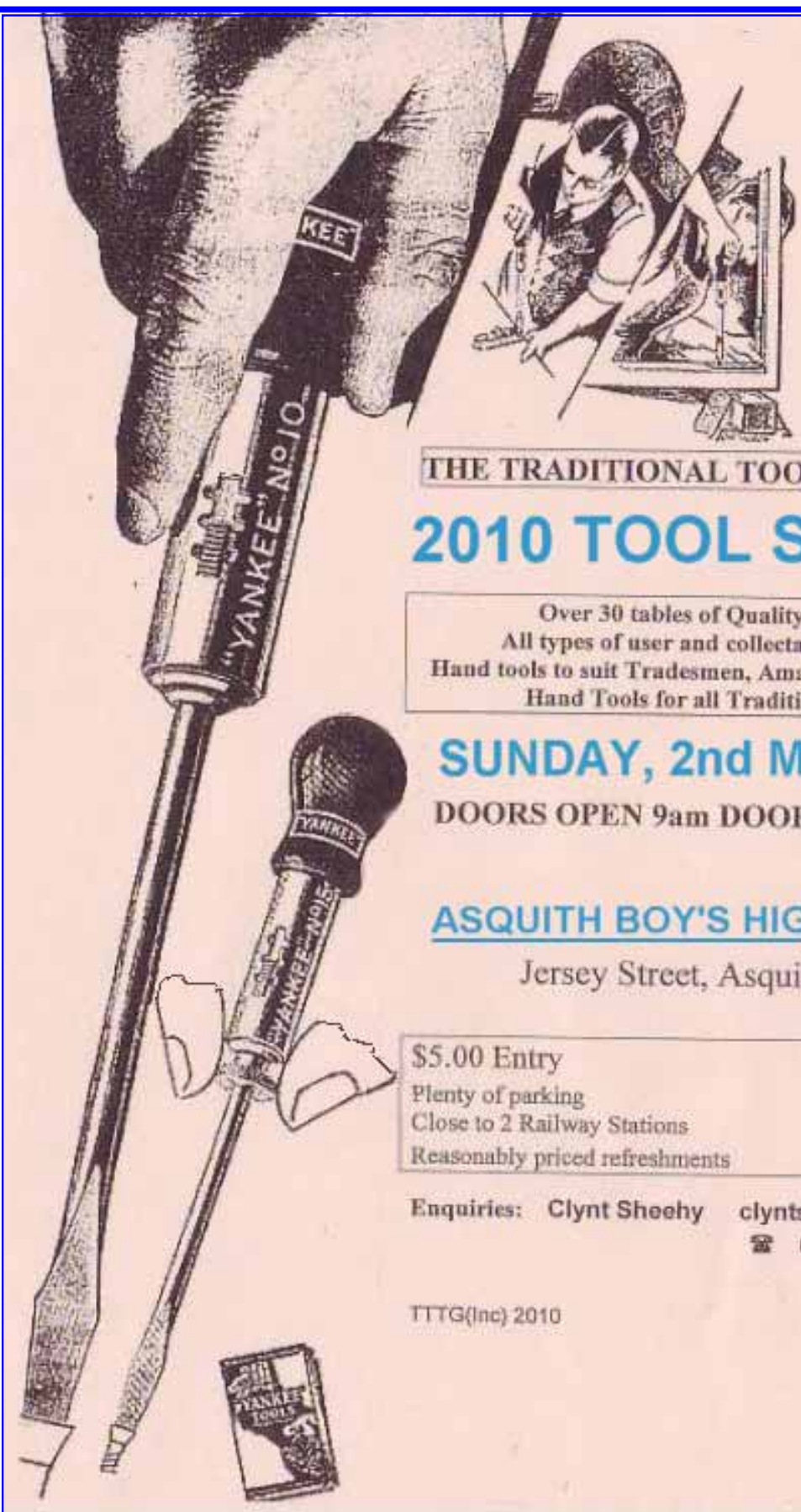
The pages reproduced from the 1893 Thomas Hazeon catalogue and the 1926 Pike catalogue will appeal to all readers and the bibliography is both comprehensive and offers many possibilities for future reading.

TTTG has printed a limited edition of this publication. TATHS will produce a larger print run. The TTTG version will sell out quickly and is predicted to become a collector's item.

***Order your copy from TTTG now!***

***Price is \$20 plus postage.***





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