



Tutor's Tidings

TT

No 36 - Friday 16th October, 2015



LOOK WHO'S BACK on DECK !

Our keen committee man has been a bit crook recently but DAVE called at the workshop on Tuesday to say hello. It's great to see Dave looking fit and well again and know that he is keen to resume his place in the Tuesday woodturning team.

COURSES for the remainder of the year.

TUESDAYS: Last Tuesday was the final session for course number 8. Next week, **Tuesday, 20th October**, the team will begin course No 9.

At the end of that course there will be just ***FOUR TUESDAYS** that will make up the final Course which will take us to the end of the year - **finishing on 15th December.**

THURSDAYS: The next course for the Thursday team begins on **29th October** and runs for **EIGHT** (*not the usual ten) weeks up to the **final session for the year on Thursday 17th December.** – ***course fees will be adjusted accordingly.**

REMINDER NOTICE

The club's end-of-year function is scheduled for **SUNDAY 6th December**, 12.30pm at the **MOLLEKIN** residence. (opposite Tauwhare School)

Keep the date free for fun and festivities.

The History of the woodturning LATHE

Part TWO

The Bow Lathe

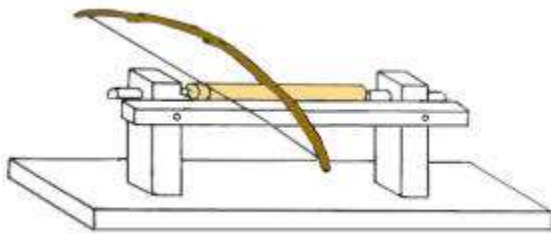


Fig 8: Schematic diagram of bow lathe

The bow lathe is very similar to the strap lathe but the motive power is supplied by a bow. The string of the bow is wrapped around the work piece and a reciprocating motion is created by moving the bow backwards and forwards. Whereas the strap lathe requires two people to work it the bow lathe requires only one. The drawback is that less power is available and the turner has only one hand with which to control the tool. In some cases the turner used his foot to help to steady the tool. Because of these deficiencies only small work is done on the bow lathe.



Fig 9: Turning on the bow lathe in 1283

Turning backgammon and chess pieces with a bow lathe.

From King Alonso X's *Book of games* of 1283



Fig 10: A Persian turner at work - late19th C.

Fig 10 on the left shows a Persian turner at work on a bow lathe as described by Holtzapffel: "In his lathe the centres are made to pass through the ends of an open box the edge of which serves as the support for the tool; they are raised or lowered to suit work of different diameters in a series of holes pieced in a vertical line. Small works are set in motion by the bow, both by the Persian and the Indian, for those of larger diameter, both use a cord pulled by an assistant

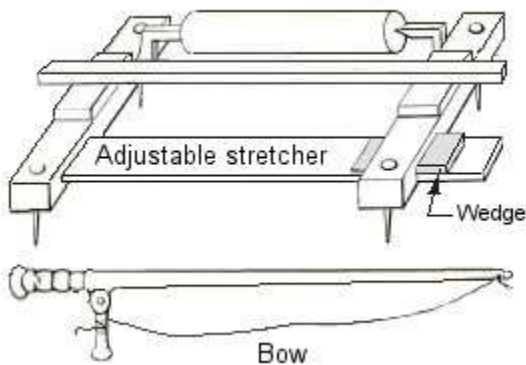


Fig 11: An Egyptian lathe - 1873

Fig 11 is based on a sketch made by Holtzapffel in a turner's shop in Cairo in 1873. Although this was crudely constructed it presented several improvements on the lathes of the Indian and the Persian turners shown above. It was more robust, self-contained, adjustable, and portable. Holtzapffel described the way it was used as follows: "The operator sits upon one heel, the toes of the foot going just under or upon the stretcher and he directs the tool, which he holds by a long handle, with the toes of the other foot . Occasionally and for heavy work, both feet are advanced, placed close together, and press on the tool on the bar by the big toes, the other toes closely pressed around the tool and on the bar; while the latter is always pushed forward by the feet . The bow

presented a peculiarity in the hinged piece near the handle, employed to regulate the tension in the string; the string is wrapped once or twice around the work, after which it is twisted around the jointed piece, which is then folded back and held in the hand with the handle."



Fig 12: An Egyptian boy at work - 1960's

There is evidence that a bow lathe very similar to that used by the ancient Egyptians was in use in the same area in the early 1960's. I have a book, which contains a photograph of an Egyptian boy working a bow lathe by himself: his right hand is working the bow, his left hand is manipulating the tool. It is not clear what he is making but whatever it is it is very small.

PROJECT Materials

I have sorted/categorized a wide range of project materials into 26 containers and found shelf space in our stores cupboard.

- Pens kits
- Salt and pepper mill parts
- Various parts for clocks
- Knives, salad servers hardware etc

All these items are for sale to members for absolute bargain prices. Please see me prior to making a visit to our store room to select any of the goodies.

Cheers, Clive



This week's gallery of goodies



IAN has been busy fitting handles to his tungsten-tipped, square-shafted tools.



JAMES achieved a great finish to his highly figured rimu wood bowl.



IAN's clock features contrasting plugs and a superb finish



GRANT has been busy too! Here are three of his completed projects. The contrasting colours of his rolling pin are a bit special.





Jarrah and Pewter

*This clock face has been exceptionally well crafted by **ROBERT**.*

The search is on for silver hands to finish an outstanding project.



***STEPHEN** is quite chuffed with his 2nd attempt at clock making, and now he is working on the next one.*

Skillful plug fitting is a special feature in his project.

***DOMINIC** keenly turns his hand to new turning ideas. This time it is pen making first with a swamp kauri blank then with acrylic.*

First attempts show there's probably more to come. Well done!



COLIN got enthused and highly motivated following a weekend's participation with Shane Hewitt at our workshop on last Saturday and Sunday.

Here are a few of Colin's responses to the valuable time he spent with Shane Hewitt.



CHRISTINE fashioned this fluted vase from a dry tree branch. Some bark was left attached to give it that "natural" look.

MANY THANKS

JAN, from the Tuesday group, has kindly given our cups, mugs etc another spring clean. Much appreciated Jan, for the extra effort you make to look after your turning buddies



This Week's Pictorial Roundup



STEPHEN



MURRAY



DOMINIC

The Pen
Maker



CHRISTINE



DYLAN



ROBERT



SPENCER



COLIN



ANDRE

Well that's it for this week.

- *Historical lathe information*
- *Acknowledgements*
- *Gallery of turnings completed this week*
- *Notices*
- *Reminders*
- *Pictorial roundup*
- *Information about upcoming courses*

That's quite a bit!

Any feedback would be welcome.

Cheers, Clive

TRADITION

As next week marks the end of the current course for the THURSDAY evening group, members are asked to bring a plate for a shared supper.

Go the ALL BLACKS