

Editorial

December 29, 2010

Dear Readers,

Happy New Year! As of this week, we have settled into winter here in Maine, about 10 inches of snow on the ground with a howling wind for the two days after Christmas. But it could always be worse and has been for much of the country/world.



The last few days I have been thinking about where we are and where we are going in the tool world. I guess it is what you do if you cannot make resolutions that last beyond noon on New Year's Day. Gold jumped \$20 an ounce yesterday, food prices are up a lot this year, and oil is certainly higher than it has been in a while. Despite zero interest rates, inflation is certainly moving upward. So where does that put old tools? I would say about where they have been through this entire downturn: no great ups or downs but riding in a steady ship. If you are still trying for pre-eBay prices for the more available stuff, forget it. If you are looking to make a killing on yesterday's purchase, you better be pretty sharp or very lucky. But for the most of us, the New Year will be about collecting and dealing as usual and, of course, having some fun along the way.

A couple of new books showed up late last year and both are great additions to the wealth of tool information. Andy D'Elia's *American Wood & Metal Planes* is full of great photos of the tools in his museum; very well done and well worth the price. The second book is Dave Russell's *Antique Woodworking Tools: Their Craftsmanship from the Earliest Times to the Twentieth Century*. Several years in the making, the large-format book is loaded with great photos from the Stone Age to more modern times. I have just started reading the text but all indications are that this one is a winner. See the ad in this issue for D'Elia's book. For Russell's book, all I have is an email address for the publisher: jadamson@orange.fr.

What's new around the compound? Well, I purchased a camper trailer and hope to be doing some recreational traveling in the coming year. I've just had too many days behind a computer and too few on a nice hike or stream. If you are looking to move into the tool world in a fun way, let's talk.

Wally is shooting photos for Brown 38 as I write this editorial. The lineup has a ton of interesting items and we are pleased to have a couple of tools that are unique or nearly so and have not been seen in the antique tool market before. Always great to offer those high-enders but just as fun to have the unusual/oddball stuff and this sale has its share of both. Hope to see you at the 38th, April 1 and 2 in Camp Hill.

Happy hunting,

Clarence Blanchard

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Front Cover: Rare double inclinometer Davis level with gold pinstriping. Twelve inches long. The best of only two known examples.

Back Cover: The Stanley Works, 100 Lafayette Street, New York, NY. Photograph of the Sales Office and Export Department taken in 1946. Forty-one employees working in 18,500 square feet of floor space that covered 2,000 square feet of land.

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Final Auction Day
Sunday,
March 6, 2011