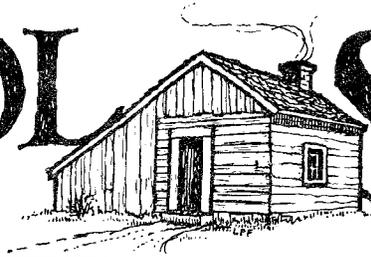


The TOOL SHED

Number 8



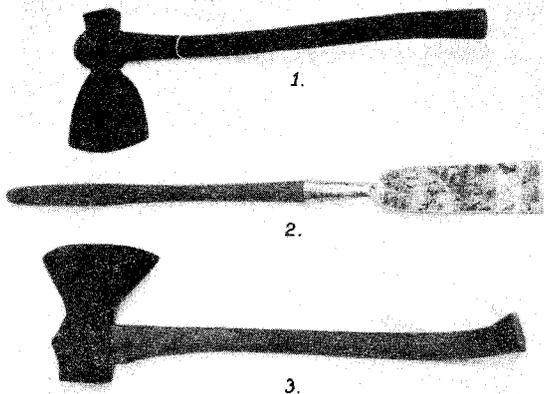
June 1979

• A Journal of Tool Collecting published by CRAFTS of New Jersey •

"CRAFTS" HOLDS AN AUCTION

by Alexander Farnham

Saturday, April 28, was the date and the Taylor Hose Co. in High Bridge was the place for the first CRAFTS tool auction. Four-hundred tools, many of museum quality, were listed in the catalog. The auction was extensively advertised throughout the east with ads being placed in several antiques publications, posters put up and flyers handed out as far away as Vermont. Despite this publicity the turnout for the auction was small. However, the prices paid were for the most part equal to those paid at other recent auctions and in some cases exceeded them. What consignors lost on some items, they made up on others.



1.) LEFT-HANDED CANADIAN KENT PATTERN BROAD AXE - WENT FOR \$25.
2.) 3" WIDE SLICK - AT \$17.50. 3.) BROAD AXE THAT WENT FOR \$30.

The first of two blacksmith leg vises brought \$37.50 and the second sold for \$32.50. Bowl adzes are fairly scarce, so one expects them to bring a good price. Two were sold in this auction: the first, rather primitive and very corroded, brought

LAST MEETING OF SEASON ON JUNE 10th

The last meeting of CRAFTS for the current year will be held on Sunday, June 10, from 2:00 to 5:00 p. m., at the Field Homestead, 260 River Road (Rte. #18) in Piscataway.

Bill Gustafson will preside over the afternoon's program, which will feature Fred Shippey speaking on and demonstrating "Spring-Marked Wooden Molding Planes." This is a fascinating area of plane lore that has escaped the attention of even many advanced collectors. Members are asked to bring their "spring-marked" and other wooden molding planes to the meeting.

Harry O'Neill will preside over the "Whatsit?" identification, and the meeting will conclude with the "Swap & Sell."

The first meeting of next season will be held on September 23.

GETTING PLASTERED

by C. Carroll Palmer

Some years ago I purchased an odd-looking "whatsit" that was eventually identified as a plasterer's tool. This led me to search out more about this interesting trade and its tools.

The best work on the subject that I have found is a book by William Millar, entitled Plastering: Plain and Decorative (New York, 1899). This work provides a great deal of valuable information and contains many pictures with appropriate descriptions.

Some typical plasterer's tools are shown in the accompanying illustration on page 3.



Collectors of Rare and Familiar Tools Society
of New Jersey

PRESIDENT _____ Stephen Zluky, Whitehouse
VICE PRESIDENT _____ Harry J. O'Neill, Annandale
SECRETARY _____ Robert Fridlington, Cranford
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Membership in CRAFTS is open to anyone interested in early trades and industries, and the identification, study, and preservation of tools and implements used and made in New Jersey. Annual dues are five dollars for the membership year of July 1 to June 30.

Membership fees may be sent to the Treasurer:

C. Carroll Palmer
725 Pemberton Avenue,
Plainfield, N.J. 07060

The Tool Shed

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N.J. 07016

Contributions, especially about New Jersey tools and
trades, are welcomed.

INFORMATION PLEASE

John Dempsey is compiling a resource bibliography to assist members of CRAFTS who are doing research on tools or trades. To be successful he needs the help and cooperation of the membership.

If you have any books, magazines, catalogs or other materials, either originals or reprints, that you would be willing either to lend or to provide information from, please write or phone:

Mr. John Dempsey
Box 403, R. D. 1
Glen Gardner, N. J. 08826
(201) 537-4376

Or better yet, bring your list to the June 10th meeting and give it to him personally.

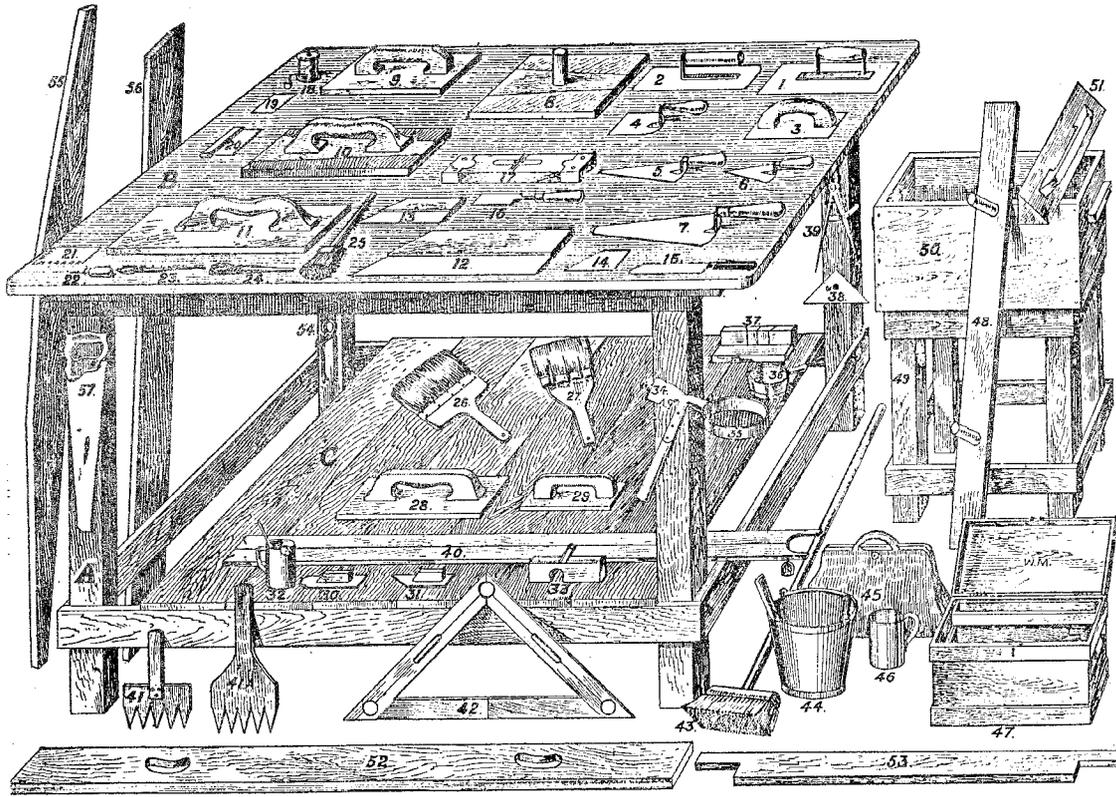
Cont'd from pg.1 - AUCTION

\$27.50; the second, in far better condition and with a nice upsweep to the blade, was well worth the \$37.50 paid for it. A goose-wing broad axe, with an eagle within a circle stamped into the blade, went for \$310. This axe was reputed to be of American manufacture, which is debatable. There was no question, however, as to the origin of the other goose wing sold. It definitely came off the boat. Because of its origin and a prominent repair, this axe brought only \$120. A fairly rare closed scorp sold for \$32.50, and an equally rare pump drill with brass wheel brought \$65. An even harder to find bow drill was sold for \$220.

Some other woodworking tools sold were a brass-plated Sheffield brace, the only one sold at the auction, which went for \$120 and a fine coachmaker's saw that went for \$190. Mortising axes ranged in price from \$20 to \$35. A left-handed, Canadian Kent-pattern broad axe, signed "J. Fowler, St. John's N. B.," brought \$25. The most expensive of four froes went for \$27.50. The price of horses seemed to be in a rut, since \$37.50 each was paid for a shaving horse and a stitching horse. As is true of most tool auctions, molding and bench planes were found in great number, and those made by Stanley accounted for the majority. Of the forty-one Stanley tools sold, twenty-three were planes. They ranged in price from \$5 for a #29 to \$65 for a #193 beveler plane. The highest price paid for a Stanley item was \$115 for a #87 ivory rule.

There was a great number of cooper's tools in the sale. A D. R. Barton Chamfer knife brought \$32.50, a beautiful cooper's inshave \$30, a sunplane \$55, a cooper's hand adze \$17.50, and a flagging iron \$30. The most expensive tool sold during the auction was a 6'-long cooper's jointer

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|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| A. The stand. | 22. Brad awl. | 42. Combined square, triangle and level. |
| B. Gauge board. | 23-24. Tool brushes. | 43. Broom. |
| C. The platform. | 25. Duster. | 44. Pail. |
| 1-2. Laying trowels. | 26-27. Stock brushes. | 45. Tool bag. |
| 3. Panel trowel. | 28. Hand float for cement. | 46. Water measure. |
| 4. Margin trowel. | 29. Panel float | 47. Tool box. |
| 5-6-7. Gauging trowels. | 30-31. Fining floats. | 48. Darby. |
| 8. Hawk. | 32. Water pot. | 49-50. Plaster box and stand. |
| 9-10. Hand floats. | 33. Plaster plane. | 51. Angle float. |
| 11. Skimming float. | 34. Lath hammer. | 52. Concrete rule. |
| 12-13-14. Joint rules. | 35. Sieve. | 53. Gauge rule. |
| 15. Molding knife. | 36. Gauge pot. | 54. Nippers (now obsolete), |
| 16. Plaster chisel. | 37. Miter box. | 55. Traversing rule. |
| 17. Level. | 38. Square. | 56. Feather edge rule. |
| 18. Chalk line and reel. | 39. Compass | 57. Saw (about 18" long). |
| 19-20-21. Drags. | 40. Plumb level and lead bob. | |
| | 41-41A. Scratches. | |

Plasterers generally cleaned their small tools by rubbing them with a piece of wood dipped into setting stuff or brick dust. At the end of the day the tools were cleaned and wiped dry. Some plasterers tempered their tools by holding them over a red-hot iron until dark blue, then dipping them in linseed oil.

The more industrious plasterers made their own small tools out of old files or fencing foils. A beautiful,

deep black polish was often given to small tools by boiling one part of sulphur in ten parts of oil of turpentine, which produces a brown, sulphurous oil. The tools were warmed and brushed over, as lightly as possible, with the hot solution. They were then heated over a spirit lamp or slow fire until the black polish was obtained. Tools treated in this manner were never scrubbed, but were only wiped clean and dry after using.

with a stand which went for \$370. A small 25 lb. anvil with an eagle on its side, manufactured by Fisher in Trenton, N. J., sold for \$85.

The one tool that most caught my fancy was a combination monkey wrench and bit brace with the patent date of January, 1875. This is the earliest patent date I have seen on one of these combination tools, and its simple construction would indicate that it was one of the first to be manufactured. With a bid of \$27.50 I added it to my collection.

Those who consigned tools received fair prices for them, those who came to buy went home satisfied, and the CRAFTS publication fund was greatly enriched from commissions on sales and from food sold during the auction. Many CRAFTS members worked to make this auction a success. Vice President Harry O'Neill, who devoted weeks to its preparation, and Herb Kean, who did most of the auctioneering, deserve a large share of the credit for a grand and memorable auction.

The EXCHANGE

10 CENTS PER WORD, INCLUDING NUMERALS AND ABBREVIATIONS. SEND ADS TO THE EDITOR.

TOOL SALE! Every now and then we hold a sale of about 150 to 200 good pieces. It is always on a Saturday, in Chatham, N. J. Next one is in June. To get on the call list, send name and address to Herb Kean, 14 Commerce Street, Chatham, N. J. 07928.

Wanted! DeWalt radial arm saw, Stanley no. 62 low-angle plane. Lew Cooper, R. D. 2, Box 573, Chester, N. J. 07930. (201) 879-5015.

CRAFTS ends the current year with a total of 96 (!) memberships, evenly split with 48 individuals and 48 husband-wife members. Let's make the 1979-80 year an even bigger success!

Mr. C. Carroll Palmer
725 Pemberton Avenue
Plainfield, N. J. 07060

The 1978-79 membership year ends on June 30. If you have not already sent in your dues for next year, send them (\$5.00) to:

COACHMAKER'S BRACE?

by Carl E. Bopp

Many collectors and dealers, both large and small, call any iron brace with a metal head a "coachmaker's brace." This practice can probably be traced to Frank H. Wildung's Woodworking Tools at Shelburne Museum, published in 1957.

Stating that the reason for changing the bit stock from wood to metal was for "increased strength," Wildung goes on to say that metal heads were used by coachmakers so that they would not be broken if stepped on. (p. 41)

The fact is that catalogs listing coachmaker's and wagonmaker's braces show them and describe them as having wood heads. Indeed, I do

not know of any catalog that lists a coachmaker's brace with a metal head. The metal-head braces are usually listed for smiths and other metal trades.

This difference of opinion should not reflect badly on the Shelburne book. It still has a lot of fine information in it. Moreover, I am sure that some coachmakers used iron braces with metal heads. But they should not be called "coachmaker's braces."

(This article is based on a talk given at an Early Trades and Crafts Society meeting by Arthur Steinberg, a New York brace collector.)