



Irish Woodturners' Guild Dublin Chapter Newsletter

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Irish Woodturner's Guild
August -Sept 2001

Editorial

Then end of summer coming up again and time to think of serious turning, that is, if like most of us, you have been neglecting the workshop in favour of outdoor pursuits. I hate to remind people about shopping days remaining to you- know- what but its also worth keeping in mind that many craft fairs take place towards the end of the year. Best start soon to get those mushrooms and candlesticks made in time. Many of us are counting the days to the national seminar in Gort between 5th and 7th of October. If you haven't booked by now its probably too late but worth enquiring about cancellations, you never know. Try 091-798225 if desperate.

Do remember that because this seminar happens on the first weekend of October our Terenure meeting is on the following Saturday, Oct 13th.

Meet you there.

—Chris Hayes >chris Hayes@eircom.net<



Think safety always

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The interview

For a change I thought our Chapter members would like to hear from a woman turner and former hardworking committee participant. We don't as yet have many women at our meetings but I think that is going to be different in the future. This lady has led the way not least in being the first female demonstrator at our Terenure meetings. I called on Irene Christie at her home in Celbridge.

Editor ; We have worked together on the committee but I have never seen your workshop.

Irene: Come through then but I'll have to rig up my lighting and power arrangement first. I have a tiny shed as you can see with a bit of a lean towards one end. Notice my nice lace curtains on the window? When they change to a brownish colour I know its time to get the vacuum cleaner out.

Ed: Tell me about your lathe

Irene: It's a copy of the Axminster 900 and I'm very happy with it. That and my grinder are my essentials, there's no room for anything else other than my stock of wood. I would like to get a bigger workshop and wire it up properly but my first priority must be to get more furniture and have a holiday. In the meantime I can get by with my wee shed.

(continued on page 2)

PETER'S TRIP TO UTAH

For several years I had wanted to visit some of the beauty spots in the western part of the United States, such as Yosemite Park, the Grand Canyon and Bryce Canyon, etc, and combine all this with the annual woodturning symposium in Utah. This year I managed to do just that. I found the Internet most useful in locating and planning suitable accomodation.

I flew to Salt Lake City and drove the 40 miles to my hotel in Provo.

The following day I nearly didn't get to see the symposium at all as my booking fee hadn't arrived. My American friends took me on trust however and I was admitted. Phew! After a general introduction to the demonstrators we were to free to chose whom to watch. My first beeline was to see Johan Michelsen who turned a magnificent cowboy hat weighing only 7.5 ounces. He must be one of the best demonstrators and one of the most gifted turners I have ever seen. He showed how to curl the brim and

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The editor collecting this issue from the printer

The Interview



Wonder will I have time to finish that lamp tonight?

"As a woman I never felt out of place among so many men"

(Continued from page 1)

Ed: I admire your ability to turn under such cramped conditions. How did you get into turning anyway?

Irene: A few years back when I lived in Rathfarnham a friend asked me to join her at turning classes taught by Tony Mockler. We learned the basics but my friend lost interest afterwards while I had been bitten by the bug. Because I have minimal equipment i.e no bandsaw, I use mostly branchwood or firewood to turn into lamps. I enjoy making lamps and find they make quite acceptable presents. Sometimes I make a sale in response to a request from a friend at work. That's always very satisfying. From time to time I cajole somebody in the Chapter into sawing a bowl shape for me to turn.

Ed: Why turning, why not golf or some other fashionable hobby?

Irene: I have a rather stressful job as a Social Worker and after a day's slog immersed in people problems turning is a wonderful way to relax. As a bonus I get something back as well. Besides I regard myself as a practical person having picked up a few tips in the past from my Dad and I would prefer to try and fix my leaking tap than call on somebody else.

Ed: Tell me about your debut as a demonstrator

Irene: After a little gentle pressure from the committee I decided I couldn't turn down the chance of being the first woman to demonstrate at the Chapter meeting. So I had only one possible subject to show off; one piece lamps. It went down well I think, at least I got no complaints. But then I was among friends and that is the great attraction of the Chapter. All ages, all abilities are accepted as equals and made to feel at home from the beginning. I like that. As a woman I never felt out of place among so many males.

Ed: Thanks for telling us something about yourself and I'm sure somebody in the Chapter will help with the wiring of the new workshop.

PETER' TRIP TO UTAH-

(continued from page 1)

And how to elongate the crown to fit comfortably on the head. He decorated the band by friction burning some colourful exotics: the band picked out the colours of the burnishing sticks.

Since I am interested in the application of colour and other decorations to turnings I watched Carol Montgomery from New Zealand and a chap from Wales talking about pyrography and different ways of colouring wood. Alan Lacer, whom I first met I Kilkenny I 1993, gave a very knowledgeable talk on finishes and how to make your own Danish Oil.

All in all a varied and well organised symposium but lacking the craic and friendly faces that I am used to meeting at the our own national seminar. I look forward to Gort in October.

—Peter Mulvaney

(Editor's note : I hope Peter will tell us about the rest of his American trip in a future newsletter, maybe let us know if those redwoods are any good for turning.)

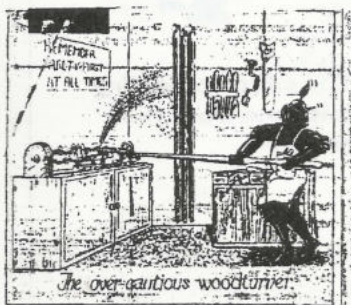
Northeast Chapter news

This newly formed chapter meet every third Saturday of the month at Seamus Cassidy's gallery and workshop near Newgrange. Various people from the chapters have demonstrated there including this mysterious character shown here on the left. We think he/she is new to turning and just a little nervous. Peter Mulvaney wanted to re-

assure him/her at the last meeting when he demonstrated the use of roughing gouge and skew and importance of stance at the lathe but the knight could not be found. Sept 15th is the next meeting when Fred Holder from the USA will be demonstrating thread chasing and it starts at 1430. Phone Francis Morrin on 01-8257654 for directions.

Tony Rea is Booked for October and Joe O'Neill for November.

Its very informal and very relaxed. So if you fancy a trip out through county Meath come along and see for yourself how a new chapter is getting off the ground.



The over-cautious woodturner

The July Demo-off-centre lady by Jim Johnston, Ulster Chapter

Jim brought along his own lathe and stand and was all set up and ready to go before many of the large audience were seated. He brought along a selection of different off-centre figures, and used them to explain what he would demonstrate, and the variations that could easily be obtained. A handout was passed to all present showing the five steps he would be taking for this. He also told us that he would be turning at 2000 rpm as high revs made off centre turning that bit easier and that safety glasses or similar were essential since off centre turning was more hazardous. He would turn a ball shape at one end for mounting and driving from the chuck; and the off centering would be done from the tail stock, as this method has the advantage over turning between centres, less pressure required so less stresses on thin sections so less chance of breakages.

Jim then mounted a piece of yew branch between centres and turned a ball shape at one end and marked three centres at the other end. The ball end was then gripped in the chuck with the tail stock located in the middle centre (C). (See

sketch) The bottom section (next to the tail stock) was then turned to size. The roughing gouge, a continental type spindle gouge and a 45 degree angle skew, were all demonstrated in the shaping of this section, which is the leg of the figure. Each section was completed before moving on to the next. Sanding was done from 80 grade down through the grades to 400 grade. Jim moistened the timber with lemon oil for each sanding operation, cleaning off the resultant slurry build-up with a suede brush. After the 400 grade, "scotchbrite" was used for a final smoothing before oiling with orange oil, which gives a dullish finish-suitable for yew- and an orange aroma.

The next section, the upper half, was then turned to shape after moving the tail stock centre to the off-centre (F), and finishing, sanding and oiling as before. This was completed before changing the tail stock mount to the off-centre (B) where the chest neck and chin were shaped. The original centre (C) was next used to turn the base and head. Jim told us it was important that the head should of "balanced" size with back of head flush

with neck. After sanding and oiling was completed as previous, the lady was severed off at the top of the head with a razor sharp skew, a little bit at a time, and bevel rubbing. Top and bottom were then hand sanded to a smooth finish. He lastly demonstrated his sharpening jig (Tobias Kaye jig) and how he gets that extra keen edge on the skew

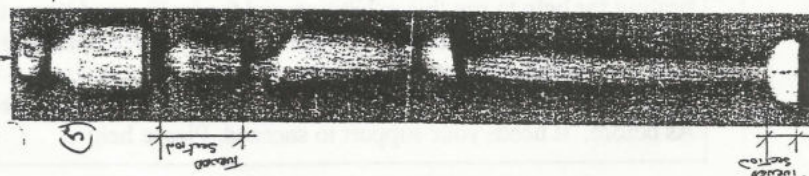
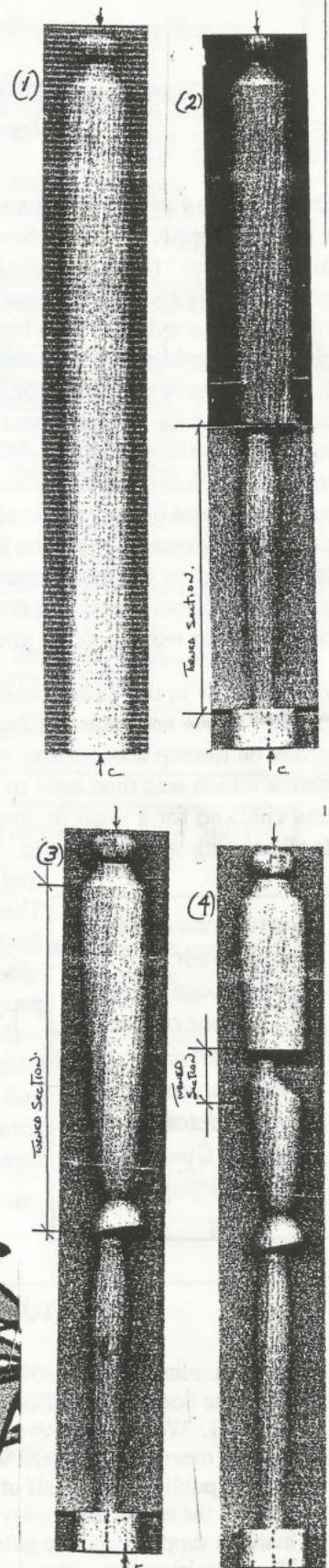
by using a leather faced disc and honing compound (Robert Sorby's) driven from his lathe.

Sincere thanks to Jim for a most informative and enjoyable morning as he expertly demonstrated and taught us a lesson in off centre turning and also providing

the little off-centre ladies for those that wanted them, either for display, and/or patterns to help in future off-centre turning. *M. Forde*

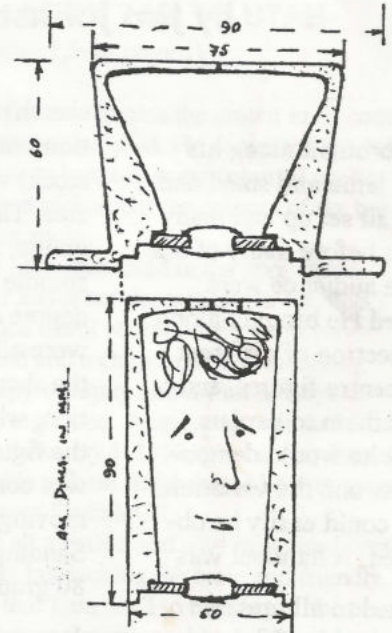


Cutting stock



The August Demo — Sale e Pepe shakers by Owen Furniss

Owen started by showing us some examples of what he was going to do, a salt and pepper set in the form of a face with a tall hat on. Working from his "check list" that he kindly supplied, (see below) he started on the pepper shaker by mounting a square of beech between centres and turning it rapidly into a cylinder with his skew, ready for mounting in his Vicmark chuck. Using high speed (2000 r.p.m. approx.) he cut the two recesses, first one to give clearance for the bung and next one for the base, and then hollowed out the compartment to within 5mm of the top. All the hollowing was done with a D tool. With hollowing completed, the outside shaping was finalised down to 50mm dia. and the bottom finished and sanded as it would not be accessible after parting off, which was next done at a point 5mm beyond where the hollowing ended. A spigot was then accurately turned on the piece remaining in the chuck for jam chuck mounting using the bottom recess. After remounting, remaining shaping was carried out to the top using a small gouge. The positions for the holes were



marked, one in the middle and four 90 degrees apart on a previously marked circle and after the 2mm. holes were drilled ;sanding down to 320 grade on the top and outside was done, then item was taken off the jam chuck which was then used to make the base. After the base was turned and checked for a good fit, the hole for the bung was made with the D tool, sanding was completed , parting -off was done with a thin parting tool, the base cleaned up and glued in its recess.

The decorations as required were done with a Portisell liquid fuelled soldering iron over previously pencil marked guide lines (a face on pepper shaker). Desired finish is then applied.

Owen promptly started on the salt shaker. He used a section of yew log, approx. 90mm. long and 100mm. in dia., and the methods used were similar to that for the previous item, except measurements, which were same

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Owen Furniss is still able to set up your own personal page on the net, without charge. Email Owen on Owen@furniss.net for more details, or check out Owen's site at <http://homepage.eircom.net/~dciwg>

PLEA FROM THE GUILD
THE GUILD COMMITTEE ARE CURRENTLY SEEKING VIEWS AND OPINIONS FROM THE MEMBERS NATIONWIDE. SHOULD YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SAY ABOUT THE GUILD OR WOODTURNING IN GENERAL TELL THE CHAPTER COMMITTEE WHO WILL PASS ON YOUR VIEWS WITH THEIR ENDORSEMENT.

WOODTURNING EXHIBITION 2001

The committee have approved the idea of another exhibition of woodturning at the South Dublin County Council offices in Tallaght during November 2001. We have run several such events in the past quite successfully and our members have been very pleased with the response from both the general public and the staff of the council. More than a few sales were made at the end of the display and indeed there has been follow-up demand to supply corporate gifts from time to time.

The organising committee, led by Tom Gibson on 01-8420634, will be appealing for help to run this exhibition and for really good items to display. The show runs from Monday through to Friday, office hours only, with at least two people 'on duty' during these periods to supervise, answer questions and if they feel like it, give a little demonstration of simple turning. As before, it needs your support to succeed. Please help

Book review - the Fine Art of Wood The Bohlen Collection

The Fine art of Wood really stands up to its name. This book is full of excellent ideas and all the pictures are in colour. The author talks about how the different woods that in the past were unsuitable for turning can now be overcome by modifying and designing new tools to create the splendid shapes, and tells you about this.

The book doesn't demonstrate how to turn wood or show any examples of tools or pictures of projects sitting in a chuck; it is an exhibition of the finest wood turners from all over the world. It displays some of their finest works and the book is about bringing all the projects together and displaying them. When you first look at this book it does look a little advanced and most, if not all the work in it is done by professional wood turners, but don't let this put you off.

If I were asked to mark this book out of 10 it would score 9.5. This book is an inspiration if you have run out of designs. It may well be the book to give you a kick-start in the direction of your workshop.

James Nolan

Handwritten notes: JG 70, Wc, HF 50, AB 45, JCB 44, 087 2680 848

The August Demo —salt and pepper shakers
(Continued from page 4)

as in sketch, and three recesses instead of two, were required in bottom, extra one for location on top of pepper shaker. Owen pointed out that contrasting timbers for each item were the logical choice, and in addition to the designs he used, he suggested various changes especially for the hat, which might be more appealing to many.

Altogether a very polished well prepared demonstration, our congratulations to Owen, and sincere thanks.

- Owen's check list.** 1. Mark centres. 2. Punch centres. 3. Mount between centres. 4. Turn to cylinder. 5. Trim end. 6. Cut spigot. 7. Remount in chuck. 8. Trim other end. 9. Cut recess for end. 10. Cut recess for base. 11. Hollow out (5mm less than length) 12. Shape outside as required. 13. Finish base fully. 14. Part off. 15. Turn spigot for jam chuck. 16. Remount. 17. Complete shaping. 18. Mark circle for holes. 19. Drill holes-2mm dia. 20. Sand (do not apply finish) 21. Remove from chuck. 22. Cut hole for bung-test fit. 23. Shape size of base. 24. Finish off base. 25. Part off base and clean. 26. Glue on base.

-M. Forde.

Committee members

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MONTHLY COMPETITION RESULTS

Advanced	Score	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Tan McGill	61	15	7	6	7	11	15		
James Gallagher	55	13	9	11	9	13	15	5	
Hugh Flynn	55	11	15	9	5	15			
Henry East	43			15	15		13	11	
Cecil Barron	38	8	5	5	11	5	8		
Albert Sloan	32			7	5	9	11	13	
Seamus Carter	26		11	5	5	5			
Des McMahon	25			13	8	8			
Peadar McArdle	25		5	5	5	5	5		
Frank Foley	20	7			13				
Philip Kerr	20		13				7		
Tony Lally	16	5	6	5					
Owen Furniss	16					7	9		
Eddie O'Reilly	9	9							
Adrian Finlay	5			5					
Paddy Doyle	5					5			
Michael Deegan	5					5			
Experienced									
Pat Walsh	58		28	11	5	11	8		
Albert Doolay	58	15	13	5	5	15	5		
Fran Lavelle	55		7	13	13	13	9		
Chrs Heysa	55	8	8	8	15	5	11		
Tom Mc Keon	47				38	8	8		
Tom Gibson	45	6	15	7	5	7	5		
James Nolan	43		11	9	9	9	5		
Frank Gallagher	36	13	8	5		5	7		
Gary Forrester	36			15	8		18		
Darrel Brown	25			5	7		13		
Seamus O'Reilly	18			13			5		
Bill Kellegher	12	7			5				
Sean Dunne	11	11							
Marin Fitzpatrick	11				11				
Geroid Hogan	10		5	5					
William Edwards	5				5				
Beginners									
Wormen Bannister	28			5	9	9	5		
Sean Mc Morrow	28					15	13		
Niall Cahill	25		9	8		8	5		
Irene Christie	24		11	7			8		
Kevin Dowling	22	13							
John Holmes	20		7	13					
Eugene Colgan	20					13	7		
Pat Lambert	18					7	11		
Paddy Finn	15			5		5	5		
William O'Callaghan	15						15		
Lorcan Hassett	13				13				
Demot Hill	11					11			
Harry Kinsella	11			11					
Dave Neessers	8			9					
Theo Elcott	7					7			
David Dunne	5			5					
David Byrne	5			5					

Please note A.G.M. in November this year, therefore only eight months of competitions
The best seven scores to count.

Competition subjects in 2001

March —Tulips

April—Lamp of any size with separate base and stem; stem must comprise 2 parts

May—beginners, bowl 9'dia max
others, natural edged bowl 9''max

June—Platter

July —Vase or vessel whose height exceeds its diameter

August—Open

Sept—Clock

Oct—beginners, one piece mallet
others, gavel and block

Nov —no competition, AGM

Editor
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+Wood +

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yew, walnut, spalted beech
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platters.

**RDS NATIONAL CRAFTS
COMPETITION 2001**

It is a pleasure to announce that our illustrious Chapter member Roger Bennett won the Irish Woodturners' Guild prize of £250 for 'excellence, innovation and traditional skill in woodturning in category 7a wood'. His winning entry comprised three small bowls with silver inlay similar to the ones he demonstrated to us a few months back. Liam Flynn got 1st prize in another category with an ebonised oak vessel.



Clock move-
ments and
watch inserts

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**Welkommen and failte to new
members**

The Chapter is pleased to welcome a new member, Jimmy Rice, to our midst.

Look out for him and all other recently joined members. They will appreciate a cheerful word from you and an introduction to others at the meetings.

FOR SALE

Rhino Electric Motor as new
230v, single phase, 1.5kW
3000rpm, 19mm shaft.
In original packaging
Only £110 ono
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turning. C/w two 6inch face-
plates
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Only £395
Call Tom at 01-8420634

Woodturning teaching

Know anyone looking for lessons in woodturning? During September the evening classes will be enrolling for a new session: check your local library for the nearest to you. Private tuition available from Joe O'Neill at 087-6230162

Oct Martins 13/10

Lybretton 15 Nov Tallagh

