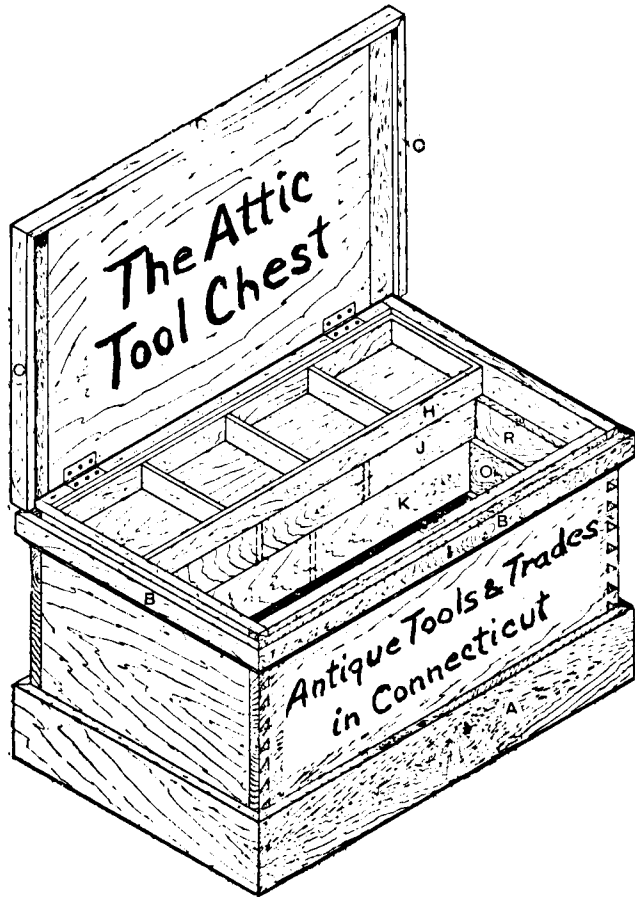


ATTIC DUSTAuction Meeting at old Chester Town Hall

Scene: 101 people milling around, bringing in tools, setting them out on the edge of the stage and on the stairs; people buying tools at the sales table, and looking at books at the book table; some people even taking time out to eat a doughnut and drink some coffee. Shortly after 10:00, and after brief instructions from Bill Downes and Tom Elliott, Jack Keabian began his job of several hours, as auctioneer. Everybody then proceeded to enjoy himself. Jack needed no relief, except for lunch, and the runners didn't wear themselves out walking. (As a runner, with Pete Coope, Tom Elliott and Harvey Jeacock, Bob Carlson promised only to walk, which they all did.) Eleanor and Judy Keabian kept score, and Elizabeth Buckley added things up. Elsie Bawden and Betty Downes checked people in, and Ginnie Coope and Phyllis Jeacock provided the refreshments.

From the comments afterwards, we can conclude that the auction was a great success. There were a lot of tools

to bid on. The prices were reasonable. The two policies of: no percentage deducted for the Society, and being allowed to bid on one's own tool if bidding was too low, worked out very well in keeping prices down, and yet protecting the seller from losses. Elizabeth Buckley's very able assistance allowed us to settle almost all the bills before people left. Frank Bawden settled the remaining few by mail.

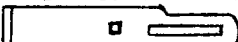
At an ATTIC Directors meeting on November 14 at Joe and Ann Link's house, two changes were proposed and agreed to for future auctions. First, instead of having a tool sales table, all tools brought will be auctioned. Second, the parts table will be eliminated in favor of the arrangement described below. The Directors also agreed that a 1½ to 2 year interval between auctions would be suitable.

Wanted List

Inasmuch as 14 people indicated, in answers to our questionnaires, a willingness to swap or sell surplus plane irons, we set up a parts table at the auction. This was the only disappointment in the auction. Only two or three people brought any parts. Nevertheless parts were bought, but participation was poor. The difficulty appears to be that everyone who has picked up parts here and there hopes to put them to use himself sometime. Meanwhile, of course, he himself might be hoping to find a part for some tool he already has. The people making up ATTIC and other similar societies are the logical sources of such parts. It would seem to be a very desirable function of ATTIC to provide the means for exchanges of needed parts, not just plane irons of course. In discussing the matter at the November Directors meeting, it was proposed that we use the Attic Tool Chest as a means to publicize members wants. Consequently, we will try out the idea in future issues of the Tool Chest.

Initially at least, we will confine use of the Wanted List to parts

of tools. We will need enough of an identification from you to permit someone to write or phone you and offer to sell the part to you, or swap for it. If the idea is successful, we can consider expanding the allowable items to specific complete tools, catalogs, etc.

As a "for instance", your editor needs a plane iron for a Sargent Auto-Set Iron Jack Plane V.B.M. 714. The iron is 2" wide and looks like this:  Write to Wm. Downes, 987 River Road, Mystic, Ct. 06355 or call 536-3166.

ATTIC Reprints

Two of the excellent enclosed reprints result from efforts of our Publications Committee, comprising Bob Carlson, Dave Huntington and Harvey Jeacock. The Stanley Tool Guide is not only a great reprinting job, it should be useful to those of us who use tools. The Directors decided that both reprints should be free to members. The Stanley Tool Guide will be available to non-members for \$2.00 postpaid. If you bought a copy of the Tool Guide at the auction for \$1.00, you are entitled to a refund if you return the copy either by mail or in person at the next meeting.

Hermon Chapin's Catalog and Invoice Prices of Rules, Planes, Gauges etc.

The Chapin catalog reprint is furnished us courtesy of Ken Roberts. In his notes on page 9 he explains pages 10, 11, and 12. Ken has collected all the planes circled. He is hoping to obtain those planes not circled, in order to complete the collection of Chapin planes. When he has finished writing a book on the Chapin Company, he expects at some time to give the collection to the Connecticut Historical Society for permanent storage and possible exhibit. Since Chapin was such a prominent Connecticut manufacturer of planes, in Pine Meadow near New Hartford, this project deserves our cooperation.

Next E.A.I.A. Meeting

The spring meeting of Early American Industries Association is to be held 19, 20, and 21 May at Old Salem, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Of interest in connection with E.A.I.A. is the list of officers and directors of E.A.I.A. recently published in "Shavings". Twelve of the twenty-five men listed are members of ATTIC. All but one of the twelve has attended at least one meeting of ATTIC, despite the fact that some live a good distance from Connecticut.

Joint Meeting With TNT and ACTIVE

The word from member Lee Murray, speaking as President of our Vermont friends in ACTIVE, is that June 5 is the expected date for the joint meeting at Strawberry Banke in Portsmouth, N.H. This promises to be a very interesting meeting for all.

ATTIC Spring Meeting

At our Ledyard meeting last spring, it was voted to have an ATTIC meeting in addition to any joint meeting with other groups out of state. This is in recognition of the fact that not every member can make a long trip to a joint meeting. The joint meeting will be regarded as an extra meeting that particular year. Consequently, we are planning a spring meeting to be held, probably, in April. We are investigating having the meeting at Wesleyan University in Middletown. Two slide talks are being considered as the features of the meeting.

British-American Rhykenological Society: BARS

Who could guess from the name that this society is composed of plane nuts. One suspects that the name BARS originated with a group who are fond of socializing in bars, and who responded to the challenge of finding a name to fit their meeting sites. In any case, if you are a plane nut and can't make it to the bars, you should consider joining BARS. Their

Number 3 issue of "Plane Talk" is an impressive 18 page bulletin that should make plane collectors happy. (Write to E.M.Sayward, Secretary-Treasurer, British-American Rhykenological Society, 60 Harvest Lane, Levittown, N.Y. 11756; annual dues \$3.00)

By-Laws

Since we have so many members who joined since we last handed out By-Laws, we are enclosing an up-dated copy. The next election of officers and directors is scheduled for the fall of 1977.

1977 Dues

Don't spend all your money on Christmas gifts, since our annual dues of \$5.00 will become collectible in January for 1977. You may note in the By-Laws that we must drop members who have not paid up by the first meeting of the year. Mail your check to Frank Bawden, Treasurer, Woodbine Lane, Newtown, Ct.06470.

Changes

At least two people got strange results in trying to call your editor by using the phone number in the July membership list. In typing the number 536, it came out 356. The correct telephone number for Wm. Downes is 536-3166.

There are mailing address changes for three members:

- Harvey Jeacock, 45 West Road New Canaan, Ct.06840
- Richard Dixon, 15 Route 27, Baptist Hill Road, Mystic, Ct.06355
- Frank Eppinger, RFD 2 Box 2, North Stonington, Ct.06359 (535-2742)

Four old members are back on the roles:

- Thomas Stevens, 34 Lord's La., Deep River, Ct. 06417
- Normand Methot, 272 Canner St., New Haven, Ct. 06515
- Stanley Leavitt, 804 Timber Lane, Collinsville, Ct. 06022
- Joseph J. Wupperfeld, RD 2, Swamp Road, Newtown, Ct. 06470

New Members

It is again a pleasure to welcome new members:

- Louis and Eda Putnam, 227 W. Carroll Rd., Portville, N.Y.14770
(They have their own tool museum, which they open to the public)
- Mark D. and Mary Thackston, 7 Maxson Rd., Groton, Ct.06340
- William Frampton, P.O. Box 992, New Canaan, Ct.06840
- Francis and Emily McClellam, 262 Highland St., Taunton, Mass.02780
- Milton A. Brown, 8 Reynolds Hill, Mystic, Ct.06355
- Joseph Buda, 32 St. Stephen St., Bridgeport, Ct.06601
- Gary M. Adair, Mystic Seaport Shipyard, Mystic, Conn. 06355

A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING, AND

Donald A. Armistead
Madison, Conn.

We collect, research and use old tools. In doing so, we become more aware of the craftsmen of the past; their probable work habits and relationships with their tools. In addition to doing their normal work of former days, craftsmen were known to fashion a broken blade into another cutting edge, rework a dull rasp into a chisel, repair an implement with a strap of iron, or put a patch on a brass pot.

Why? Because metallic tools and parts, and even pieces of metal, were sometimes difficult or impossible to acquire, due to scarcity, cost, or distance from a source. Old estate inventories often list one saw, one axe, etc., indicating mostly single or one-of-a-kind tools in the tool chest. Thus, having only one hammer, for instance, a craftsman of years ago undoubtedly knew where it was when he needed it.

By way of contrast, an interesting letter to the Editor in a past issue of the Old-House Journal is quoted in part: "I used to feel that I was a terribly sloppy workman because I was constantly looking for my

hammer, screwdriver, etc. My anxiety was relieved when the neighborhood's best craftsman told me how he solved the same problem: He simply buys three of everything. It's easy to lose one or two tools, but -----".

We have come a long way. Or have we?

EDGE TOOL MAKERS OF CONNECTICUT AS LISTED IN CONNECTICUT BUSINESS
DIRECTORY OF 1869-1870, BY BRIGGS AND CO.

Compiled by John A. Sullivan, North Stonington, Conn.

American Knife Co., Thomaston, Conn. (Knives)
Ames, F.S., Seymour, Conn. (Auger Bits)
Andrews Bros., Forestville, Conn. (Auger Bits)
Andrews, Abed, Glastonbury (Planes)
Beecher, H.B., Seymour (Augers)
Bradley, Geo. W., Weston (Axes)
Bradley, L., Middlebury (Knives)
Chapin, H. and Sons, Pine Meadow (Saw Mill Dogs)
Collins Co., Collinsville (Axes)
Collins, Charles, Columbia (Knives)
Colburn and Fenn, Ansonia (Axes)
Crawford, O.G., Sharon
Cutts, W.H., Southbury (Knives)
Denison, Gilbert W., Saybrook (Planes)
Deule, S. and Bro., Chester (Gimlets)
Dwight, E.Cannon, Barkhempsted (Axes)
Eagle Auger and Skate Co., Yalesville (Auger Bits)
Empire Knife Co., Winsted (Knives)
Gaylord Bros., Wallingford (Gimlets, Bits)
Griswold, Charles L., Chester (Boring Bits)
Griswold, Leverett, Guilford
Hiscock, C., Southbury (Chisels)
Howe, James A., Wethersfield (Hammers)
Humphreysville Manuf. Co., Seymour (Chisels)
Hubbard Hardware Co., Middletown (Chisels)
Ives, E.R. and Co., Plymouth (Augers)
Jennings, R., Chester (Boring Bits)
Jordan, P. and Co., Thompson (Chisels)
Lathrop and Burton, West Winsted (Knives)
Lindsley, Edward A., North Branford (Axes)
Mason, James W., Saybrook (Planes)
Middletown Tool Co., Middletown (Planes)
Ray and Mowry, Norwich (Axes)
Riggs, E. Dewitt, New Haven (Knives)
Rockwell, John W., Ridgefield (Bits and Gimlets)
Smith and Kimball, Essex (Bits)
Smith Manuf. Co., Westville (Auger Bits)
Standish, Lucius, Colchester
Weatherby Tool Co., West Winsted
Winsted Hoe Co. (Hoes)
Wilcox, Crittenden and Co., Middletown (Plane Irons)
Wheeler, John T., North Stonington



SHOING AN OX.

From article on the
Crimea, in Harper's
of June 1854

Please mail your contributions of articles and other items of
interest to your editor: Wm. A. Downes, 987 River Road, Mystic, Ct. 06355

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