

September
1999

Nuusbrief van die Houtwerkvereniging van Pretoria



Tambotie

Newsletter of the Woodworking Association of Pretoria

What is Traditional?

There is a man, a Welshman named John Brown, a former fighter pilot, trained woodworker, writer and presently a well known maker of Welsh stick chairs. He is an acknowledged member of the old school who only uses hand tools. The noise and dust of machines are not his kettle of fish.

I recently read an article of his in which, amongst other remarks, he reflects on traditional woodworking. His view was quite interesting if not thought provoking.

He writes that the often used phrase, 'traditional woodworking' is a meaningless one. He then asks the questions: "What is traditional?, and traditional to when? To the carpenters of the great mediaeval cathedrals, Chippendale or Sheraton?" I quote some of his thoughts.

"It so happens, by the timing of technology, that all work of centuries gone by was done without power, there wasn't any. **Perhaps by traditional we do not mean the way a piece of furniture was made, but what it looks like.** Traditional certainly does not refer to the materials often used today. By no stretch of even the most pliable imagination can MDF be called traditional or even plywood. Modern glues which most of us use can determine our construction, so the moment you squeeze the polyurethane glue container, or mix the Cascemite,

you are not a traditional woodworker. We must all live in our time. This has nothing to do with whether you work with powered machines or handtools. If you use the finished article's appearance and construction as the criteria for 'traditional', the making of old or antique designs with machines still does not work

What is John saying? That if you use machines and PVA glue to make a piece of

furniture it cannot be called traditional? Or is he referring to how a piece of furniture is made? Me thinks a woodworker, claiming to be a traditional woodworker, will use the methods, tools and materials traditionally used in that period from whence the furniture originates.

A furniture maker who uses machines and modern materials can also produce traditional pieces or copies thereof, and call it traditional, but he cannot claim to be a traditional woodworker.

Maybe we should be more precise in describing a piece of furniture ie. a copy of a traditional Sheraton chair.

All very confusing, but thought provoking!

My buurman se seun, van wie ek verelede maand melding gemaak het, het toe sy biljard-kierie klaar gemaak. Dis werklik 'n puik stukkie handewerk en ek haal my hoed vir die jongman af. As mens die kierie op 'n tafel sit en dit rol dan is daar so 'n 1mm vertikale speling by die punt. Om hierdie mate van akkuraatheid oor 'n lengte van 1500mm te behaal is indrukwekkend veral as die kierie nog van 30mm tot 8mm afplat en dit alles met die hand gedoen is (vyle en skuurpapier). By die agterkant van die greep is daar 'n 40mm plat vlak waarin hy 'n miniatuur familiewapen ingelaat het. Hy is al R 3 000 aangebied vir die kierie. Soos die ou mense geseg het: "Waar daar 'n wil is, is daar 'n weg".

Tradition: convention, custom, established practice, fixed, folk, historic, long-established, old, time-honoured

-Collins Thesaurus

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Turners Corner

AWSA Conference

The 4th National Woodturning Conference commences Friday evening, 24 September 1999 with the AGM and dinner.

The public is invited to attend the programme on Saturday, 25 September. There will be various practical demonstrations as well as a display of members work. Entrance fees are:

- Adults: R 25,00
- Pensioners and children under 16: R 15,00

The venue is **Printing Industries Federation College, Printech Avenue, Laser Park, Honeydew.**

From Pretoria take the Krugersdorp highway (R 28). Take the DF Malan Drive offramp and head towards Johannesburg. Turn right at **Juice street** (just before Ferreira's Building Supplies) and right again in **Printech Avenue**. Cross **Zeiss Avenue**. The College is on the left.

Pretoria Draaiersgroep (Verslag deur Jack Munling)

This month twelve of us got together at At Smit's workshop to show off our second effort at turning natural edge bowls. Again our visitor from Pietersburg attended as well as three new turners: Gerrit Gelderman, Nick Noeth and Dawid Malan. They were most welcome and we hope they will be inspired to become outstanding craftsmen at the lathe. Practise and persevere!!

Te oordeel aan die aantal basbakke wat gedraai is, was die manne baie bedrywig die afgelope paar weke en was daar beslis 'n verbetering in die gehalte werk te sien. Probleemareas was egter nog ontwerp, die draai van dunner wande en afwerking. My ondervinding is dat hierdie kundigheid slegs met oefening en ondervinding verbeter, maar miskien is dit 'n gebied wat by toekomstige geleenthede aangeroei kan word. My eie poging was onbevredigend tov ontwerp. Snaaks hoe 'n ding redelik kan vertoon terwyl

dit nog op die draaibank is, maar as dit afkom is die tekortkominge dadelik opmerkbaar.

Een van ons draaiers het ons almal verstom deur te sê dat hy selfs 'n bytel gebreek het met sy draai poging. Niemand het voorheen van so 'n geval gehoor nie en ons was van mening dat daar 'n defek in die staal moes gewees het. Ongelukkig het hy nie die guts saamgebring dat ons dit kon ondersoek nie.

One of the main purposes of the evening was to give members hands-on practise in turning a natural edge. At demonstrated how the piece of rough wood could be mounted with a type of screw chuck he had made. It resembles a pin-chuck with a ±15mm diameter thread which was screwed into a previously drilled hole. Most of us don't possess that kind of facility so he also demonstrated alternative methods using a faceplate and expanding chuck. Several members tried their hand at turning an asymmetrical block of wood and some of the fear for turning in such situations was probably allayed.

'n Mens leer mos deur foute wat waardevolle ervaring kan lewer veral as daar nie beserings is nie. Ons het so 'n "les" geleer toe 'n stuk hout van die draaibank afgevlieg het terwyl die draaiers besig was om dit uit te hol. Inspeksie van die skade, 'n bietjie besinning en onderlinge bespreking het ons tot die slotsom laat kom dat die sponning vir die uitsetklou (recess for the expanding chuck) 'n bietjie te vlak was en dat daar te hard en rof met die guts gewerk is. Verder was die hout ook redelik sag (droeë Jakaranda) en dit alles het getoon dat daar 'n verwantskap is tussen die manier waarop die hout geklem word en die druk waarmee die beitels gebruik word. Verder het dit ook weer die waarheid van die slagspreuk beklemtoon: "te goed bekend maak onbemind". Ons werk met gereedskap wat gevaarlik kan wees.

The next meeting will again be at At's place on 15 September by which time we will have tried our hand at turning a finial ring box from end grain. Roger will provide the photocopied guidelines.

AWSA: Saturday Programme

Saturday	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4
0900-1030	Thys Carstens Split Turning	Grant Marshall Design	Andrew Riley Decorative Finishes	Elwyn Lambourne Segmented Turning
1100-1230	Lynton Dennil Goblet	Bowl Turning Finishing ↓ Marcus Kruger Lace Bobbins	Eddie Pratt Carving Turned Work	Machine & Tool Forum: Chairman Peter Middleton Toolmaking, Silver soldering, Lathe problems etc
1330-1500	Marcus Kruger ¼ Turning	John Mills Pepper Mills	John Speedy Hollow Turning	Wally Rossini Hollow Vase
1530-1700	Bruce McPhail Introduction to Ornamental Turning	Schalk v Niekerk Platter	Harry Hughes Lace Bobbins ↓ Bob Mes Pierced Decoration of Turned Work	↓

Nuwe Lede

'n Hartlike welkom aan die volgende nuwe lede. Ons vertrou dat julle sommer gou by ons aktiwiteite sal inskakel.

Luncinda en **At Fourie** van Naboomspruit. Albei stel belang in draaiwerk terwyl At ook nog algemene houtwerk doen.

Frik du Raan, ook van Naboomspruit. Hy doen algemene houtwerk en draai ook.

David Malan is van Sinoville en sy belangstelling is, raai raai, draaiwerk.

(At en Roger, neem kennis vir die draaiersgroep).

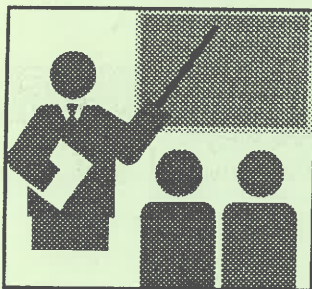
Training

From time to time I receive inquiries as to woodworking courses mainly from individuals who want to try their hand at woodworking or turning.

Unfortunately I have to inform them that, as far as informal woodworking or cabinetmaking courses are concerned, there is a great void in South Africa.

I was therefore excited when, in the August issue of *Traditional Woodworking*, I noticed that they intend publishing a major series, called *Masterclass*, by master craftsman Jim Kingshott.

Jim is a highly qualified professional worker of wood with more than 55 years experience.



His apprenticeships include carpentry, joinery and furniture making. He ran his own business for 20 years. Before retiring he was employed by The Royal Aircraft Establishment as Apprentice Master - training woodworking apprentices. He did this for 18 years.

The syllabus he used for this training will form the basis for his articles. They will also include various practical phases to enable readers to assess their progress.

This should be an informative series and one that should be good training for beginners and, I should think, more experienced woodworkers as well.

At R44.50 per month, this is good value for money.

Next Meeting

The date is **29 September** and the venue **Eldoraigne High School**. Two very interesting subjects have been arranged. **Carel Louw** will be talking on, and maybe demonstrating, **steam bending**.

Twee plaaslike dames, ongelukkig het ek nie hulle name nie, gaan ons meer vertel van **loodglaswerk** en die gebruik daarvan in houtwerkprojekte.

Oom Winter is in sy finale stuiptrekkings dus behoort die koue geen verskoning te wees om weg te bly nie. Hoop ons sien julle daar.

Annual Fun Day

Just like the millenium, our annual exhibition (13 Nov 99) or Fun Day as the Chairman likes to call it, is rapidly drawing closer. The chairman is full of expectation that your exhibition pieces are nearing completion. As in the past members are requested to bring along examples of their work to give the exhibition more body. These pieces do not have to be judged.

The committee will also be calling on members to assist with the sale of tickets and various other tasks during the day. Your support in this regard will be much appreciated.

Vorige Vergadering

As Ma verjaar moet man maar liever by die huis bly as hy nog hierdie eeu wil uitsien. Dus kon ek nie die vorige byeenkoms bywoon nie, maar ek het verneem dat daar 'n goeie opkoms was ten spyte van die vertraging in die aflewering van Tambotie.

So ook het ek verneem dat die demonstrasies baie belangstelling uitgelok het. Kobus de Wijn het op sy kenmerkende manier gewys waartoe die Woodrat instaat is en ek sal nie verbaas wees as daar van die lede is wat binnekort vir hulle een gaan aanskaf nie.

However, should any of our members know of such courses presented locally, please let me have te particulars.

Maatplank / Rod / Story Pole !!

Die term 'maatplank' (eie vertaling) is beskrywend van die funksie daarvan - 'n plank waarop verskillende mates op aangebring word en wat vir die uitmerk van meubelkomponente gebruik word.

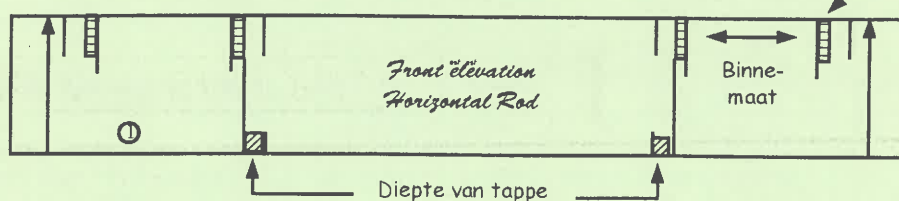
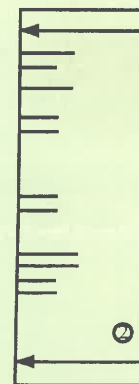
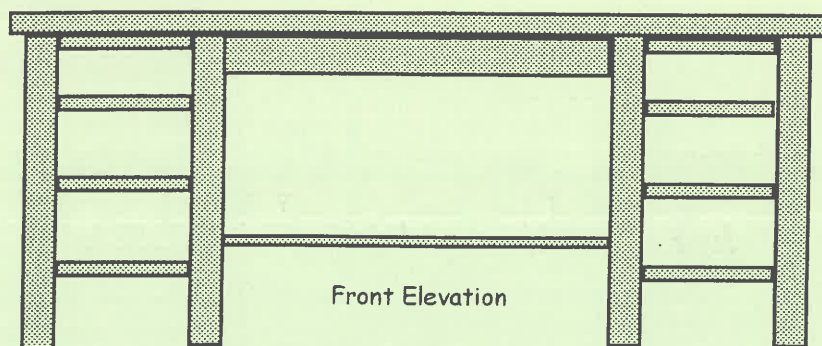
Dit is 'n baie ou tegniek en hulpmiddel wat vandag steeds deur baie houtwerkers gebruik word.

When a client commissioned a piece of furniture the craftsman was given a brief - a document stating dimensions, design considerations etc. From this a number of rough design drawings would be made and discussed with the client. Once agreed on, final scale drawings are made.

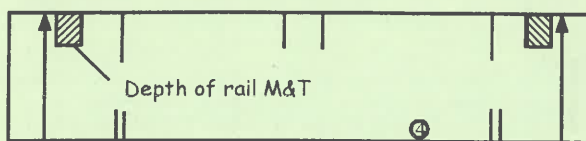
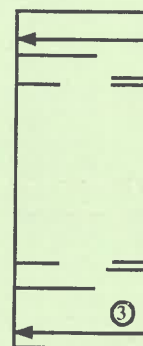
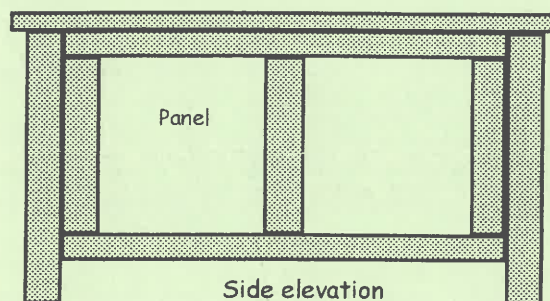
Die vakman verantwoordelik vir die maak van die meubelstuk sal dan gewoonlik 'n werkstekening van die planne optrek wat die afmetings van alle komponente, insluitend voë, rondings, profiele ens bevat.

Dis nou van hierdie werkstekeninge dat die maatplank(e) voltooi word. Alle afmetings word akkuraat daarop gemerk. Een sy van die plank (gewoonlik 30x30mm en van voldoende lengte) word vir horisontale en 'n ander sy vir vertikale afmetings gebruik. Orige sye kan oa gebruik word om interne mates soos posisie en afmeting van laaispore ens op te merk.

Die hoof voordele verbonde aan die gebruik van maatplanke is dat jy net een keer hoef uit



Inlaat vir laai reelings



te merk (die maatband en liniaal word min hierna gebruik) en tweedens is dit 'n baie goeie nagaan hulpmiddel deur dit teen die raamwerk te hou om te sien of alles op sy plek is.

Each craftsman developed his own system for marking out the rod eg the length and width of M&T joints can be marked in

a different colour or using abbreviations. From the above diagrams you will note that outer dimensions are marked with arrows, and certain dimensions have longer lines. The opposite side can also be used to mark the dimensions of joints, position of knobs, hinges etc. Name and number the various rods. Joint dimensions

can be hatched. The rod is used on edge and dimensions are taken directly from it.

One should remember that the craftsmen knew what they were doing and how it should be done. They therefore would not need all the dimensions that I, for example, would require.

Once the rod has

been marked out it can be used to draw up the cutting list as the overall length of components, including the joints, are now known.

Yes, it takes some experimenting and playing around with before you get the hang of it. But once there, it really is a pleasure to use, and also very accurate.