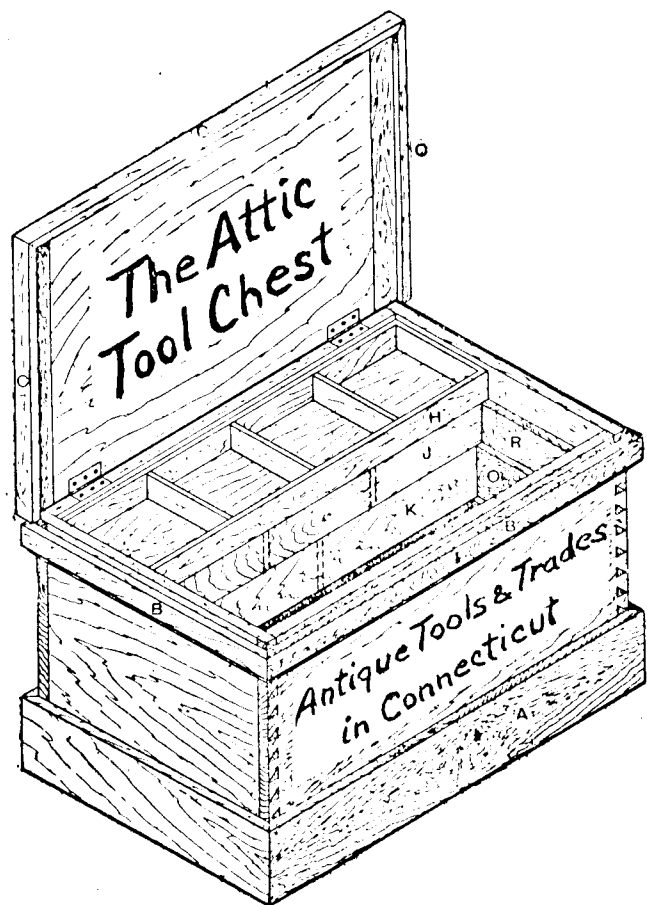


ATTIC DUSTAuction Meeting

Our next ATTIC meeting will be at Chester, Conn. on September 26. This will not be like the usual meeting, with What'sits etc. It's going to be an auction, supplemented with a special sale. The details are on a separate sheet. We expect that everyone will have more enjoyment than at the normal auction, because of the unique features of ours.

Joint Meeting

Next Spring there will be a joint meeting with ACTIVE (Vermont) and TNT (Massachusetts) at Strawberry Banke in Portsmouth, N.H. Lee Murray, as President of ACTIVE, is making arrangements. He has announced a tentative date of June 5 (The EAIA meeting is May 19-20). Two years thereafter it will be ATTIC's turn to arrange a joint meeting. Suggestions about a suitable place will be welcomed.

New Members

We welcome three new members. You can update your July list with the following:

Rabitaile, Joseph A. Jr. 14 Park Ave., Groton. Conn. 06340 (445-0859)

Schear, Lawrence G. P.O. Box 407, Niantic, Conn. 06357

Sullivan, John A. RFD 2 Box 13, North Stonington, Conn. 06359 (edge tools and felling axes)

Ray Townsend's new address is: Waters Storehouse, Williamsburg, Va. 23185

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## SEVERAL HINTS FOR THE TOOL COLLECTOR

William Cavallini  
West Harwich, Ma.

What follows is written primarily for those collectors, like myself, who dare to disturb the purity of so many wonderful tools out of the past.

I recall conversations with Cyril Marshall, retired Director of Exhibits at Plimoth Plantation, in which we were in agreement that the true craftsman kept his tools in clean and good working order and that, in spite of the many pictures showing shops with knee-deep shavings, he had the apprentice 'push the broom'. In those earlier days a fire hazard was dealt with as a fire hazard.

Concerning Planes

(a) When the plane is in excellent, new or unused condition but wears that dirty coat acquired over the years, spray a half pad of fine steel wool lightly with Johnson's "Favor", or a comparable spray wax, and then polish gently, maintaining a very light even pressure. Then wipe off with a soft cloth.

(b) When in fair condition and when a soft finish is desired, dab a half pad of fine steel wool in cabinet wax and polish only with enough pressure to remove dirt and give the plane an even tone. Again, finish off with a soft cloth.

(c) When the condition is so-so and the plane shows a little wear and

tear from its life of overworked usefulness, clean with fine steel wool or fine garnet paper just long enough to even the tone. Then apply maple varnish stain and wipe off immediately--rubbing hard. The result will be most pleasing.

(d) When the condition indicates that many times the plane has intercepted the paint splashes of the careless pretender to the title of craftsman, (I have had one with red, white and blue globs on it - no doubt a sloppy but patriotic apprentice) apply a good no-wash remover. Wait about five minutes and then clean with fine steel wool, and again even the tone by regulating the pressure applied. If paint spots remain, flick off carefully with a knife blade, and then rub lightly with the same moist pad. Finish may be applied immediately. Again, use maple varnish stain as in (c), exercising the same method. Most woods respond very well, Beech in particular. Rosewood is a no-no because it darkens so. Wedges, of course, are included in each method of treatment. Irons are left to the individual judgment--but please--no scratches!

#### Concerning Wood Screw Threads

I'll use hand screws as the example. Disassemble and wipe off the screws with a cloth, removing the bulk of the loose dirt. Then spray with Johnson's Favor, or a comparable spray wax. Stretch out a steel wool pad and wrap it around the threads. By turning the screw, the threads will be cleaned, polished and refinished all at the same time. Finish off by wiping with a clean cloth. This applies to bench-vice screws etc., but in the case of small threads, use a brush of the toothbrush type rather than steel wool.

#### Concerning the Replacing of Level Glasses and Plugs

There are many times when a collectable level and plumb is found with a broken glass. Obtaining a new glass is routine and inserting it properly can also be routine. The old glass or glass parts and the binding must be removed carefully. When ready for the new glass tube, take a true-reading level and fasten it in a vise, horizontally, so that it reads correctly. (I use an aluminum Stanley for the purpose, of course!) Then place the level to be refitted on top of it. Mix a small amount of plaster of paris and use just enough to hold down the ends of the glass tube. Adjust to level with long nose pliers and let the plaster harden. Then complete the fill, let harden, and replace the top plate. For the plumb, use the same method but fasten the 'guide' level in a vertical position. Quite often, a plug is found missing. They are usually 3/4" in diameter by 1/32" thick. To most people, finding a replacement will pose a problem. I get mine from a manufacturing plant that knocks out washers on punch presses. I have to wait until a 3/4" size is on order and then I coax the boss to remove the 'hole' punches and knock out blanks. Does someone know an easier way to obtain them?

I hope my do-it-yourself hints and methods will be met with favor beyond the purity-disturbing line. If so, then the feeling will be most satisfying.

Finally--we all know about steel wool, paint removers, varnishes, etc. Please be careful--wear a mask and gloves--and be patient!

#### Editor's Comments

Bill Cavallini should be pleased to find that there is a simpler solution to the problem of getting replacement metal discs for his levels. Dr. Harold Browning, former Vice-President of the University of Rhode Island pointed out to me that a penny is the correct diameter. Advocates of leaving tools almost as found may wish to contribute to future issues of the Attic Tool Chest. Let's hear from you.

Editor: William A. Downes, 987 River Road, Mystic, Conn. 06355

ATTIC Auction Meeting of September 26, 1976

1. Where and when

We will gather at the old Chester Town Hall at 9:00 a.m. The auction will start about 10:00 a.m.

2. Costs

There will be a registration fee of \$1.00 for anyone participating in the auction or sales (selling or buying). A family counts as one person.

3. Who can go?

Participation will be limited to ATTIC members and persons invited by members.

4. Auctioneer

Jack Kebabian will be the principal auctioneer. We hope we can think of an appropriate gift in appreciation for this invaluable help. Suggestions?

5. No Percentage

All proceeds from each item sold will go to its owner.

6. What to bring

Bring those tools that you think will appeal to other collectors. The same judgment displayed at our last auction would be fine. Catalogs, books, domestic and kitchen tools are welcome, too. Something for your wives to bid on will be good.

7. Labels

Label each item with your name and a number you will be given at the registration table. (Some labels will be available at Chester.)

8. No minimum prices - but...

Rather than allowing minimum prices to be set on items, it seems best to allow the seller to bid on his own item if the bids do not reach a level he's willing to let the item go for. Jack foresees no complications.

9. Runners - (maybe walkers would be more accurate)

We hope to have runners bring you your prizes as you acquire them.

10. Come prepared to leave some money or a check

We considered methods for doing all the book keeping for this auction so as to permit us to collect from the buyers and pay the sellers before you leave. Despite a real desire to do this, we decided it would be too ambitious an undertaking and would lead to many errors. After all, professional auctioneers aren't faced with paying off dozens of people at the end of an auction; they have enough trouble just collecting money from them. Consequently, we will collect from you for what you buy so that we can mail to you a check for what you sell in the auction. (Table sales will be settled the same day.)

11. Tool sale table

One objective of this meeting is to provide a means for people who are actually working with tools as a profession or hobby to acquire the more common tools they need at reasonable prices. We will have a separate table for such tools. They will not be auctioned. We'd like you to tag these tools with your name and price. We'll have someone handle the sales at this table. This money will go to you at the end of the day. Since you may be reluctant to bring such tools because you don't know what prices to attach to them, we'll have a dealer available to advise you when you get to Chester. One guide you can consider using is whatever the prices are at shopping center stores for similar new tools. These might be considered to be maximum prices for used tools with little or no value as antiques.

Since such a sale is an outgrowth of a concern expressed by John Gardner at the Tool Collectors Weekend at Mystic Seaport last November, we've talked to him on the subject. He provides this list as examples of those tools that he knows young craftsmen are looking for: Planes, blades and cap irons for wooden planes, chisels, gouges, draw knives, scraper blades, burnishers for turning edges, bit stocks, bits, adzes, 2 foot boxwood rules, saws, and saw filing vises.

## 12. Parts Table

Our recent questionnaire disclosed that some of us have plane irons we'd be willing to swop or sell. This suggests that other parts of tools might be available to those of us who need them in order to make a particular tool whole again. To make this exchange feasible, bring your extra parts and the tools with parts missing. and maybe you'll go home with whole tools. We will have a parts table for this purpose. Label your parts with your name and prices, or willingness to swop. If you can't decide what prices to set, consult the dealer mentioned above when you get to Chester.

## 13. Lunch

We will take a break from the auction for lunch. We suggest you bring your lunch with you. Coffee and doughnuts will be available at registration time.

## 14. Where's the old Chester Town Hall?

Chester lies between Route 9 and the Connecticut River, up the River from Saybrook. From the Connecticut Turnpike take the Route 9 exit toward Essex. Take exit 6 from Route 9. Go right at the end of the ramp (toward the river) and follow ATTIC signs. You will go through the center of town in getting to the old Town Hall.

BRING TOOLS, PARTS , LUNCH AND MONEY, AND PREPARE TO ENJOY YOURSELF!