



Dublin Chapter Newsletter

Irish Woodturners Guild

December 2021



Meetings are back under 'new normal' rules.

Please check both your email and the Chapter website (<http://www.dublinwoodturners.com>) regularly for updates.

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Joe O'Neill will be demonstrator at December 4th Meeting

Brendan Kelly is moving off to new adventures and he has persuaded me to give the newsletter editorship and website maintainer a go. Have spend the last few weeks getting used to the tasks involved, probably a bit of learning to be done yet! Brendan will be a hard act to follow so it will take me a while to get to his level,.

Saturday and Wednesday meetings are back!

Hopefully they will continue and the current pandemic setbacks do not affect us too much

The Saturday meeting went well apparently but was not there myself and have no other information on it.

We had the first of the nonvirtual competitions and results included in this issue, No information available for the pieces involved unfortunately.

Happy Xmas to all.

John O'Neill

Don't forget to update your families and friends on your wishlist for Xmas, unless you want to get more socks and scarves!

November Competition results

Starting this month with the Artistic section.

One entry from Cecil Barron

1st Cecil Barron



The Experienced section had three entries.

1st Paddy Finn



2nd Pat Costigan



3rd Kevin Milton



The Advanced section had five entries.

1st Brendan Phelan



2nd John Duff



3rd Cecil Barron



Tony Hartney



Sean Ryan



One of the oldest pyramids ever found in Egypt is in a place called Saqqara, this pyramid is called the step pyramid and dates to earlier than 3000 years BCE. Many other pyramids exist around this site but the step pyramid is the most spectacular. This location is the burial site of the earliest pharaohs and indicates the early method of pyramid building.



The step pyramid.

Huge numbers of sarcophagi were found as well as forty thousand stone bowls and vessels. The quality and volume of these stone bowls has led to much research and speculation over the years. Many of these bowls are made out of the hardest rock types, rock types you wouldn't use unless super hard tools and a top of the range lathe were sitting in your shed! On a hardness scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being diamond, most of the stone used for these bowls is 7/8 on the scale, some as hard as steel. Stone such as granite and schist often used. The craftsmanship appears to be of the highest quality and

there is much speculation as to what lathe could have been used. We know it was a lathe of some sort because some items have the 'cursed toolmarks' and we all know the pain of these.



stone bowl with toolmarks

These toolmarks indicate the the stone blank was rotating and a pointed edge tool used to carve out the waste material, i.e a lathe with some form of gouge.

There are no records of what this lathe was or how it worked, no hieroglyphs of a man standing over the lathe with a bowl gouge in hand exist. It is impossible to carbon date stone but some of the organic material found with the bowls has been dated to around 3000 BCE, other fairly similar bowls found elsewhere in Egypt have been dated in the same way to 8000 years BCE. This turning skill was around for a long time before being lost completely. Another complication is that some of the bowls have inscriptions which appear to be done with much less skill than it took to make the bowl itself, possibly indicating that the bowls were much older than 3000 BCE and the bowl making skill was



Stone Bowls Of Saqqara

lost by then, its a mystery!
Books have been written describing the pieces found, I'll try describe a few of them.
Image 3 Cylindrical Bowl
This cylindrical bowl on previous page is of fairly simple construction, cylindrical bowl with straight sides. Its 3 5mm thick and thickness is reasonably uniform from top to bottom, The base is perfectly smooth with no indication of how it was mounted in 'ye olde egyptian chuck', no tool marks visible. Looks to be a functional piece.



An open bowl

This bowl starts at top with about 10mm of vertical side and then has straight cylindrical shape down to the centre. It indicates purpose full design, the rim has two shapes, inside is a straight slope but the outside of the rim is curved. It has an inscription, probably done at the time the pyramid was build, this inscription is poorly done with less than perfect lines, definitely not done by the bowl turner, the suspicion is that it may have been done up to 3000 years after the bowl was turned.



fold over leaf bowl

This leaf bowl indicates a step up in skill level. Its a multi centred turned bowl with wings, each wing separated by 72 degrees. The number 72 has many significances and one can go wild with the conspiracy theories, these are just a few of the many!
..The "sentūr" Persian instrument has 72 cords, three by note.
..The mass of the Moon is the 72th of that the Earth.
..The volume of Saturn is 72 times of the earth.
There are many more!

The tool marks indicate that the centre point for mounting was directly under the valley between the wings.



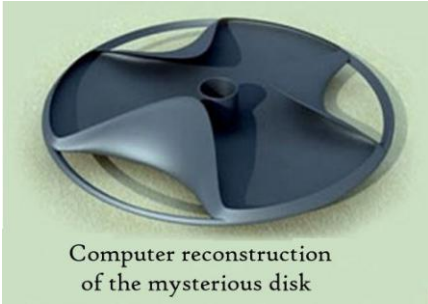
another fold over leaf bowl

This bowl has less defined wings.
The Disc of Sabu s the item that causes the most speculation. It more than likely a candle holder but has been likened to the impeller of a pump. It's the piece whihc has fueled the most speculation and conspiracy theories.It's another winged bowl but the outer rim has been left in place, very similar to the 5 winged bowl. It is 61 cm in diameter and max height of 10



The mysterious disc of Sabu

Stone Bowls Of Saqqara



Computer reconstruction
of the mysterious disk

cm. It is made from a very fragile material called metasilstone, bending it without breakage would be extremely difficult so its is believed that it was turned using extremely sharp pointed tools. Hardest tool around at the time was diamond but none were ever found at the site.

It really is a mystery object and despite much research we still don't really know what it is.

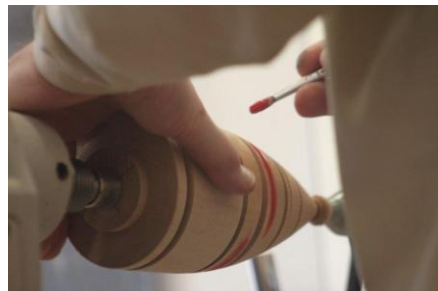
For further reading and information check google and youtube for "saqqara".

Who wants to try turning one of these winged objects and show us how it was done?

collection of bowls at Cairo museum



Pictures from November demo by Pat Walsh



WE NEED YOU!



I still need articles for the newsletter. It's difficult to find interesting content every month so I need some help. Not looking for novels but if you have learned or figured out something or skill that may be useful to others, share it with us!

So can some of you go on Google and research a topic of interest to wood turners.

I don't expect the Gettysburg address, just a couple of paragraphs will do. I need your support.

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