

# DIMENSIONS

## Newsletter of the Pacific Woodworkers Guild

### At a Glance:

- Next meeting is Tuesday February 18th.

### When Last We Met

By Steve Hansen

Nice to see some more new faces. Welcome to Bob, Gerry, Pat and Ernie on their first visit to the guild.

Our guest speaker, **John Paterson** entertained us with a history lesson and carving instruction in the ancient craft of Noh Masks. Ranging from human forms (male, female, young and old) to monstrosities, these masks are employed as a means to create the characters in Noh Theatre, a 2000-year tradition in Japan. Carved to exact specifications, handed down for generations, these masks have not changed for centuries nor has the method for carving them.

John showed several of the tools used to carve the masks including one tool, a machete that is used for only 2 swift cuts for each mask. As John explained, Japanese tool steel is legendary and is formed by repeated folding and hammering to develop the quality necessary to yield what is arguably the finest edge possible. Japanese chisels tend to have shorter blades and longer handles than European tools. John believes this makes for a tool that is easier to control. The masks are commonly made from hinoki, a cypress (I thought for sure it was "our" yellow cedar, until John corrected me) - beautiful to carve.

All masks are painted, traditionally with kashu - an enameled-based substance. John recalled the words of the great Haida carver, Bill Reid: "push the shapes" - meaning: if it goes in, make it go in further; if it protrudes, make it protrude further. (I think that means exaggerate the shapes.) John showed us a method for misting paint by brushing over a fine mesh. An excellent night of entertainment and thank you to **Derek Yee** for inviting John to our meeting.

Thanks to **Kelly McClay** for taking on the job of spearheading the Woodworking Contest - I'm sure we'll back him up with plenty of help when he calls upon us. For Show n Tell, there was a very handy and practical bookshelf and an an-

tique plough plane. This month's entertainment will involve furniture design and the President's challenge is "Things that went south". Bring in a project that did not work out quite right - hmmm lemme see. . .

2x4 Challenge - For those that have not participated, this is a very rewarding event to participate in. In my opinion, this is NOT a contest. Think of it as show and tell, nothing more. There are no themes this year and you can participate as a group and/or on your own. All you need is a 2x4x96 and a few hours. It's hysterically entertaining and the more the merrier. I have to say, some of my favourite 2x4 projects from the past were the ones done-in-a-day.

### Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Pacific Woodworkers Guild will be held on Tuesday February 18th, starting at 7:15 pm. Pre-meeting demo at 6:30 pm.

### Update from May 2002

Acknowledgements were inadvertently omitted for the "plane cutter contest" that we ran in May of 2002. The article was originally published in the November, 1965 issue, of British Woodworker.





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Please direct newsletter submissions to the newsletter editor, Steve Hansen, via email: [urquell@shaw.ca](mailto:urquell@shaw.ca) or call 604-986-5471.

The Pacific Woodworkers Guild is a non-profit association of British Columbia Craftspeople dedicated to excellence in woodworking. Guild members meet on the third Tuesday of each month (except July and August) in Richmond, B.C.

The newsletter is published monthly, ten times per year, and distributed free to members and associate members. Membership is available to anyone interested in any form of fine woodworking. Membership fees are \$25 for twelve months; Associate membership fees (newsletter only) are \$15 for ten issues.

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## Guild Directory

### Elected Officers

*President*  
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*Treasurer*  
*Secretary*  
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Bill Ophoff  
Dan Lemire  
Lou Hafer  
Paulin Laberge  
Paul Townsend  
Bill Fox  
Art Liestman  
Bob Bedier

### Committees

#### Newsletter -

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#### Webmaster

#### Entertainment/Workshops

#### 2x4 Challenge Assistants

#### Richmond Carvers' Show

#### BC Woodworking Show -

*Competition*  
*Assistant*  
*PWG Booth*  
*Assistant*

#### Christmas Toy Workshop

#### Fundraising/Raffle Assistant

#### Library

Bill Ophoff  
Bill Fox  
Harry Taylor  
Denis Reid  
Jan Dicks  
Klaas Focker  
Bob Bedier

## Unclassifieds



> Wood 4-sale.

We are pleased to inform you of possibility to supply the dimension materials (dimension cut pieces, turning square, blocks, planks) of Masur birch (Karelian birch).

All products are made according to your specification. Volume of the order from 60 pounds (30 kg). Moisture is about 8 - 12 %. The boards (planks) by thickness 1 " and 2 " will be of most magnificent quality (picture attached). Also we can make and any other thickness. Moisture - natural, but all ends are sealed by wax. The price - \$5.50 USD/kg - price includes delivery in your address. Without an advance payment. As we can offer blocks 1.5 " x 1.5" x 5 ". Moisture is about 12 % AD. The price - \$5 USD. Delivery in the airport, specified by you.

Specify what quantity you interests, please. We hope to hear from you soon and can assure you that your order will be deal with promptly. Looking forward to hear from you.

We are located in Latvia. tel. +375 29 6289967

Best Regards  
Andreas Wilson [yarstroy@infonet.by](mailto:yarstroy@infonet.by)  
YARSTROY LTD

[Editors note: I amalgamated two emails from Andreas. I am guessing that the pattern in the timbre is a result of spalting. You can search/ find references to Yarstroy - don't hit those sites unless you have a firewall on your computer!!!]

## Book Reviews

By Guy Lautard

### "The Adirondack Guide-Boat" by Ken and Helen Durant

This book is a serious look at the history and development of a type of boat used from about 1875 to the 1950's or '60's in the Adirondack lakes of northern New York state for fishing, hunting and camping. These boats - sort of a lapstrake canoe with no canvas covering, which were rowed rather than paddled - were finely and lightly built, to keep down weight. They employed a form of lapstrake construction that took considerable skill, and their ribs were cut from spruce stumps. The latter required that stumps be dug out, cleaned, split into several segments, and then sawn in such a way as to permit ribs to be cut from the natural crooks or bends where the roots turned upward into the trunk. Planking was typically 3/16" to 1/2" thick, and 2-1/2 to 4" wide. Ribs (about 20 pairs in a 16 foot boat) were typically 1/2" deep (on a line perpendicular to the planking) x 5/16" to 3/8" thick (fore and aft of the boat). Planking was tacked at the laps with two rows of fine copper tacks clenched in place, and was fitted in such a way as to present a smooth surface inside and out. Ribs, to some degree shaped by steaming and bending, were secured to the bottom board with screws, and the planking was also screwed to the ribs.

The eventual non-availability of spruce stumps cut high enough off the ground to provide suitable material for ribs was one factor in the demise of the Adirondack Guide Boat. It would therefore be very difficult today to replicate the traditional Guide-Boat. The above is the bad news. However, the good news is that similar boats can be built today using wood strip/epoxy construction and ribs laminated from 1/16" thick spruce cut from a decent 2x4. This book includes one chapter headed "Modern Materials and Tools," and another in which are given sufficient dimensional details etc. to permit one to make a form on which to build a 16' boat, and to then go on to build a boat having the lines of an Adirondack Guide-Boat.

The book contains 133 illustrations - photos, drawings, and even some attractive engravings.

Soft cover, 250 pages, 8-1/2" x 11", illustrated. ISBN 0-87742-125-0. Price: US\$21.95, from [www.cambiumbooks.com](http://www.cambiumbooks.com), Phone 1-800-238-7724.

### "Practical Carriage and Wagon Painting" by M.C. Hillick

This book is a little out of the ordinary for review in our Newsletter, but it deals with a type of work that is likely to be of interest to some readers - namely the painting of woodwork. The type of painting covered is both artistic and cosmetic, as well as lettering and pin striping. The style of writing is rather archaic, but that is not surprising - this book was written in 1898, and re-printed in 1997.

I would suppose many, if not most of the paint and related products\* mentioned are no longer available, but I don't think

that matters at all. Where I see the value of this book is in areas like what color combinations look good together, plus the various lettering styles, monograms and decorative patterns shown. There is also sound business advice, which one would have to revise to suit today's conditions, but the basic ideas remain sound and valid.

\* You just would not believe the amount of lead those old guys used in their painting activities!

My own particular interest in this book was for the lettering styles and decorative patterns that I knew were in it. These can be adapted to metal engraving techniques that I use from time to time.

Here's a quote that may whet your appetite:

#### COLORS FOR BUSINESS WAGONS

*As already suggested, a wide variety of colors of striking brilliancy are being used in painting business wagons. Perhaps the prevailing colors may be referred to as the various shades of yellow, reds, and greens. Chocolates, maroons, browns, and rich shades of blue are also extensively employed. Many light delivery wagons are painted solidly throughout, body and running parts, with some of the beautiful shades of canary yellow. The lettering and ornamental work upon the body may be done in aluminum leaf, the shadings and striping being placed in green or blue. A full-paneled top business wagon may be painted in this way and the color effects will be handsome. The main body panel, lower and front panel, rich wine color; center panel, moldings, and other spaces, medium carmine; inside edge of moldings go black, striping white. Letter in gold and shade in blue, light and dark. Running parts, carmine; striped, 1/2" black line, and fine line of white. Or the body panels may be done in deep ultramarine blue, moldings black, with letters in gold and ornaments and striping in gold and white. Running parts, light ultramarine blue, striped (with) lines of white, 5/16" apart. Again, the main panel of body may go sage green or a fine cream yellow. If sage green, paint lower panels miramac green; running parts still lighter shade of green. Lettering done in fine gold outline. Striping and ornamenting done in gold. . .*

And so on.

There are various illustrations in the book, the most interesting of which to me are the various ornamental designs for pin striping etc. If you just wanted alphabets, there are other books which would provide much more choice.

Soft cover, 161 pages, 6" x 9", illustrated. ISBN 1-879335-77-8 Price: US \$17.95, from [www.cambiumbooks.com](http://www.cambiumbooks.com), Phone 1-800-238-7724.



## Video Library

As many of you are aware, the Guild has a library of videotapes that may be rented by any Guild member (see list below). Rentals are \$3 per week or \$5 per month (per title) . The tapes are kept at the meeting location, so drop by a meeting if you want to rent a tape.

- > Carve a Ball and Claw Foot - Phil Lowe
- > Working with your Table Saw - Roger W. Cliff
- > Turning Between Centers - Dennis White
- > Turning Bowls - Dennis White
- > Boxes, Goblets and Screw Threads - Dennis White
- > Novelties and Projects - Dennis White
- > Classic Profiles - Dennis White
- > Twists and Advanced Turning - Dennis White
- > How to Work with Hand Planes: The Bench Planes - Donn Fahnestock
- > How to Work with Hand Planes: The Specialty Planes - Donn Fahnestock
- > Dovetail a Drawer - Frank Klausz
- > Wood Finishing - Frank Klausz
- > Wood-Mizer Saw Mills
- > The Fine Art of Bird Carving: Black Capped Chickadee
- > Radial Arm Saw Joinery - Curtis Erpelding
- > Learning Fine Woodworking
- > Router Jigs and Techniques - Bernie Maas and Michael Fortune
- > Turning Wood - Richard Raffan
- > Bowl Turning - Del Stubbs
- > The Woodwrights Shop - Roy Underhill
- > Router Jigs and Accessories
- > Router Basics
- > Professional Routing Secrets
- > Table Mounting your Router
- > Small Shop Tips and Techniques - Jim Cummins
- > How to Make Carcase Joints with Hand Tools - Dohn Fahnestock
- > How to Make Framing Joints with Hand Tools - Dohn Fahnestock
- > Secrets of the Old Master: George Frank on Wood Finishing - George Frank
- > Sam Maloof: Woodworking Profile
- > Relief Carving in Wood - Volume 1 - Nora Hall
- > The Basics of European Wood Carving - Nora Hall
- > Beyond The Basics of European Wood Carving - Nora Hall
- > Advanced European Wood Carving - Nora Hall
- > Learn the Basics of Intarsia - Judy Gale Roberts
- > Shop Secrets from Master Craftsmen - Time Life
- > Dust Collection and Air Filtration - Peter Fedrigon

