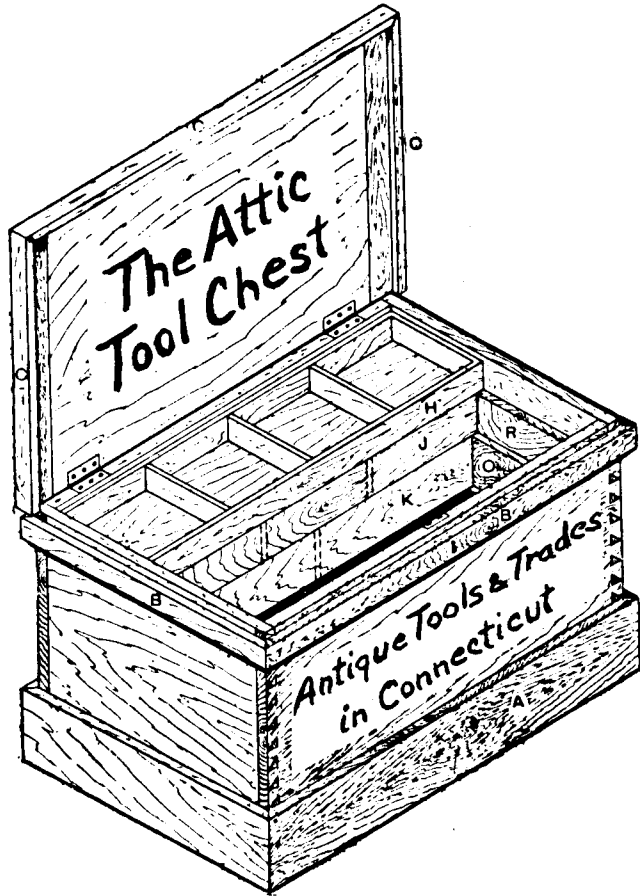


ATTIC DUSTApril Meeting

It rained for our April meeting, but nevertheless Cynthia Carlson and Betty Downes greeted 52 registrants at the Wesleyan session. Frank Bawden, meanwhile, collected last minute dues. Tom Elliott and Bob Carlson had arranged for a very nice meeting room, well suited to viewing slides. Consequently, Al Staebner's and Bill Downes's slide talks went off well, and were the main features of the meeting, as expected. (Ginnie Coope suspects that we should have bought two small coffee makers instead of one large one, considering the wait for water to heat in the large one.)

Pete Coope presented Bob Carlson with a placque on which was mounted a special auger that Pete had received at long last from Iron Horse Antiques. The placque was in appreciation of Bob's service as our first president and leader in organizing ATTIC initially. Bob "modestly" stated that as the World's Expert on augers, the auger on the placque was appropriate. Pete next asked for

approval of a change in the by-laws, to avoid forcing 6 out of 7 Directors to leave the Board next Fall. The by-laws, as changed about two years ago, limited the President, Vice-President, and Directors to no more than two consecutive two-year terms in office. A change was authorized that will stagger the departures of Directors, so as to provide for better continuity in direction. Pete also asked, as Chairman of the Nominating Committee, for suggestions for new Directors, since the bi-annual election will be at the Fall meeting.

With five of the acknowledged experts on identifying tools belonging to ATTIC, we are able to rotate duties leading the What'sit Session. This time Fred Maher had the job. Of course it's comforting to the rest of us to see how often the experts give up - but they try hard.

Other brief items about the meeting: Bill Downes mentioned Dr. Harold Browning's guides to identifying beech, maple and birch as used in making planes, and passed around several planes as samples of the woods used. Bud Steere listed the clues to look for in identifying 18th century planes. Bill Lee displayed an old photograph of the Bradley Company work force that included Elsie Bawden's Grandfather. Bill also mentioned how much he liked the Attic Tool Chest (which is nice to know). Frank Bawden presented the Treasurer's Report - we're still solvent. The book table was popular, but frustrating too, since some required ordering from England.

New Members

We welcome 14 new members with this issue. Some of the members are the result of publicity about our Stanley and Higganum publications that were mentioned in "Shavings" of the E.A.I.A. Welcome to:

Dr. Harold W. Browning, 61 North Road, Kingston, R.I.02881

William C. Cavallini, Berry Lane, Box 267, West Harwich, Mass.02671

Charles R. Watson, 517 Ellendale Ave., Port Chester, N.Y.10573

Jack Clouser, Box T, Rt.32, Cornwall, N.Y.12518

Dirck Mulford, 276 E.Village Road, Shelton, Conn.06484

Chauncy Whitmore, 311 Farm Hill Road, Middletown, Conn.06457  
Stephen Ferreira, 280 E.Main Street, Apt.C8, Clinton, Conn.06413  
Norman J. Taillon, 50 Eastwood Road, Bristol, Conn.06010  
Norman Rod, Catlin Road, Harwinton, Conn. 06790  
William J. Little, 4 Bartlett St., Machias, Maine 04654  
R.G.Leckie Jr., 320 Cannon Road, Wilton, Conn.06897  
John R. Wales, 773 Alton Ave., East Lansing, Mich.48823  
Edward J. Delaney, Box 498 West Sand Lake, N.Y.12196  
John Leatherman, 11 Birchway Drive, Chambersburg, Pa.17201  
Dues

Overdue dues of \$5.00 should be sent to Frank Bawden, Woodbine Lane  
RD 3, Newtown, Conn.06470. This will be the last notice for some of you.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### CLEANING A TOOL OF RUST

Francis A. Dorion  
Waterbury, Conn.

Cleaning a tool of rust without damaging it can be a problem. Most abrasives leave highly visible scratches which are completely unacceptable. Commercial rust removers tend to be too harsh, leaving the surface clean but deeply etched. The commercial removers are also quite expensive.

A highly satisfactory rust remover can be made by adding table salt to common white vinegar. The two combine to form a weak solution of hydrochloric acid, which is safe to handle, and which will remove even heavy rust effectively without attacking the sound metal. This solution is also very economical (white vinegar is about \$1.00 per gallon, and salt is 16¢ per pound).

The method for using the above solution is simple. Place the tool to be cleaned in a plastic container (do not use a metal container). Pour vinegar into the container until the tool is submerged. Sprinkle salt into the container. A few tablespoonsful are sufficient for smaller containers, with perhaps a third of a measuring cup per gallon in larger amounts - the amount of salt isn't critical. Leave the tool in the solution for about 24 hours; it rarely takes longer. Rinse the tool in clear water, brushing off the loose scale with steel wool or a brass-bristle brush, and wipe dry. A dull brown haze will appear on the tool as it dries. This may be removed easily by light buffing with a fine wire brush or steel wool.

A few hints may be helpful here. First, you will be surprised to find how difficult it can be to locate a plastic container which will accommodate the tool you wish to clean without requiring a large additional amount of solution to fill the container. The plastic troughs sold in paint stores for use with pre-pasted wallpaper are ideal for planes, chisels, and other tools of similar size. For larger objects, a double thickness of plastic sheeting can be used to make just the size container needed. Lay the plastic on the floor (not in the living room!), place the object to be cleaned on the plastic, and build the container around the object using brick, wood, or whatever is handy as supports for the sides of the container. Second, avoid immersing wooden handles in the solution - they will discolor. Finally, do not use any type of oil on the tool until after the rust has been removed. The solution will not work on oily surfaces.

(Editor's note: You might ask Frank where he can still buy vinegar at \$1.00 a gallon. Also, ask him how to get the used vinegar off the floor into the sink.)

\*\*\*\*\*

ATTIC Officers: Wm. A. Downes, Pres.; Harvey Jeacock, V.Pres.; Peter Coope, Sec.; Frank Bawden, Treas. See membership list for addresses.