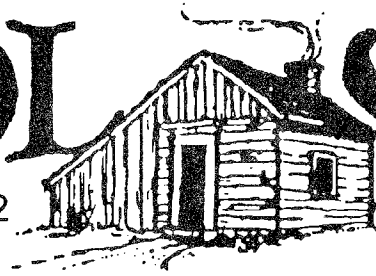


The TOOL SHED

NUMBER 72

JUNE 1992

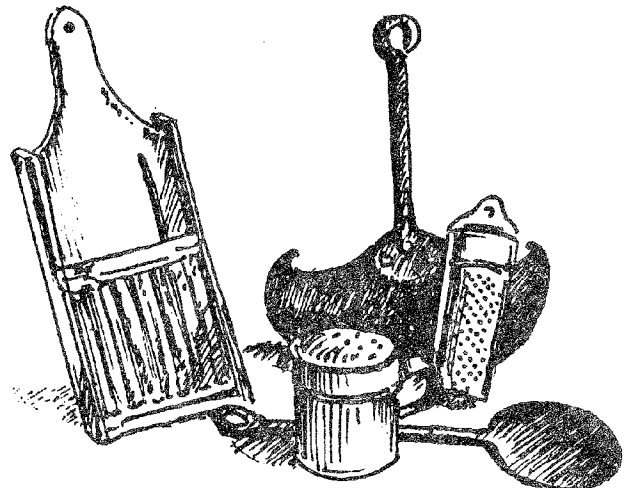


A Journal of Tool Collecting published by CRAFTS of New Jersey

Early Kitchen and Household Tools by Barbara K. Farnham

It was 1953 and we had just bought an 1804, New Jersey farmhouse. We were determined we would try to equip it as we thought it might have been in the early 19th century. The builder-owner, Michael Niece, was a farmer, so we strove for the simple, not ostentatious.

The kitchen is the center of a farmhouse, and so our first acquisition was a long-handled brass pot used in fireplace cooking. It has a nicely turned wood handle. Whether the Nieces would have owned a brass pot like this is debatable. Most farmers of this period would have had mostly tin utensils and a few iron ones. However, the Nieces owned considerable land and Susannah, his wife, was the daughter of Henry Wannamaker who also owned substantial properties. We were unacquainted with flea markets and auctions, so bought the pot at *Altman's* in New York City for \$20, expensive for then but no doubt would be many times that amount today. Next we bought a large wood box to occupy a place beside the fireplace. It cost \$165 at an antique shop. We soon found boxes at local auctions were selling for \$10 - 15 and sometimes as little as \$3. We were learning and started attending these weekly auctions, obtaining many bargains. But I did not consider them bargains, or perhaps thought more about food and other necessities for our growing family. One day when Alex returned home, glowing with the purchase of his great buys, a carpenter's chest for only \$11 and miscellaneous tools plus a witch's kettle totaling \$2, I merely burst into tears, "Another chest, do we need it?" However, today the numerous chests, boxes, and tools we bought then have



TIN AND IRON KITCHEN TOOLS: Fluted vegetable slicer, Iron chopper, Flour dredge, Tin box grater, Iron flapjack turner.

increased in value many-fold.

continued on page 4

June 7, 1992 Crafts Meeting

RHYKZOFAB
(Plane Collectors' Get-Together)

Conducted by Emil Pollak, it will feature participation by Club members. The format will be simple and informal. Please bring one or more interesting, unusual examples of planes in your collection. They can be wood or iron, old or recent. We'll supply the table space. A brief descriptive card to accompany your exhibit would be helpful and we'd delight if you'd say a few words about what you've brought. Please also bring along any questions you'd like answered or ideas discussed. We plan to have a panel and they, together with fellow club members, represent a wealth of knowledge that will, as always, be freely shared.



Collectors of Rare and Familiar Tools Society
of New Jersey

President . . . JOHN M. WHELAN, Murray Hill
Vice President . . . JOSEPH G. HAUCK, Lebanon
Secretary . . . BARBARA FARNHAM, Stockton
Treasurer . . . HELEN WHELAN, Murray Hill

The purpose of CRAFTS of New Jersey is to encourage interest in early trades and industries, and in the identification, study, preservation and exhibition of tools and implements used and made in New Jersey as an integral part of our heritage.

Membership in CRAFTS is open to anyone who shares the above interests. Annual dues per person or couple are ten dollars for the membership year of July 1 through June 30. Membership fees may be sent to the Treasurer: Helen Whelan, 38 Colony Court, Murray Hill, NJ 07974.

CRAFTS of NJ meets at the HOST Masonic Lodge, High Bridge. Take I-78 to Route 31 exit at Clinton. Go north on Rte. 31 two miles to second traffic light at the High Bridge exit. Turn right and go about half a mile to Dennis Ave. Turn left, then straight to the Masonic Lodge (on the left). Tailgate sales in the parking lot begin at 1 P.M.; meeting is at 2:00.

THE TOOL SHED

Published five times a year for members of CRAFTS of New Jersey. Editor: Stuart Shippey, 251 Hillside Ave., Chatham, NJ 07928-1732. Articles, especially about New Jersey tools and trades, are encouraged and may be sent to the editor. Text can be hand written, PC ascii, *Word Perfect*; FAX 201 301-9780.

Back Issues of the *TOOLSHED*


A limited number of *ToolShed* back issues are available. Contact Greg Welsh at the June meeting. Don't miss out on some excellent past articles by CRAFTS members!

April Auction a Big Success

by Joe Hauck

We'll give yourselves a big round of applause! We hit records for bidders, helpers, consignors and, most importantly, total sales. Over 200 bidders registered, and bidding was strong for many of the lots, especially for Philadelphia items. So, I chased several planes from NY and NJ. I got a nice pair of toted applewood match planes by *N.SPAULDING* and a nice wide Mockridge and Francis molder that was stamped over *GIBSON, ALBANY*. But enough of that; on to all the thank yous. First off to Steve Zlucky and Greg Welsh for all the cataloging, as well as managing the lots and runners the day of the sale. Set-up night was rather unsettling as it threatened to become set-up morning due to a last minute, rental of the room for two Friday night functions. However, once the tables were up, a big team got the lots organized in record time. They were: Dick Hepner, John Lukas, Stu Shippey, Rich Benni, Ed Modugno, Joe Gulluscio, Paul & Brian Murphy, Eric Paetow (and his **BIG** truck), Ken Vliet (and van), Paul Weidenschilling, John Dempsey, Herb Kean, Greg Welsh, Steve Zlucky, Jack Whelan, Elvin Georges, Steve Orbine, Bob Fridlington, Lou Dey, Ken Hopfel, George Bowman, and last but not least, Dom Micalizzi, who was also our trusty night-watchman. I regret to report though that the "dawn patrol" of Chuck Morgan and Ernie Possien, who arrived at 6 am Saturday for last minute set-up details, found Dom counting sheep instead of Brooklyn tools. Once again, hats off to the team that ran the desk and gladly took all our money. Thank you Jack and Helen Whelan, Fran Smith, and MarKay Zlucky. And finally, thank you to Ron Berube who called a brisk auction. To all of you - rest up quick! We're doing it again this June 13 for the Lee Donnelly sale.

P.S. I have a free Tool Calendar Poster for all the helpers, courtesy of the vendor who was selling shirts and posters at the auction.

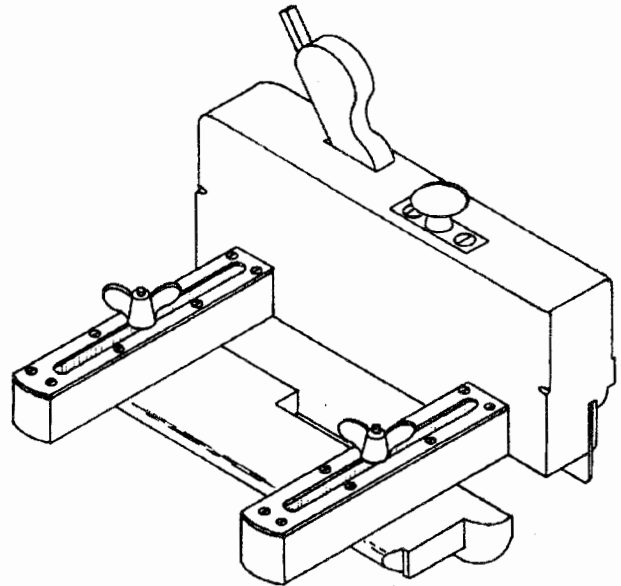


PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The record-setting Auction last April brought in enough commission to CRAFTS to almost balance out our expenditures, in spite of the ever-increasing costs of bringing you the Club services. Our treasury is at almost the same level as it was a year ago at this time. This allows us to avoid a dues increase for another year. You can do your part in keeping our expenses down by renewing your membership NOW, without waiting for a membership reminder. Send your ten dollars (or twenty for two years) to Treasurer Helen Whelan, 38 Colony Court, Murray Hill, NJ 07974.

Lee Donnelly, prior to his passing, requested that his collection be auctioned by CRAFTS. As you see elsewhere in this issue, we have arranged to accede to his wish (echoed by Mary Jane). Steve Zluky and Greg Welsh have done the cataloging, and report that a CRAFTS-quality selection will be available. We had to search hard for a suitable site for this (the hotels being thoroughly booked during the marrying month of June) but found a good one in the Flemington Elk's Club on Route 31. I'm sure we can count on Lee's many friends to help with the chores, in response to Manager Joe Hauck's requests. Hope to see you there Saturday, June 13.

My shipment from the David Stanley March auction brought a plane that is unique, to my knowledge. Have any of you ever encountered a left-handed plow? One with the fence mounted on the starboard side of the body? I've seen Chinese and Japanese plows of this type, but never one by a Western Hemisphere maker. This one was made by Moseley and Son, dated by Goodman as working in London 1832-1872 and 1878-1888. The suspension is unusual, too. Arms fixed to the body are slotted, and the fence has studs fitting up through these slots and tightened on top by



wing-nuts. This is not a user modification, but was (I believe) made this way originally. Made to order for an ideosyncratic customer, perhaps?

The Whatsit session held at the Museum of Trades and Crafts in Madison April 25th didn't bring much in the way of attendance, perhaps due to some confusion in the dates reported in their publicity. Whatsit Chairman Don Wallace, Steve Zluky, Museum stalwart Malcolm Dick, and I had some fun with the tools brought in, and in puzzling over some of the Museum unknowns. Malcolm was most helpful in setting us up. We had done our homework, and were able to convince him that we had identified (or at least made plausible suggestions on) some of his mysteries. If you would like to see an ox-yoke key (newly identified), visit the Museum.

THE MUSEUM OF EARLY TRADES AND CRAFTS

is open Tuesday through
Saturday 10 am - 4 pm
Sundays 2 - 5 pm

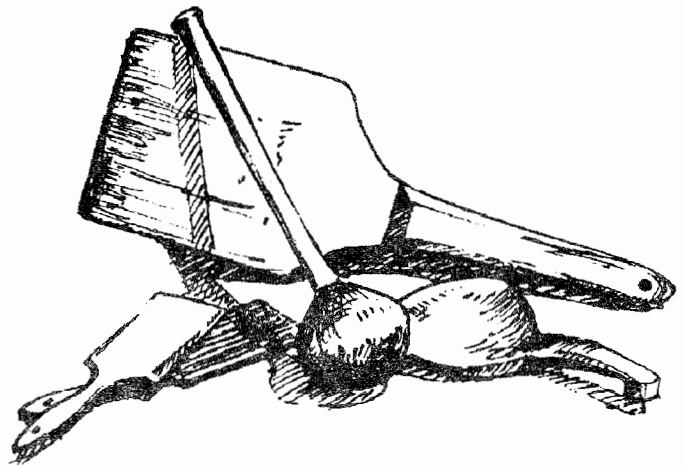
For further information
Telephone (201) 377-2982

Early Kitchen and Household Tools continued

Alex was looking for early tools for house repairs and I was more interested in kitchen and household items. In those early days of our searching (mid-1950s) most small tools sold for as little as 10 - 15 cents. We bought numerous kettles, pots, lamps, andirons, fireplace tools, candle molds, cookie molds, kitchen utensils, trivets, clothes irons, etc. Many were made in this area. Two miles away, in Milltown (now Idell), George Fisher Green worked in his blacksmith shop, possibly making some of the local kitchen tools when not busy shoeing horses. Some of the tools acquired we use, and others are hung as decoration. As the years went by our small collections expanded. We furnished the house in primitive or farm-type antiques and bought dishes such as Leeds. Our interests turned more toward tool collecting and we obtained an assortment of skimmers, ladles, forks, taster, spatulas, spoons, and strainers. Most of these are quite long-handled (no doubt for fireplace use) and wrought iron. Skimmers and strainers sometimes had brass bowls with the iron handle strapped at bottom of bowl with copper bolts, making for a rather attractive combination of metals for an otherwise, rather commonplace kitchen tool. At times the strainer holes formed a design. A rattailed or round hole was often formed at the end of the handle by which the utensil could be hung on nail. Others were hung over a bar or trammel by means of a hook-like end.

In my collection is an egg beater marked *HOLT'S IMPROVED DOVER PA PAT AUG 22 99 and APR 3, 1900*. Every kitchen (as in my collection) also had a nutmeg grater; a small grater for lemons, orange peels, and ginger; and large graters for cheese and vegetables. A shredder for cabbage was a must as well as a chopper, coffee grinder, and cherry pitter. The rather rough iron chopper in our kitchen appears to have been homemade.

A German family like the Nieces would have had a large cookie mold, especially for holiday treats. Among the other wooden kitchen tools in an early kitchen would be a butter paddle,



WOOD KITCHEN TOOLS: Scotch hands for pressing out water and molding butter, Peel for removing bread and pies from oven, Potato or vegetable masher, Butter paddle.

butter molder (for pressing the whey out of the churned cream), mashers, meat pounders, peels for removing bread from the oven, tubs for apple butter and mince meat, and possibly a noisemaker (sometimes used as a fire alarm).

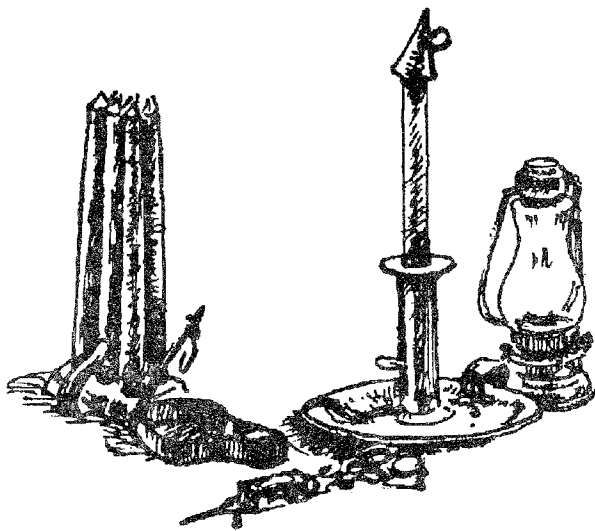
Our bed warmer probably came from New England as it is a family heirloom. Other household items in our collection are an iron shoe scraper, early inkwell, tin coffee pots and creamer and sugar container, candle snuffer, wick trimmer-snuffer, and miscellaneous sewing tools.

Passengers emigrating from Europe (primarily Great Britain, Germany, Holland, and France) were told to bring to this country domestic utensils such as pewter plates, knives, forks, and spoons, a saucepan, tin teapot, pewter basin, chamber pot, iron candlesticks (but not fancy brass ones), and a brass kettle. They were told brass pans would be readily available in this country. It was emphasized that tin was light so best for use in traveling. The great use in colonial times of tin kitchen utensils meant work for the tinkers because such items wore out quickly necessitating continuous repair. Agateware or enamelware came in later in the 19th century, partially replacing tin.

We know there was a summer kitchen in the carriage shed and a large fireplace in the kitchen-dining room. So some of the cooking was no doubt done in the fireplace. However, by the mid-1800s woodburning cook stoves had

made their appearance, and there is evidence that they were also used in this house. The most likely stoves used would have been locally made by Hiram Deats. Flint and steel was the common method of fire-starting, and stored in a tinder box along with sulphur-tipped "spunks", and linen or other tinder.

Electricity did not come to Kingwood Township until 1942. Prior to that time lamps and candles were used in addition to gas fixtures. Candles were generally made in candle molds from tallow, but farmers sometimes used bees wax. In colonial days lard-burning (sometimes tallow) betty lamps were common. Later brass, pewter, tinware, and glass lamps were made burning either lard or whale oil. Sperm whale oil was quite expensive and used primarily by the more affluent. Kerosene came in about 1860 under the name of "coal oil", bringing brighter light and less costly than the somewhat earlier "lamp oil" made from turpentine and alcohol. Gas lighting arrived about the same time as kerosene.



LIGHTING: Multiple candle mold, Betty lamp, Wick trimmer and snuffer, Candlestick and snuffer, Skating lamp.

Ironing clothes was a major task on washing day. Two flatirons were used alternately, one would be heating on a coal stove while the other was being used. Sadiron trivets were a necessity. Irons were made in many shapes and sizes.

In my display exhibit at the CRAFTS meeting of June 7, many of the tools mentioned here from my collection may be seen.

* * *

Book Review by Alexander Farnham
originally published in *Maine Antique Digest*

*PATENTED TRANSITIONAL & METALLIC PLANES
IN AMERICA - VOL. II* By Roger K. Smith

For tool collectors, especially those who favor planes, the long-awaited publication of volume II of Roger K. Smith's indepth research into the invention and manufacture of transitional and metallic planes is a joyous occasion. For those who may not collect planes but enjoy beautiful photography, design, and printing it would be difficult to find a more beautiful book. From its well-designed dust jacket, picturing three magnificent planes, to page 396, where a cut of the Stanley Rule and Level Co. imp is reproduced, Roger Smith's book is a feast for the eyes. It is certainly among the most attractive and informative books on tools in existence.

Upon opening this volume the first illustration one encounters is a double page, color spread showing inventor Louis C. Rodier's traveling display case, which any lover of antiques would enjoy owning. This and the hundreds of other photographs in color and black and white to be found throughout the book are the work of Joseph Szaszfai of Yale University Art Gallery. Valuing the talents of this fine photographer, Roger Smith made the two-hundred and thirty mile round trip to New Haven about fifteen times over a period of three years for photography sessions. Among other illustrations are early photographs of some of the men responsible for inventing and manufacturing the various planes discussed in the text. Also there are photographs of the factories of such firms as Hyde Mfg. Co., Gage Tool Co., Stanley Rule & Level Co., and Traut & Hine Manufacturing Co. Some of these photographs include groups of employees as well as the factories. Throughout are reproduced letterheads and billheads, advertisements, catalog pages, and patent papers relating to transitional and metallic planes.

The heroic job of compiling all of this material, writing the text, and putting it into book form is the work of Roger K. Smith, a former Industrial Arts teacher in the Massachusetts school system. He has collected and studied transitional and metallic planes for twenty-eight years and has long been prominent in tool societies. His earlier book published in 1981, *PATENTED TRANSITIONAL & METALLIC PLANES IN AMERICA 1827-1927* (volume I), proved extremely popular with collectors. It is frequently quoted in books and articles on tools, and when these planes are sold at auction there are usually references to this book in the catalog. At tool auctions held today transitional and metallic planes are usually the star attractions and bring the highest prices.

Roger Smith spent ten years gathering information for this new volume. It is not a revision of his earlier book but rather an all-new edition with over 450 superb new photographs and more than 300 line illustrations. It contains recently discovered information concerning Knowles-type planes as well as newly found planes manufactured

by Worrall, Gladwin, Holly, Selden Bailey, Phillips, Foss, Morris, Siegley, Steers, Taber, and many others. There is a special chapter on self-regulating plow planes and nearly 50 pages devoted to new data and rare planes made by Stanley. This section includes biographical information and photographs of some of their most important inventors such as Eppie J. McCulloch, Frank A. Rappleye, Edmund and Albert Schade, and Justus Traut. There is information on Bailey-Defiance Planes of 1876, The Foss Patent Adjustable Iron Planes of 1878, and numerous others, some of which were manufactured well into the nineteen-hundreds.

What impressed this reviewer is that many of the planes pictured in this magnificent book have the appearance of modern sculpture worthy of the collections of the finest art museums. This is particularly true of a Phillip's Presentation Plough Plane, one of three beautiful planes pictured on the front of the dust jacket and in plates 5 and 6 inside the book. Besides this outstanding plane there are a number of others illustrated which were designed by Russell Phillips and are nearly as beautiful. Another of the planes pictured on the dust jacket and also inside is a Knowles-type plane manufactured during the second quarter of the nineteenth century. Its body is paint decorated with swirls and stripes of various colors similar to the way that wagons, sleighs, sleds, chairs, safes, and other products of the period were done. A Morris Patent Iron Plow Plane from the 1870s is shown with a decal of bright flowers along its "scissor-type" fence. Since other examples of this plane have been found with traces of decals, it is thought that they were originally put on during manufacture at the Sandusky Tool Co.

For the most part makers of early wooden planes were an uninspired lot who used little imagination in creating their products. Occasionally they employed exotic woods, but the large majority of American planes were made of native woods such as beech and birch. On the other hand, transitional and metallic planes were produced with an eye for beauty and innovation using in some cases materials such as ebony, rosewood, iron, brass, silver, and ivory. Of these planes, using perhaps the ultimate in materials, is a rosewood and ivory self-adjusting plow plane, two views of which are reproduced in color on page 66 of Roger Smith's new book. It was made with ivory lock nuts and gears on the right side, ivory gears on the left side, three ivory gears on the top for depth adjustment, and ivory tips on the arms. It also has an ivory wedge with a silver nameplate dated 1857. On top of the plane is a silver nameplate engraved J. A. MONTGOMERY-FOREMAN. Also on the top, at the toe, is an engraved, V-shaped, silver nameplate which reads OHIO TOOL CO. - COLUMBUS, O. Fastened to the handle is an engraved silver eagle device and a five-point, silver star. There is another silver eagle covering the screw head on top of the front arm above the fence. An engraved silver Lady Liberty device is attached to the toe. A strip of ivory boxing is dovetailed into the inside edge of the fence. On top of the fence is a pivoting metal

pointer which points to an ivory inset with 1" to 4" graduations. This indicates the distance between the fence and the cutter. This plane was obviously made as a presentation piece, but it demonstrates to what extent some plane-makers went in creating a work of art.

Just one glance should convince any tool collector that this fascinating book should be added to their library.

PATENTED TRANSITIONAL & METALLIC PLANES IN AMERICA - VOL. II by Roger K. Smith. 400 pages, cloth bound, sewn. Available from the author: signed if requested. Roger K. Smith, P.O. Box 177, Athol, MA 01331. \$85 + \$3 shipping (Canada add \$5, Overseas add \$10 - U.S. funds only). Mass. residents add 5% tax.

THE NECESSITY OF SELLING MY TOOL COLLECTION by Alexander Farnham

Unless a collector has unlimited space to store what has been accumulated, there comes a time when disposal of a great proportion must be considered. That time has come for me.

Recently I wanted to stretch a canvas in preparation for painting a picture but found that there was no floor space available to lay out the canvas. Though I have a large studio, it was difficult to have more than one extra person in it at a time and almost impossible to keep swept or tidy. For this reason I have decided to sell most of my collection of early tools, primitives, and antiques at auction. Among the tools to be sold will be a small number of New Jersey tools, those of which I have duplicates. Included in the sale will be many used by blacksmiths, carpenters, coopers, farmers, etc. There will be a number of planes, some of which are extremely rare. I will keep some of my favorite tools and the ones I use most frequently, but the rest will be sold.

Having started acquiring tools almost forty years ago, there will be hundreds sold during the auction to take place at 9 a.m. on Saturday, July 11, 1992 at my studio at 78 Tumble Falls Road, off Route 29 between Frenchtown and Stockton, New Jersey.

Antique Tool Tag Sale (for users and collectors)

At the *Red Parrot Shoppe*, 118 Main St.
Route 206, Andover, New Jersey
Saturday and Sunday, June 27 & 28, 9:00 to 4:00.
Interesting collectible and useable tools from a
Maine collection. Above average condition.
Priced to liquidate quickly. Many duplicates.
201 993-8374 home, Herb Kean

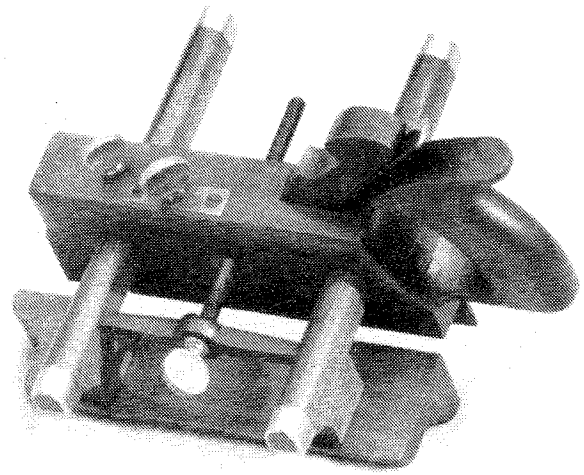
A New Jersey Plane Surfaces by Kenneth Hopfel

Auctions can be exciting events to attend, especially when tools are being put up on the block. I make a practice of checking the local newspapers for sales that might be auctioning off items of interest, circling those advertisements with anticipation. These sales, more often than not, have something for everyone and may even offer a rare artifact to the attendee. Several months ago I did see a local sale listed in the paper which advertised antique tools and made plans to attend. Arriving early at the inspection I began reviewing the lots, table after table, box after box. Finally, I approached the last table, which consisted of molding planes, two sash planes and several plow planes. A fast glance drew my attention to a plow with several unique characteristics. It was a three arm, self-regulating, toted plow. My excitement grew as I picked the plane up for closer inspection. Looking at the toe of the plane one could clearly read: *I.KING/NEWARK N.J.* Waiting for the sale to start and the plane to be put up for bids seemed to take forever. Finally the moment arrived. The bidding was active and strong but at the end I was able to bring this new addition home.



This plow plane was manufactured by John King in Newark, New Jersey. Referencing *A Guide To American Wooden Planes and Their Makers*, Emil and Martyl Pollock document that John King was listed in the Newark directories from 1835-1837 as a plane maker with no example of his work reported. The plane is basically made from beech wood. The cross bracket to support the machined threaded arm is made of cast iron and is secured into the two wood arms by screws. The tote is ingeniously attached to the body of the plane by two intricate cast iron embracements. Using the brass thumb screw, located just forward of the depth adjustment, one can lock the front arm from movement. This arm also has a steel strip inlaid into the top to prevent wear. The entire plane is extremely well made leaving one to wonder why no other examples have been found to date.

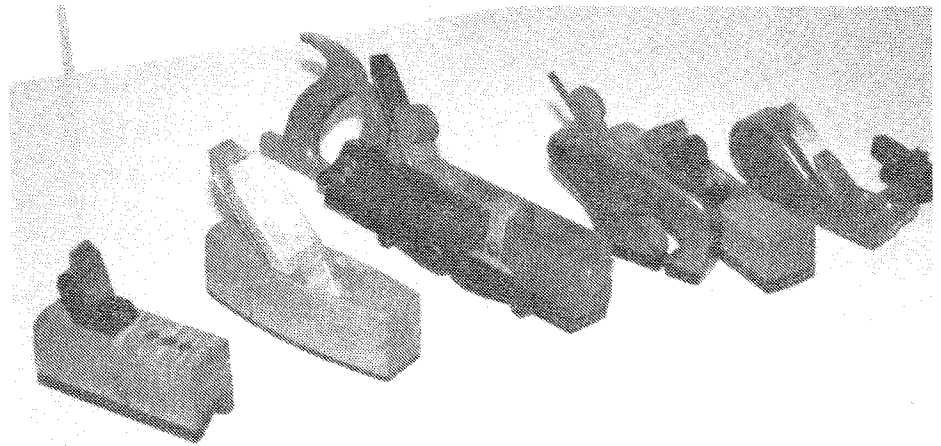
The three arm, self-regulating plow, by John King, is very similar in structure to the Mockridge & Francis and Andruss examples reported. Researching patents have failed to produce any documentation for this regulating feature other than Israel White's. Perhaps these plane makers incorporated a machinist's version attributed to the Israel White patent. It would be interesting to know how close these plane makers associated with each other and on what terms considering the similarities amongst many of their products.



The KING Plane

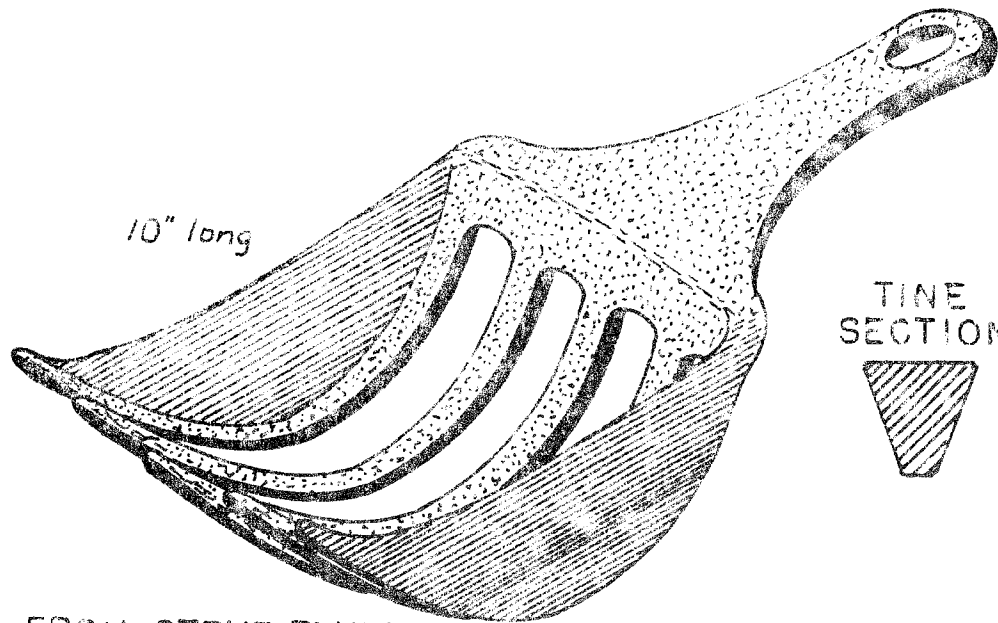
A Thomas Grant Surprise by Joe Hauck

On a bitter Saturday in March, I attended a sale with enough CRAFTS members on hand to hold a meeting. The sale was in Hopewell and the big turnout was in part due to the large number of tools advertised. Competition was tough but I did get a Thomas Grant complex molder, which suffered from a significant amount of gnawing by a mouse. When I cleaned the plane, which it badly needed, I was pleasantly surprised to discover that it was made of applewood. I happen to collect applewood planes and this is the earliest signed one I have come across. The plane is 10 1/4" long with flat chamfers and a large chamfer stop. The wedge is type B1 but is made of beech. The mark is *THO. GRANT*; no colon and no NEW YORK. I'd like to hear from anyone who has seen any other signed eighteenth century planes of apple.



Member-Made Planes Displayed at April CRAFTS Meeting

WILLY TELLUS WHATSIT



FROM STEVE ZLUKY

No. 8



by Peter Juschak © 1991

CRAFTS Calendar of Events

- June 7 - meeting at High Bridge
- June 13 - Auction, Flemington *Elks Club*
- July 31 - *TOOLSHED* deadline
- Sept. 13 - Crafts picnic



Hello, I'm *Joe Hammer*. I'll be sharing some of my cartoon adventures with you in upcoming **ToolShed** issues. I would enjoy hearing from you as to what you think of them; be totally honest. Thanks and see you in the funny papers.

Peter Yuschak, 122 New St.
Cranford, NJ 07016