



WR PLUMB BOB NEWS

Information for plumb bob collectors

2008-07
May 31, 2008



Editor: Wolfgang Ruecker

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REPORT

Plumb Bob Collectors Meeting 2008 in Paris

Programm

May 1st Thursday / jeudi Antique market/ Foire Bièvres

May 2nd Friday /vendredi
91570 BIEVRES, SALLE DU CONSEIL MUNICIPAL DE BIEVRES

9.00 h Welcome of the participants / Accueil des participants

9.15 Welcome by the Representatives of the City and LADO /
Discours de bienvenue des autorités de la ville et du représentant des
"Amis de l'Outil"

coffee break / petit déjeuner

10.00 h First part of **Presentations** (MS
POWERPOINT)

2,5 h details see « planned presentations »/ détails
voir « présentations prévu »

12.30 h Lunch (in a restaurant "LE BRETOIS")
next door to the museum /
Déjeuner dans le restaurant « LE BRETOIS » à
côté du musée.

14.30 h **Visit of the museum des LADO** / visite du
musée des Amis De l'Outil

16.00 h Second part of the **presentations** / reprise
des travaux et conclusions

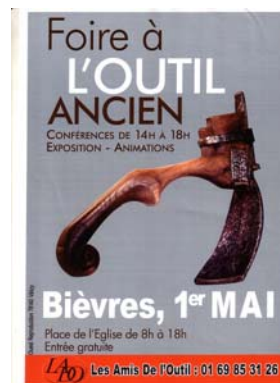
1,5 h see « planned presentations »/ voir
« présentations prévu »

17.30 h End, discussion, etc. / discours de clôture et vin d'honneur.

May 3rd Saturday: visit to **Troyes TOOL MUSEUM / MAISON DE L'OUTIL** one of the
best equipped museums with old tools (more than 100 plumb bobs). (OPTION, but
recommended)

May 4th Sunday visit to Paris and departure

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The first day:

As you know, Paris is an extremely large city. Unfortunately we did not live all in the same hotel. This was the reason for some logistic problems. The first evening some of us visited the collection of Jean Paul Michel in Courbevoi in the western part of Paris. He collects plumb bobs, but also glass cutters, saws, drills, wrenches etc.

His plumb bob collection contains especially French plumb bobs, but also a lot of interesting items from Palestine and the northern part of Africa.

Here are some pictures of his collection:



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The second day:

In the morning at 6 am we started with the visit of the special antique tool market. This special market is held since 25 years at May 1, in Bièvres. Nearly 100 sellers from Europe show their old tool. Since we did not know us personally we found very fast the newcomers of our group. In addition to the participants of the meeting 2006 in Istanbul we met collectors from France and England. The stands were well equipped with old tools and also a lot of plumb bobs. Some of us bought bobs or levels for their collection. Here are some pictures to have an impression of this day.



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In the afternoon we discovered the cultural live of Paris in small groups.

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At **the third day** we had our meeting. We had a very friendly support by the community of Bièvres and from the "Friends of Tools LADO" with the president Jackie Perrin.

Thanks to all who organized the meeting and supported us!

A short description of the presentations:

A SHORT REVIEW to our FIRST MEETING 2006 IN INSTANBUL/Turkey

Un bref historique de notre rencontre en 2006 Istanbul / Turquie

The review should remember us to the nice time at the last meeting.
(Wolfgang Ruecker, Germany)

PLUMB BOBS OF THE WORLD / FIL A PLOMB DU MONDE (french version / en français)

This presentation was written in French. On the CD it is available in German, English and French. In every country or continent the plumb bobs have a special shape connected with this region. The presentation showed the different shapes from all over the world on 61 pages.
(Wolfgang Ruecker, Germany)

SHOWROOMS AND DISPLAYS (how Fellow plumb bob collectors present their collection)

Usually a collector knows only his own collection and perhaps 3 or 4 others. Here I showed the displays of 20 Fellow plumb bob collectors of our group on 51 pages..
(Wolfgang Ruecker, Germany)

COLECCIÓN PRIMITIVO GÓZALEZ

(News about a "fascinating" plumb bob exhibition in Zamora, Spain.) Infos sur une exposition "fascinante" de fil à plomb à Zamora, en Espagne.

In Spain museums supported very strong the exhibition of Primitivo. He showed us impressive pictures of his exhibitions. It is really fascinating how plumb bobs can be presented.
(Primitivo Gonzales, Spain) supported by his daughter Ara



Welcome: (from right to left)

Riccardo Chetoni, Organisation; Hervé Hocquard mayor; Jackie Perrin President. LADO; Christian JOUANE 1. assistant; Jacques Blanché translation; Dogan Basak



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Prepared and sent from **Nelson Denny USA:**

The PAUL GUSTAVE LEISTNER & JOSEPH OSCAR HEIMBACH HISTORY (the famous plumb bob makers from St. Louis/USA.)

Nelson Denny compiled the result of his search for many years about the two makers of nice and attractive brass plumb bobs.

(Read by Wolfgang Ruecker)



PLUMB BOBS FROM ANATOLIA / Turkey (Ottoman plumb bobs)

The interesting diversity of Ottoman plumb bobs, especially from Anatolia was demonstrated by this presentation. (Dogan Basak, Turkey)



FRENCH PLUMB BOBS /Fils à plomb français

and presentation of the NEW BOOK about **French Plumb Bobs** /

et présentation de un livre « Fils à plomb français”Just in time for the

meeting Riccardo Chetoni finished his book (95 pages and 300+ pictures)

about French plumb bobs. The English version will be ready in June. Prix 45 € (Riccardo Chetoni, Italy)



News about THE NEW WEB-SITE in the www FOR PLUMB BOB COLLECTORS all over the world

Présentation de internet web-site nouveau spécialement pour les collectionneurs de fil a plomb.

We talked already a long time to have a special homepage for our plumb bob collectors group, but we couldn't get a consensus yet. Now Riccardo found a person who will make this work for us.

Everybody of us can put his additional information in an own part of this page. We planned to present a lot of information that we did collect in the last years i.e. pages of catalogues (actually some hundreds of pages with plumb bobs)

Unfortunately we had a little problem. The page is called „plum-bob.net“ instead of „plumb-bob.net“. This was caused by a misunderstanding, but we are searching for a solution. No problem in the future. The site you can reach under <http://www.plum-bob.net>



We will need some time, but we are hopeful!

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The dinner was prepared for us on a terrace of a restaurant next door and was excellent. Sure that we did not eat and drink only, but also talked a lot (especially about wine and plumb bobs) ☺



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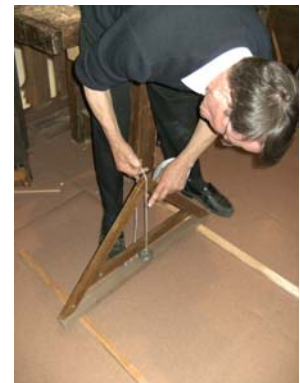
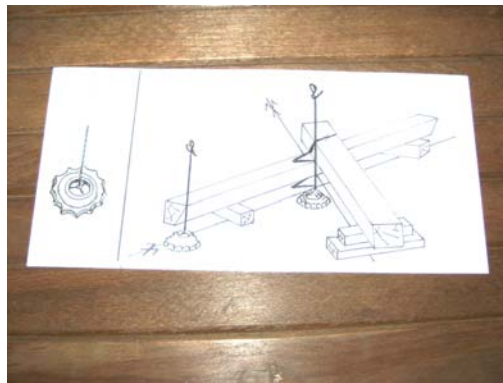
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In the afternoon we visited the **museum of the “friends of tools LADO”** They manage in Bièvres a small but important and interesting museum. They display the tools of 20 professions. Each year they change one of the displays. Sure that there are also some plumb bobs and A-levels are shown.



Daniel Lesoimier explained us very good with a picture and practical samples the use of the French carpenters plumb bob. This flat plumb bob is typical for the French carpenters and not known in other countries.



Official photo (from left to right)

Mrs. Andrée Perrin LADO, Jean Paul Michel; Alain Grondeau; Wolfgang Ruecker; Dogan Basak; Jackie Perrin; Riccardo Chetoni; Roger Korenblitt LADO, Daniel Lesoimier LADO; Jacques Blanché LADO, Alberto Celva. Not on the photo: Ali Engynsal; Primitivo Gonzales; Richard Jones; Daniel Verdier; Michel Heitzler

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Some of us used the **fourth day for a trip to Troyes** 110 miles east of Paris to visit the excellent and famous tool **museum „Maison de l’Outil”** (House of the tools). They display a lot of plumb bobs and A-levels.



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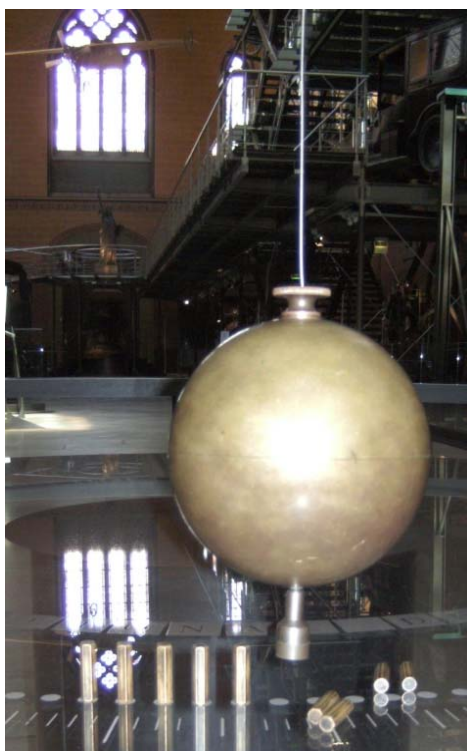
The **fifth day** was planned for going back home. Since my train left Paris in the evening, I had time to visit 2 big fleemarkets in the south and north. Also I was looking for the **FOUCAULT PENDULUM** in the „Musée des Arts et Métiers” and in the Pantheon. There Foucault presented 1851 to the public with a 28 kg pendulum that the world goes around.

Sure I know that a pendulum is not a plumb bob. It has to be in motion contrary to the plumb bob that has to hang still to do his work correctly. But there is a close and famous relationship to the plumb bob. That was a reason to visit these two places. ☺

On the information desks you can read details.

Léon Foucault, 1819-1868
 Jean Bernard Léon Foucault was born in Paris on September 18th 1819. He attended the Stanislas high school in Paris before registering at the Faculty of Medicine, a route that he would later abandon. A scientific journalist by the age of 26, he worked for the *Journal des Débats* then at the Bibliothèque d'Instruction Populaire. Throughout his life, he placed his tireless enthusiasm at the service of physics; his goal was to make science accessible to everyone. An ingenious physicist and experimenter, he would leave his mark on the most advanced scientific fields of the 19th century; daguerreotypes, telescope mirrors, regulators... Most notably, we owe him the laboratory measurement of the speed of light, the discovery of eddy currents and the invention of the gyroscope. He died at the age of 49, on February 11th 1868.

Sphère du pendule de Foucault, 1851
 Inv. 12658
Sphere from Foucault's pendulum, 1851
 À l'aide de cette sphère de laiton creuse pesant 28 kg, Léon Foucault réalise en mars 1851 sa célèbre expérience montrant la rotation de la terre. Au Panthéon, où est accrochée la sphère au bout d'un fil d'acier de 67 mètres de long, les foules se presseront pour « voir tourner la terre ».
With the help of this hollow brass sphere weighing 28 kg, in March 1851 Léon Foucault conducted his famous experiment demonstrating the rotation of the earth. At the Panthéon, where the sphere was attached to the end of a steel wire 67 metres long, the crowds rushed to "see the earth go round".



Sphère du pendule de Foucault, 1851
 Inv. 8224
Sphere from Foucault's pendulum, 1851
 La boule de ce pendule est constituée d'une sphère d'acier de 19 kg. Il s'agit probablement du pendule réalisé par Gustave Froment pour la première expérience réalisée par Léon Foucault dans sa cave de la rue d'Assas.
The ball from this pendulum consists in a steel sphere weighing 19 kg. It is probably the pendulum made by Gustave Froment for the first experiment conducted by Léon Foucault in his cellar in the Rue d'Assas.

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For all Fellow collectors who could not participate the meeting, Since the files are too big to attaché them to an email I compiled all the presentations and additional information of the meeting on a CD.

The CD is available for 20 \$ (free shipping).



I will organise the next meeting in Germany, perhaps in Köln / Cologne.

See you 2010 in Germany!



2006 Istanbul/Türky 2008 Paris /France 2010 Köln / Germany 2012 ????????