



Irish Woodturners Guild

Dublin Chapter Newsletter

Vol.7 No.5

Aug/Sept 2000

Time once again to get down to keeping our members informed of happenings in the Chapter. Many of us will have done little or no turning during those lazy hazy days of summer but we won't have that excuse much longer. And shortly the National Seminar in Jordanstown will stimulate quite a few of us to try our hands at something different or acquire some more "essential" tools! About 275 persons are booked into the seminar including demonstrators, and there are no more places available. The Guild secretary told me last week that the candlestick project had reached about 1700 at mid-August and it was hoped to achieve at least 2000 by the start of the seminar. For your edification this month we have the usual demo reports, courtesy of Michael Forde, a few book reviews and a reprint of the competition rules and their application in practice which may be unknown to some of the newer members.

Contributions have slowed up again, blame it on the summer? However if you have anything even remotely related to timber or trees or such, send it in. Can't offer you a fee or reward, the treasurer won't allow it! Ciao. Slan Hasta Bye.

————Chris Hayes

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Next Competitions

to be announced

Next Demonstrations

October -Tom McDonagh--fruit
November-Geoff Cronin --lidded box

Committee

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The July Demonstration



Chucking Methods by Herve de Wergefosse.

In his introduction Herve outlined areas where reverse turning is generally required, such as bowls, platters, vessels or similar, which are often turned wet. Since stresses being relieved as they dry often result in cracks, his message was, "when remounting or rechucking such items take extra care". He also told us that from some research he has done, clean-bottomed items were now the desired finish- no chucking recess visible, for example- and this often required re-chucking. He began by demonstrating how to achieve a well-finished base on a candleholder, which doubled as a wine bottle holder. The work was completed while held by compression on a spigot, which was then partially removed by parting tool. Holding against a sanding disc mounted in a Jacobs chuck driven by the lathe and finally polished and sanded the bottom.

Next we were shown how to clean up bowl bases by holding the bowl with the tailstock against an MDF. disc held by chuck or faceplate. Here care is necessary to ensure bottom is not pushed in by the tailstock. A wad of sponge on a dome supporting the bowl on the inside (instead of MDF.disc) is necessary for this treatment for natural or waney edge bowls. Indeed this method of support can be used for any bowl. When cleaning up or removing the spigot use the smallest gouge possible, removing the last piece with a chisel when out on the bench. Finish the base sanding and polishing via the Jacobs chuck as described above. When tailstock use is not possible; bowls can be secured to a disc via tapered rubber bungs such as walking stick tips (with an insert) and fasteners, which are adjusted to grip the rim outside, or inside centrally on the disc while the base is worked on. The method outlined in the June 2000 Demo (see the June-July 2000 Newsletter) was

also discussed. It was emphasised that slow speeds are desirable for all these methods. The Axminster nylon soft top jaws were displayed and their uses were discussed and explained, and it was the opinion of one user that their versatility offered a wide range of chucking and rechucking operations, difficult to match in ideal situations. Finally our demonstrator securely anchored a bowl on to a faceplate with bungee rubber bands while the base was cleaned up.

Thanks Herve for a wide ranging, well researched and well explained demonstration. Your audience can have no excuse for not having clean, well-finished bases on their work regardless of the amount or lack of equipment available.
M.Forde.

Dublin Chapter Competition Rules



- (1) **It is a condition of entry that all entrants accept the rules and conditions.**
- (2) The ruling of the Competitions Secretary is final and binding.
- (3) The competition is run at the monthly meetings with monthly winners in each category and annual winners announced at the AGM.
- (4) The specification for the competition item will be announced in advance and must be strictly adhered to.
- (5) Entries will be accepted only up to the start of each meeting
- (6) Competition items must not have been entered in a previous DCIWG monthly competition and must not have the name of the maker visible.
- 7) **Judging:** Three judges will be selected at each meeting and marks will generally be awarded for Form, Finish and Function. Judging will take place in three categories - Beginners, Experienced and Advanced~
- 8) **Marks:** Every entrant will receive five (5) points—

(continued on next page)

(Competition marking-continued from page 2)

Additional marks will be awarded in each category as follows:

1st -additional 10 marks: 2nd - additional 8 marks: 3rd -additional 6 marks: 4th - additional 4 marks: 5th - additional 2 marks: 6th - additional 1 mark.

The turner of the year will be determined from the accumulation of the best ten results of each entrant during the year.

(9) **Promotions:** Beginners are promoted to the experienced category following two wins or one win and two seconds. Note please that a beginner being promoted will carry 80% of his/hers marks forward. Promotion of beginners will take place as soon as the criteria are fulfilled. Experienced are promoted to the Advanced category following three wins or two wins and three seconds.

Promotions to Advanced will take place at the end of the year and be announced at the AGM in February.

(10) **Prizes:** The winner of the Beginners category each month will receive a certificate. No monthly prizes will be awarded to the Experienced or Advanced categories.

Annual turner of the year Prizes:

Advanced- Tom Newman Trophy + £100.

Experienced -Perpetual trophy + £50.

Beginners -Perpetual trophy + £25

The first, second and third in each section will receive certificates.



The August Demonstration,

Turning Lamps by Irene Christie.

A bit of history was made in the Dublin Chapter in August 2000, as Irene was the first lady demonstrator at its monthly meetings. She was of course no stranger to us present, as she is a very popular and hardworking member of the committee. For the demo she concentrated on making lamps from branches, a number of which she brought along. These were used firstly to demonstrate how to exploit the natural shapes, defects, knots and blemishes of each piece to bring out the beauty of the wood. We were artistically shown ways how to achieve this and how plain timbers, such as sycamore and chestnut were generally better with flowing shapes, while timbers with prominent grain, such as yew, would benefit from curves and abrupt changes in section, - so the message- design the shape to enhance the beauty of whatever piece of timber been used. This was a very informative introduction to the demo. and showed how eye-catching the results can be from just any branch approx. five inches in dia. and approx. twelve inches long.

Irene then proceeded to produce a lamp. A branch was mounted between centres driven by a ring centre at 900 rpm. The outside was shaped, some bark was left in position, even if it comes away later as it sometimes will, the texture and effect will be different and this may improve the features. Both ends were squared and shaped, the top shaped to suit the lamp design, sanding and polishing carried out. Boring for the electric cable was carried out with a shell auger through a hollow tail stock - wax lubricated hollow ring drive. She advised 1" advance without too much force and then withdraw for waste removal, drill up two thirds of length approx. then reverse and drill until holes meet. A 5/16 hole was then drilled near the base for the cable exit at the side. 2 metres of cable is recommended. A counterboring tool was used to cut a countersink recess for a brass fixing plate to which the brass lamp holder is secured. After cable is fitted and secured the base is covered with green baize. This was a most entertaining, informative and well delivered demonstration. Congratulations Irene and many thanks.

M.Forde.

Workshop schedule

Note: to join any of these contact the host directly.

- > Tuesday 5th Sept. with Des McMahon
- > Tel. 01-285 2947

- > Thursday 14th Sept. with Francis Morrin
- > Tel. 01-8257654; subject-home made McNaughton system for turning nest of bowls from one blank.

- > Tuesday Oct. 10th with Tom McDonagh
- > Tel. 01-2886351

- > Friday Oct. 20th with Seamus Carter
- > Tel. 01-2850087

Book reviews



**Sharpening-The complete guide, by Jim King
shott**
Published by Guild of Master Craftsman Pubs
at £18.95 sterling

With experience all woodworkers understand the need for sharp tools and soon learn to do it, sometimes inexpertly but at least they try or give up woodworking altogether.

This guide to sharpening covers most tools requiring regular attention including turning tools of course, but also extends to items as diverse as carving gouges and Japanese saws. Some excellent photos and drawings help to clarify the text. Some of the contents may raise an eyebrow or two; e.g. "bradawls with round blades that come to a point are used for leatherwork and have no place in woodworking" That's news to me!

Despite little oddities like that it's still an excellent reference book and would be a useful addition to one's bookshelf. —————Chris Hayes

Hand or Simple Turning

Principles and Practice

John Jacob Holtzapffel

ISBN 0- 486-26428-9

592PP Paperbound \$17.95

One does not have to have done much research into the history of woodturning before coming across the name of Holtzapffel. Famed for their ornamental treadle lathes (which today sell for 5 figure sums) and a 5 volume work on woodturning, the ideas this father and son company first published in 1881 are as current now as then. This volume, number 4 in the series, had long been out of print and has been much sought after for many years.

The book starts out with a history of woodturning from its earliest known origins to the present day.

This history is the best I have read anywhere to date. Clear drawings show primitive lathes from around the world, some of which will be familiar to members who remember the Mexican turner in Monaghan some years back. Instructions and helpful tips for turning on pole and treadle lathes form another chapter including directions for stance and tool use to combat fatigue.

After dealing with the machines themselves, Holtzapffel turns (!) to the tools required and gives a description (including angles etc.) on each. Directions on tool use follow, still the same today as then. Holtzapffel also discusses tools used for softwood vs. hardwood vs. ivory and also the selection and seasoning of these materials. There is also a chapter on methods of holding and driving work where you can discover how scroll and other chucks work. The section dealing with cutting threads using chasers is very useful, indeed I recently viewed the Robert Sorby video which accompanies their chasing tools and the directions are exactly the same in each.

The last third of the book is filled with projects for the budding turner. Many plates give an extensive array of profiles for objects from vases (read hollow forms) to candlesticks – and yes, he does use a metal insert! Ideas for turned handles for the sides of vases are also given along with complete instructions for turning billiard balls (or perfect spheres). Holtzapffel then moves on to something that I regard as a bit of a Holy Grail for woodturners – the Chinese ball. Again, clear drawings for making your own tools and turning the balls are given along with instructions for the marking out and turning. Further instructions for turning polyhedral forms inside hollow spheres and Singapore balls will fulfil even the most skilled and adventurous of turners.

The book comes to a close with a chapter on dyeing, staining and darkening woods and ivory and a complete index of the book. This is a book that will tell you just about everything you ever wanted to know about woodturning and is all the more amazing considering its age. Due to this age, the language was a little unusual to my unpractised eyes (I could never like Jane Austen!) but was certainly no impediment to understanding the authors meaning. The title "Hand or Simple Turning" belies the true nature of this excellent book that should be mandatory reading for all woodturners. I am enjoying reading it the book now because I don't expect to see it again for a long time when it enters the library—

Francis Morrin

Fancy a five day intensive course on sculpturing and carving ancient bog wood? If you're interested the venue is Oughterard in Co. Galway, the instructor is a Dutch artist called Pieter Koning now living in Ireland, the cost is about £200 for the course plus £20 for B and B per day(approx) if you want it. For more details call Kathleen on 091-523871 or Email > john_g_osullivan@yahoo.com<

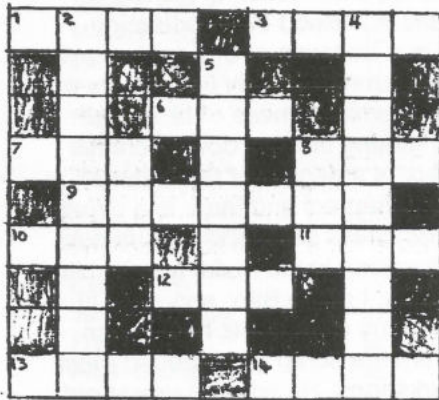
Here's something new in our newsletter, courtesy of Cecil Barron, *Answers on back page*

Across

- 1. You can't eat this piece of wood
- 3. Corpse
- 6. Short salesman
- 7. Baby drink
- 8. Moist
- 9. A lathe fit for a king
- 10. Together with tonic will give you a lift
- 11. Rotten
- 12. Strange
- 13. Stick together
- 14. Domestic feline

Down

- 2. Fit to kill
- 4. Peaceful birdends to fit together
- 5. Disc, lathes
- 8. Spider's home



The interview

This month I went to see a professional woodworker, Tom Gibson, who lives on the Northside. I wondered how anyone who sees and handles wood all day long could face another bout of it, albeit at the lathe
Tom: Believe me or not but I find turning very relaxing after the bread and butter thing. I also find golf and fishing relaxing. However the surprise element in turning never fails to interest me, when I can take an ordinary lump of firewood and change it into a thing of beauty. Its art after a fashion, nothing less.
 My father was a cabinetmaker and I naturally followed him into the trade serving an apprenticeship in the traditional way. It was a 7year slog including Bolton St, followed by a journeyman stint helping other young tradesmen to better their skills. When the demand for traditional cabinetmakers' skills declined I went into the joinery business and then finished up with Dublin Corporation on the maintenance side. A few years ago I actually retired but found inactivity killing me and went back to work, this time as self-employed. It's great! Why didn't I try turning earlier? Perhaps because I was too absorbed in the daily round and maybe my eyes weren't opened. But after watching Mick Healy demonstrate in St. Anne's park I had to find out more. Now I have two lathes, a Myford ML8 bought through the Buy and Sell and a modified Colchester engineering machine. That beast has a 2hp motor, a 14" faceplate, and a 9" self-centering chuck and only cost £200, second-hand of course.
 What do I think of the Chapter? I used to enjoy the meetings much more in the past, now it's too crowded for comfort, and likely to worsen in the future. I am amazed at the standard being achieved by self-styled beginners when they first join our group. Perhaps there should be a form of vetting to properly grade according to ability. The social side is a disappointment to me and many others too, I suspect. One way to help correct that would be to combine the AGM with a social evening somewhere congenial. Might get more interest shown than was demonstrated for the Red Cow. I have some ideas too about different subjects for the very popular demos but these are not sufficiently developed yet.

Ed. Thanks Tom for talking to us and I feel sure the members will remember your suggestions.

The Elm bark Beetle saga

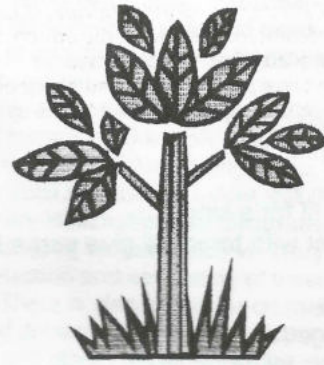
Scolytus colytus likes elms and long hot summers. The elm bark beetle, as it also called, lays it's eggs beneath the elm bark and no one would object particularly were it not for the fact that the beetle carries with it spores of a lethal fungus called *Ophiostoma novo-ulmi*. As the fungus thrives and propagates the tree becomes a victim of Dutch elm disease. No one knows exactly where the disease began. It is assumed to have existed unobtrusively in some oriental habitat, the spread of the fungus controlled by natural enemies indigenous to that region. However, when it was introduced inadvertently to Europe in the second decade of this century, becoming established and acquiring its name in the Netherlands around 1917, Dutch elm disease began a lethal march that has plagued palatial avenues and rural groves in the intervening years. The disease reached Britain in 1927 carried by infected logs and migrated to the US a few years later. Then it more or less died out, until a new and more virulent strain appeared the 1960's, causing a destructive epidemic that many readers will remember. Within a few years, all over southern England, elm trees that had stood for centuries were wilting, losing their leaves, and showing signs of great distress.

(Continued on next page)

(Dutch Elm disease-continued from page 5)

Here in Ireland, the damage was more patchy but serious nonetheless.

That particular episode peaked in England after the long hot summer drought of 1976. During any long drought many trees become weakened and vulnerable to enemies. But such conditions also favour the lifestyle of *Scolytus scolytus*, which like all cold blooded organisms is very sensitive



to warmth and is capable of flight only when the temperature is above fifteen or sixteen degrees Celsius

Warm weather therefore, particularly in May and June when the beetle lays its eggs, allows it to venture far afield and deposit its infection in many different places.

Some 25 million elms out of a total population of 30 million succumbed to the disease in Britain in that first major epidemic. Less tropical summers and other factors in the following years slowed the progress of the plague and it faded from public consciousness- but it never disappeared completely; reservoirs survived in isolated pockets of elms, both beetle and fungus waiting until the next generation of elm trees grew large enough for them to breed in. First hints of a return to destructive viability came in the early 1990's and the resurgence was greatly helped by the hot summer of 1995. Since then 90% of young elms around London have fallen victim to the deadly fungus.

(Source- Irish Times, Brendan McWilliams)

Book Review.

Bill Jones' Notes from the Turning Shop-

Bill Jones, having spent most of his working life as a basic job lot turner, mainly in hard wood and ivory, turned to ornamental turning when, as he put it, his ivory collar stud business was on a very solid foundation --the rocks! Following contact with the Society of Ornamental Turners he was inspired by masters of the finer forms of turning to enhance his lifelong interest in

practical work by applying his skills in the more challenging and remunerative ornamental work such as high quality chess sets.

Bill's Notes are a collection of his regular contributions published in Woodturning magazine and because of this each chapter contains a mixture of handy tips, pearls of wisdom and reminiscences of historical aspects of turning handed down from his father. There is a degree of repetition in some of the chapters and there is a strong bias towards chess set piece manufacture and thread cutting in the make up of multi-section pieces. I share Bills' approach in making as many of the tools he uses as possible from the scrap lying around most turners workshops. He advises use of old files for special shape cutting tools, as I do myself.

However this practice is frowned upon by many because of the high risk of fracture of the brittle material and the havoc old files play on the toolrest if the teeth have not been removed. The book gives plenty of good advice for novice and experienced alike with an abundance of practical tips. Having undertaken to review the book, I read all of the chapters in their entirety but found some of the passages difficult to follow because of lack of detail in some of the descriptions or an assumption by the author that the reader is already familiar with the subject.

(Continued on next page)

(Bill Jones notes- cont'd from page 6)

One piece of advice was a quotation concerning gripping of tools and was of particular interest to me - "Hold it as you would a bird, not so as to crush it, yet not in any event to allow it to escape". He was, of course, referring to our feathered friends but the advice could equally be applied to other applications! .

Overall the book was an enjoyable read giving an insight into the difficulties experienced by the earlier turners who would appear to take a peculiar delight in doing things the hard way like making hidden screwed

joints ---but then they did not have access to superglue in those days.

I have now decided that ornamental turning with its complicated jig arrangements is for the specialist who takes more delight in wrestling with strings and wheels than in the simple satisfaction given by large volumes of wet timber shavings flying allover the workshop.

Recommended reading for those considering making a chess set and have access to a couple of elephant tusks. For others, a good read. I recommend that the complex bits be skipped and pick out the good practical advice scattered throughout. -----Eddie O'Reilly

DCIWG Results 2000

	Score	March	April	May	June	July	August	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Oct</u>
Advanced									
Des McMahon	75	6	15	13	15	15	11		
Eddie O'Reilly	41	5	11	11	7	7	0		
Phil Kerr	36	5	13	6	6	0	6		
Michael McGee	35	0	0	0	13	13	9		
Tim McGill	34	5	9	0	5	0	15		
Albert Sloane	29	9	0	0	9	11	0		
Henry East	28	13	0	15	0	0	0		
Peadar McArdle	26	5	7	9	5	0	0		
Seamus Carter	26	5	0	5	0	9	7		
Michael Ford	15	15	0	0	0	0	0		
Peter Mulvaney	13	0	0	0	0	0	13		
Paddy Doyle	12	5	0	7	0	0	0		
Hugh Flynn	11	5	6	0	0	0	0		
Adrain Finlay	11	0	0	0	11	0	0		
Mick Deegan	7	7	0	0	0	0	0		

Experienced

Cecil Barron	74	13	15	15	9	13	9	9	
James Gallagher	67	0	0	24	15	15	13		
Frank Foley	50	15	0	0	13	11	11		
Albert Dooley	48					33	15		
Donal Brown	37						37		
James Nolan	34	5	13	11	5	0	0		
Richard Sheridan	31	5	0	13	6	7	0		
Pacelli O'Rourke	29	6	0	9	5	9	0		
Jim Molloy	12	5	0	7	0	0	0		
Carl Foley	12	0	0	0	12	0	0		
Geoff Cronin	11	11	0	0	0	0	0		
John Wigham	11	0	0	0	11	0	0		
Tom McCourt	9	9	0	0	0	0	0		
Gay McGrane	7	7	0	0	0	0	0		
Chris Hayes	7	0	0	0	7	0	0		
Frank Gallagher	5	5	0	0	0	0	0		
Sean Dunne	5	0	0	0	5	0	0		

Beginners

Fran Lavelle	43	7	0	9	5	13	9		
Tom Gibson	41	9	6	6	5	9	6		
John Holmes	39	13	0	0	5	6	15		
Billy Kelleghan	33	0	0	13	9	0	11		
Niall Cahill	16	0	11	5	0	0	0		
Stephen Kestell	14	0	9	0	5	0	0		
Martin Fitzpatrick	14	0	7	0	7	0	0		
Brian Wall	11	11	0	0	0	0	0		
Seamus Dunne	11	0	0	11	0	0	0		
Irene Christy	11	0	0	5	6	0	0		
Tom Mc Keon	11	0	0	0	0	11	0		
David Byrne	7	0	0	0	0	7	0		
Paddy McLoughlin	7	0	0	0	0	0	7		
Seamus O'Reilly	5	0	0	0	5	0	0		
Robert Tate	5	0	0	0	5	0	0		
Pat Lambert	5	0	0	0	5	0	0		

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**Answers to Crossword
on page 5**

Across	Down
1. Chip	2 Homicidal
3 Body	4 Dovetails
6 Rep	5 Records
7 Tot	8 Web
8 Wet	
9 Coronet	
10 Gin	
11 Bad	
12 Odd	
13 Glue	
14 Puss	

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New Chapter

**There is an open invitation to
our members to go along to
meetings of the recently
formed Northeast Chapter.
Meetings are on the 3rd
Saturday afternoon of each
month.**

**Contact the secretary,
Francis Morrin for the venue
at
Tel 01-825 7654
Email
woodturner-fran@oceanfree.net**

**Cecil Barron
223 Ashley Rise
Portmarnock
Co. Dublin**

