

WOLF'S PLUMB BOB NEWS 2012

Issue 02 February 01, 2012

PLUMB BOBS and ADVERTISING

Editor: Wolf Ruecker

www.plumbbobcollectors.info

Dear Fellow Collector,
Dear reader of the PLUMB BOB NEWS,

Please, as always I am in search of new photos, catalogs, articles or personal stories about any aspect of PLUMB BOBS from you, any help is appreciated.

If you have any information or pictures for these themes, please let me know.

Thank you, looking forward to hearing from you

Wolf

CONTENT

1. INTRODUCTION.....	24
2. PLUMBBOB as a LOGO.....	25
3. PLUMB BOB as MONUMENT	26
4. PLUMB BOB as SHOP SIGN	26
5. The name plumb bob in FIRM'S NAMES or signatures.....	27
6. PLUMB BOB as PINS or CRAVAT-NEEDLE	29
7. PLUMB BOB as AWARD	30
8. PLUMB BOB AS CUSTOMER GIFTS.....	31
9. PLUMB BOB IN LETTER HEADS	33
10. OPERATION PLUMBBOB NEVADA 1957.....	33
11. REMARKS.....	34

1. INTRODUCTION

Usually we know the plumb bob always as a TOOL, used by different trades as masons, carpenters, surveyors etc.

But the plumb bob was also used for other reasons. As a SHOP SIGN or as a GIFT TO CLIENTS, as a LOGO for a maker etc. Sometimes the maker used his name for the firm.

Always this use has a positive sense.

Only the use of the code-name for the operation plumbbob (see chapter 10) for atomic test in 1957 was not so positive in my opinion.

Below you find some ideas that I found in the last years. If you have any remarks or additional information, please let me know.

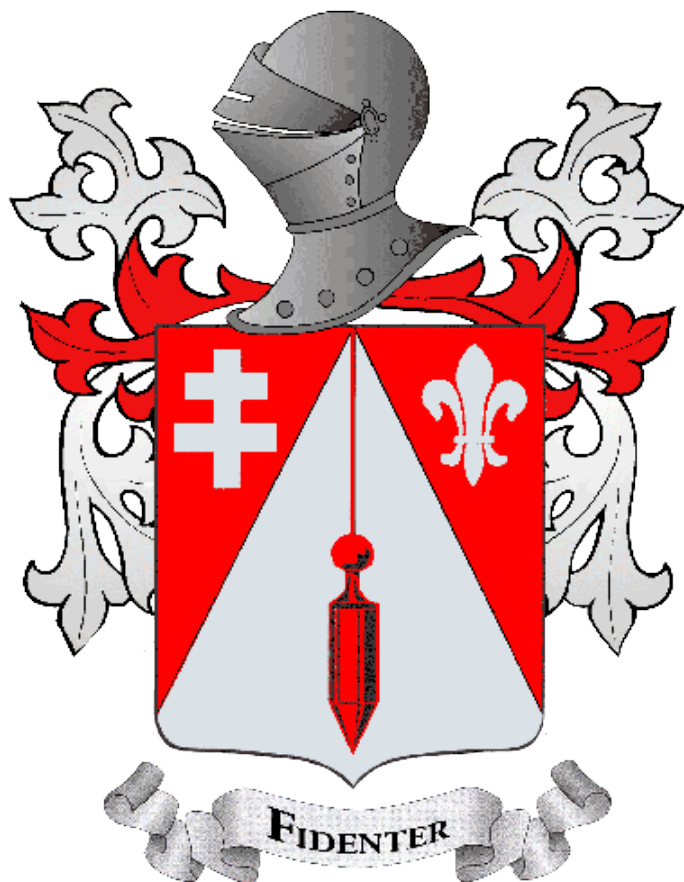
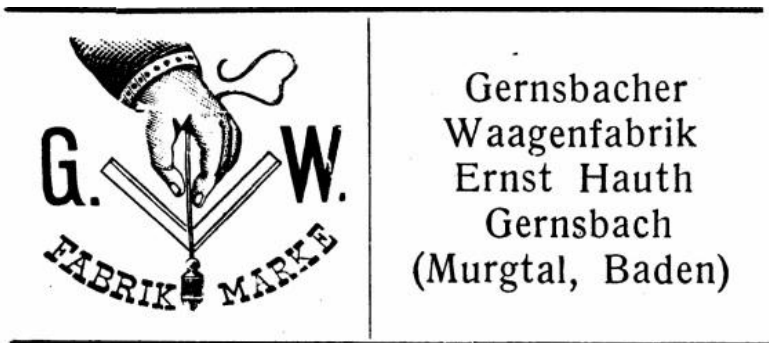


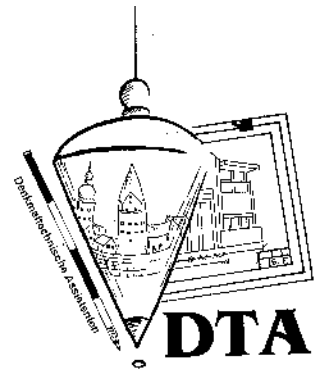
Photo above: Coat of arms by family Marsil Lefebre

2. PLUMBBOB as a LOGO

The plumb bob is in a logo often used to refer to the accuracy or proper execution or beliefs. Of course it is also the logo used as a means to a profession, such as architects, builders, etc.



The DENKMALTECHNISCHEN ASSISTENTEN DTA also used a plumb bob in their logo.



Other brands:
The BIBLIOTHEKA MASONICA Suisse



And in Spain:



Dr. Rolf Lutz said nothing in his article about “Die Gernsbacher Waagenfabrik” (The balance/scale making fabric) Ernst Hauth in Gernsbach, Germany why they chose this logo. He only described the logo – in German Fabrikmarke - (see figure above) as follows: hand with plumb bob and angle between the capital letters G. and W. (Gernsbacher Waagenfabrik)

On the scale we can see clearly the plumb bob and the other tools.

The factory used this logo since 1885 especially for the “lion head-weighing scales”. 1894 they added the capital letters, but they never used it in their letter heads. The factory closed in 1935.

Also contractors use often the plumb bob on their sign.

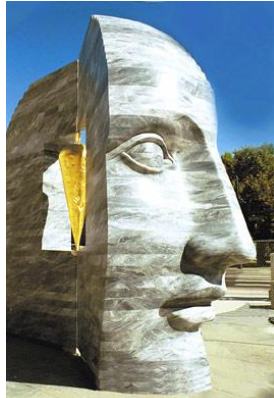


3. PLUMB BOB as MONUMENT

Of course, the plumb bob was used in the art and also as a memorial. You can find more about it in my WOLF'S PLUMB BOB NEWS 2008-02 "bobs on stamps, coins and monuments"

I.e. right: Wellington office building JANUS, Denver Colorado USA

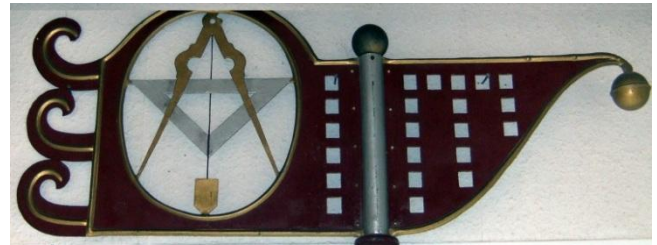
or Düsseldorf, Germany "Deutschland Haus" on the market place opposite to the town-hall 1956.



outside, or the blacksmith had an anvil silhouette. Sadly, as store fronts were updated, these bookmarks o an earlier time were thrown on history's scrap pile. Those careless events are what makes this a rare opportunity. What we have here is a large plumb bob, 18" tall and about 6 1/2" at the widest. Made by either a tinsmith or blacksmith. It is formed from two lap-seamed cones held together by 3 sheet metal screws. It has what I would say is the original chain and mounting bracket. The surface has a wonderful black patina and virtually no rust – my lighting makes it look brownish, its really more black. The seller, from Pennsylvania got it from a family in King of Prussia, just outside of Philadelphia. They said it was from their family's business (perhaps a builder or surveyor.. or maybe both) and that it dated from the mid to late 1800s. It certainly has that look to it."

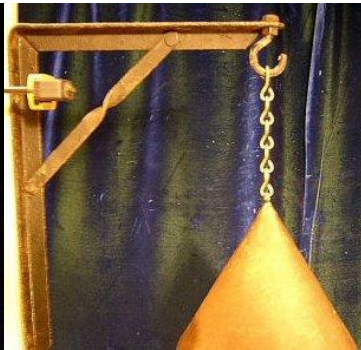
Remark: Actually this shop sign is part of the collection of DB in Istanbul, Turkey

In my collection I have a WEATHER-VANE from a master carpenter in Bavaria, Germany. Size: 35 inch by 18 inch. Galvanized iron.



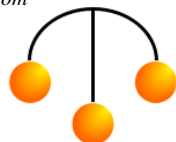
4. PLUMB BOB as SHOP SIGN

In October 2005 B.C. sold on Ebay the "1800s Hanging Trade Sign – A LARGE PLUMB BOB". He described it as follows: "When I was growing up in a small Long Island town in the 1950s, four of the business that lined the cross roads that made up this little village had Trade or symbol



signs: the butcher chop had a meat cleaver crossed with a steel; the shoe maker (now called shoe repair person, ugh) had a silhouette of a shoe, the drug store had a mortar and pestle and the hardware store had a name sign, with a large hammer on it. Up until the early part of the 20th century, when the national literacy

rate began to approach 100%, most business had TRADE signs or symbols signs so that the person who could not read, could still find what they were looking for. To this day, most of us recognize the 3 Balls (figure right from Wikipedia) as a symbol for a pawn shop. And we've all seen the cartoon where the dentist's office has a large tooth hanging



To hang it on the entry to my museum, I bought a sign from iron. Now I have to search for a nice drawing or picture to paint it ...

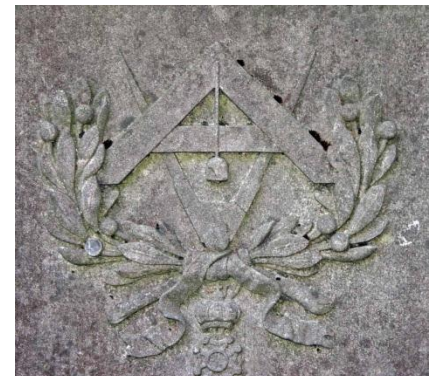


Plumb bob and A-level: sign of the mason Diogenes in Pompeii, Italy. This town was buried by the



eruption of the Vesuvius near Naples in the year 79. (Photo from Wikipedia, Claus Ableiter)

And below is "the last sign" from the gravestone of John Rudd with all the tools that show his profession: MASON, which shows a plumb-level and dividers.



On <http://www.theplumbbob.com/> I found

5. The name plumb bob in FIRM'S NAMES or signatures

In Australia I found Diane a graphic-designer, who called her firm PLUMBOB CREATIVE.

Plumbob Creative

Diane Adair **Graphic Designer** mob 0414 882 646 tel (02) 8096 2925 hi@plumbob.com.au p.o.box 186 Newtown 2042 new website on its way

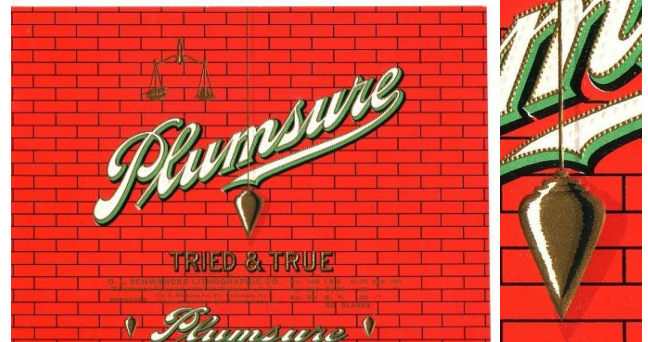
More you can find on <http://www.plumbob.com.au/>



Fruit Label Level & Plumb Bob Sunkist Reprint.



PLUMSURE cigar label
Plumb bob and balance as symbols for a high quality product.



I asked her and here is her answer:



"Hi Wolf, I use the plumb bob because it's the name of my business – PLUMBOB CREATIVE – I'm a graphic designer and I say on my website about the plumb bob:

"It's actually spelt plumb bob and is a weight attached to a line used to measure the vertical.

It dates back to ancient Egypt where it was used as a surveying instrument. Plumb is to examine closely in order to understand and describes something precise and absolute – as close to perfection as possible. Plumbob Creative is dedicated to this ideal."

I'm happy that you mention me on your site and what a beautiful collection of plumb bobs I can see on your site.

All the best, Diane."

An INSTRUMENT MAKER in the Netherlands used his name Loth (that means plumb bob) in connection with his logo.



Loth, Martin
Westerstraat 12 - 14, Utrecht
Niederlande
Instrumentenmacher
Produktion chirurgischer
Instrumente.
Source: Katalog Loth 1932
From: Verzeichnis der Waagen- und
Gewichtemacher und ihre Marken,
Ausgabe 3/2006

Do you play GOLF?
On Ebay you can find something like this:
This very rare 35" putter is in very good shape with light scratches and minor nicks. True Temper steel shaft with label mostly intact.



Scott Charles wrote on:

<http://plumbbobresearch.com/marketing/>

PlumbBob Market Research

Welcome to PlumbBob Market Research

April 27th, 2009

Welcome to the PlumbBob Market Research Web Log. Our goal at PlumbBob Market Research is to help you understand how to apply market research practices to your business.

Are you wondering what a PlumbBob is? A “[plumb-bob](#)” is an ancient device that consists of a line with a weight, used to establish a vertical reference. The line is suspended over a given point (e.g., the line is attached to a scaffold, or a girder, or a joist) and as long as the weight is over the reference point your structure is vertical. **In other words your plumbbob will keep you centered.** That is our job at PlumbBob Research — to help you find your center and maintain it as you build your business.

My name is Scott Charles. Prior to launching PlumbBob I worked at Hewlett-Packard managing syndicated research services. What does that mean and how can I help you?

Continue reading my blog and you will find out!

And to clearly advertise this very ingenious plumb bob set-up, I found:

<http://bazookabob.com>

Bazooka Plumb Bob Co

Warminster PA 18974

ABOUT US

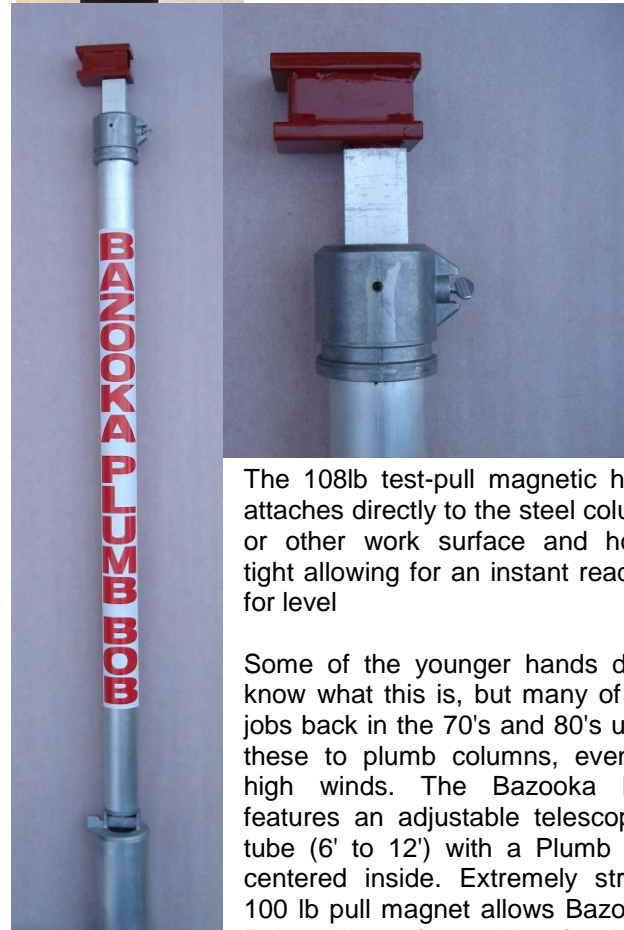
The Bazooka Plumb Bob was invented in 1967, by a former member of the Army Corps of Engineers, who recognized a need for a better way for steel erectors to set steel, especially in high winds. Over the next 40 years, the Bazooka Bob has essentially replaced transits, laser levels and other methods of leveling in the steel erection industry. With little or no advertising, the Bazooka Plumb Bob acquired its following through word of mouth and on-site experience. We hear from Ironworkers every day who say they saw the Bazooka Bob "on the job", only to be embarrassed when inquiring what "that thing" was, by erectors stating- "What ELSE would you use?"

The Bazooka Bob is an enclosed unit whose external structure shields it from the effects of wind and rain. The magnetic head

BAZOOKA PLUMB BOB DESCRIPTION



The Bazooka Bob is a fully-enclosed unit whose external structure shields it from the effects of the elements.



The 108lb test-pull magnetic head attaches directly to the steel column or other work surface and holds tight allowing for an instant readout for level

Some of the younger hands don't know what this is, but many of the jobs back in the 70's and 80's used these to plumb columns, even in high winds. The Bazooka Bob features an adjustable telescoping tube (6' to 12') with a Plumb bob centered inside. Extremely strong 100 lb pull magnet allows Bazooka Bob to hang from side of column and incremental linear gage marks at base of unit allows the user to see how plumb the column is. This plumb bob is unaffected by high winds or rain (like some lasers and transits are) Saves on manpower, time and money. Built in the USA out of 6061 aluminum tubing, with 1/64" working accuracy with machining to .0010" tolerance. Can be used for steel columns, Gang forms, channel bucks, Frame headers, metal building, rigging etc.

6. PLUMB BOB as PINS or CRAVAT-NEEDLE

Navy Seabees builder pin
Builder (BU). Carpenter's square, points up, superimposed on plumb bob



Cravat-needle



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers coin



Württembergischer Baumeister Bund



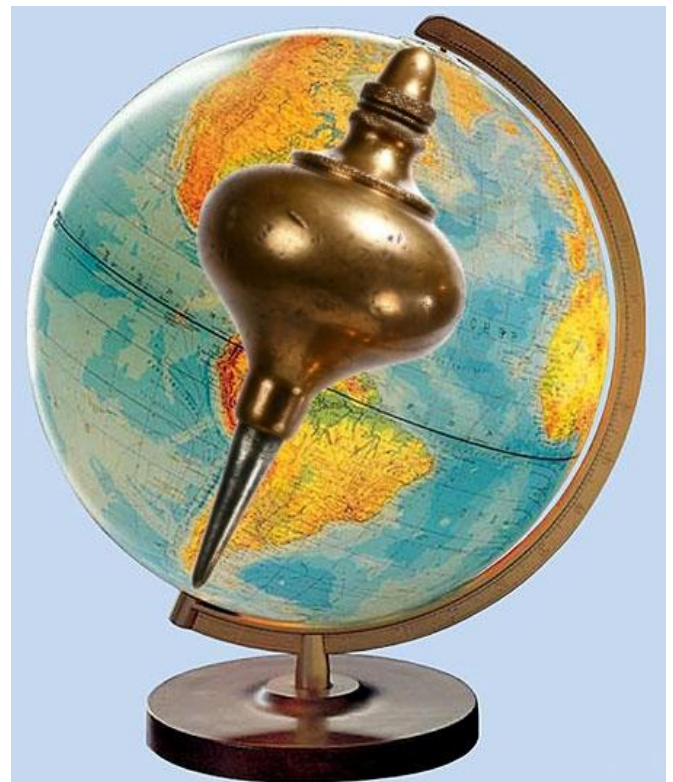
BRICKLAYERS, MASONS & PLASTERERS



I also am using a plumb bob in a LOGO which can be seen below. It is used in to convey the worldwide nature of the plumb bob and the common interest of the plumb bob collectors everywhere. This is an informal LOGO of the IPCA (International Plumb Bob Collectors Association).

For us

the whole world turns around the plumb bob 😊



7. PLUMB BOB as AWARD

Often the plumb bob is used as a symbol for a distinction. Sometimes it is gold plated or decorated with other things to let it look more valuable.

DAS GOLDENE LOT des VDV Verband Deutscher Vermessungsingenieure.

(Bild rechts von 1990)

2011
awarded to Dr.-Ing. E.h.
Ranga Yogeshwar (well
known in the German
Television) for his
outstanding contributions
to the journalistic
preparation and present-
ation of technical and
scientific issues, in-
cluding geodetic and
cartographic themes.

More see:

<http://www.vdv-online.de/das-goldene-lot/2011.html>



PACIFIC NORTHWEST TOOL COLLECTORS
PNTC USA. Present 2000 for his members.



I found the following description for this interesting plumb bob:

PLUMB BOB, PNTC FAVOR FOR 2000

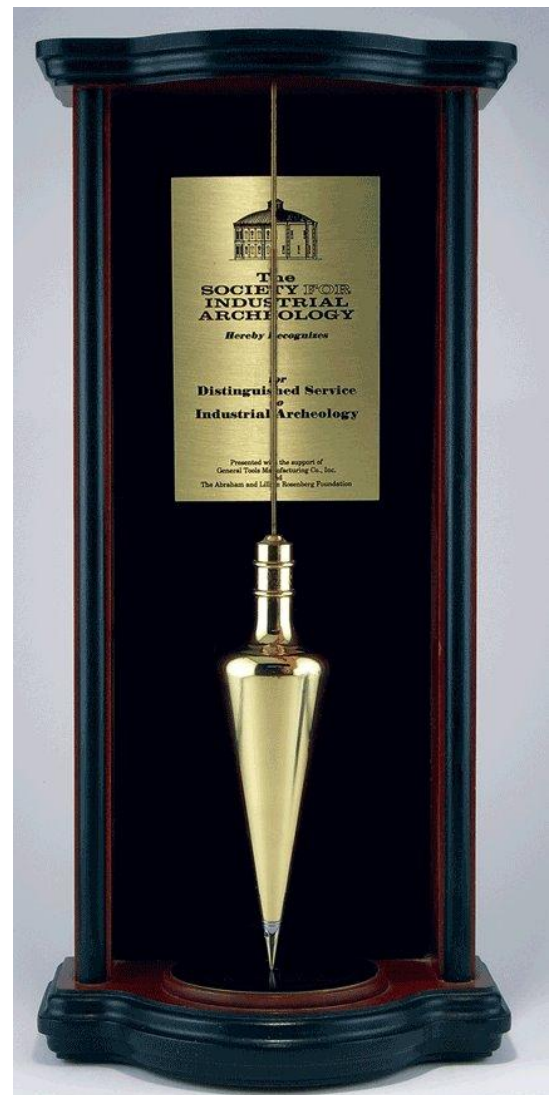
*Every year PNTC (Pacific Northwest Tool Collectors)
host a 3 day meeting called the BEST in the WEST.
One of the highlights of these meetings is the*

*presentation of a special favor, a handcrafted miniature
tool, designed and fabricated by club volunteers.*

*To properly commemorate the Millennium members
have produced this bronze plumb bob for the year 2000
Best in the West meeting. This PNTC bronze plumb
bob is that favor. It is a limited edition of 202 castings,
sequentially serialized, boxed and labeled for
presentation to full meeting registrants on August 19,
2000. The plumb bob design and art work was done by
member and plane maker Christopher Laarman.
Castings were done by Cranston Castings of Rhode
Island. Machining, polishing, packaging and labeling
were accomplished by a dedicated team of PNTC
volunteers. This bob is bronze with a steel tip and is
about 2 1/4" long and weighs about 4 ounces*

Society for Industrial Archeology <http://www.sia-web.org/>

The General Tools Award is the highest honor the
SIA can bestow. The award recognizes individuals
who have given sustained, distinguished service to
the cause of industrial archeology and is presented
at the SIA's annual business meeting.



8. PLUMB BOB AS CUSTOMER GIFTS.

Of course I also have several plumb bobs in my collection, which were used as customer gifts. I. e. has the company HEBEL, manufacturers of concrete building blocks made a plumb bob pour into plastic printed with advertising. It is very well suited as an eye-catcher on the desk of customers.



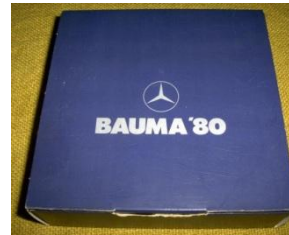
The company Louis BUFF, Boston, Mass. USA had appended their greeting cards and business cards, a small plumb bob.



The company MERCEDES as a manufacturer of trucks and construction equipment had given away on the construction machinery exhibition in Munich in 1980 for the visitors and customers gold and nickel plated plumb bobs with the Mercedes star as a logo. Manufacturer of these plumb bobs was the company Gampper.



In France I found a



paper mat (blotting paper) imprinted with a plumb bob. It was used as a recruiting advertisement for the construction industry.



At

the opening of ARCADEN shopping centers in Cologne and Gera, Germany was spread of a plumb bob as a key-ring with inscription. Manufacturer was Gampper in Alsenz, Germany. According to my research the ARCADEN GERA were opened in 1998 and COLOGNE in 2005.

Unfortunately my request to the operating company has not been answered. ☹



A plumb bob with a spacer from plastic in a wooden box with the name of a MEDICINE called „musaril“.



From the web site of the maker:

Musaril Filmtabletten

Manufacturer: Sanofi-Synthelabo GmbH

Active ingredient: Tetraxepam

Prescription required

All the manufacturers mentioned applications pain radiating muscle tension, particularly as a result of diseases of the spine and the joints close to the axis paralysis caused by abnormal movement disorders of the muscles of different causes of disease

Also a coffee cup was decorated with a plumb bob.



This small plumb bob (right) was commanded by the COMMERZBANK and perhaps given to their employes.



I have one plumb bob with an unknown logo and one with the old logo (1972-2009) from the Commerzbank. The new logo with the yellow ribbon was used after

October 2009 (right) after the alliance of the Commerzbank and the Dresdner Bank.



1972: Quatre vents



... und 2008



The COMMERZBANK wrote in a report 2009 about a project „IM LOT“: („Lot“ is the German word for plumb bob or plumb line and it means that everything is in line and correct).

Full text see: *web site Commerzbank*

Project „Im Lot“ performs pioneer work in health management

In order to protect and maintain the health of its employees, Commerzbank has initiated the „Im Lot“ (work/ life balance) project in cooperation with the staff council. From April 2008 to May 2009, an exhaustive study analyzed the causes of increasing psychological stress and demands, especially in sales and risk management and measures developed to reduce them. The project is doing pioneer work and setting benchmarks in company health management through its innovative activities.

With the project „Im Lot“, employees and employer focus on one topical issue, the solution of which will benefit all concerned. With the professional support of „Institut für Autonomieforschung Cogito“ (PARGEMA) and the „Institut für Arbeitspsychologie Arbeitsmedizin (IAPAM/Universität Herdecke)“ – both established experts in the field of industrial and organisational psychology and medicine – for the decisive factors were identified professionally and exhaustively. In workshops and interviews along with around 600 managers and employees, a guideline for an ideal working environment was developed, on the one hand, and on the other, the causes for increasing psychological stress and demands were examined. Employees were also asked in detail about issues concerning health during the course of the employee survey.

»We need healthy employees who like to work at Commerzbank and are fully committed; employees who are balanced.«

Ulrich Sieber Member of the Board of Managing Directors and responsible for Group Human Resources und Group Integration

Remark:

MERCURY'S WINGS since 1972

Mercury, or Mercurius, was the Roman god of trade and commerce, and of thieves, and in late antiquity was equated with the Greek god Hermes. The son of Zeus and the nymph Maia was often depicted as the messenger of the gods, with wings on his shoes and helmet, and with a herald's scepter. Hermes was the god of travellers and merchants.

Maker of the plumb bobs was Gampper, Alsenz, Germany.



Several years ago I found an interesting ashtray, which I had never seen again. Labeled "ALLES IM LOT". (Means in German, everything is plumb and level). It comes from the brickworks SCHUZAG in Narsdorf, Saxony, Germany and is baked from the clay of which the roof tiles were also manufactured. The figure is created by the locally very active and well-known artist Kurt Feuerriegel (January 6, 1880 in Meissen, Saxony, † 16 June 1961 in Frohburg / Sat). He was one of the most important art ceramists of the 20th Century in Saxony.



For my research on the artist and the brickyard I had visited with my motor-home the brickyard in Narsdorf.

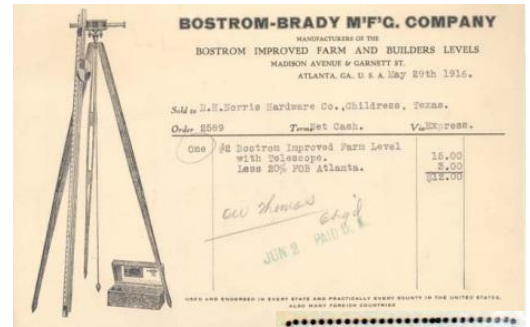


Feuerriegel made inter alia also the beautiful fountain in Kohren-Salis. Image from Wikipedia



9. PLUMB BOB IN LETTER HEADS

I have only a few letter heads with plumb bobs in my collection. Do YOU have any?



Letter head from 1915, German mason and carpenter.



10. OPERATION PLUMBBOB NEVADA 1957

See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Plumbbob
Extract from this site:

Operation Plumbbob was a series of nuclear tests conducted between May 28 and October 7, 1957, at the Nevada Test Site. It was the biggest, longest, and most controversial test series in the continental United States.



Background.

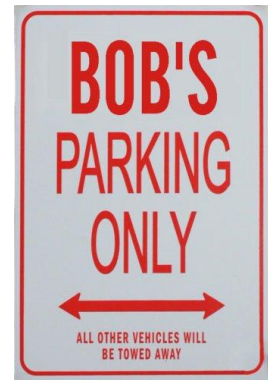
The operation was the sixth test series and consisted of 29 explosions, of which only two did not produce any nuclear yield. Twenty-one laboratories and government agencies were involved. While most Operation Plumbbob tests contributed to the development of warheads for intercontinental and intermediate range missiles, they also tested air defense and anti-submarine warheads with smaller yields. They included forty-three military effects tests on civil and military structures, radiation and bio-medical studies, and aircraft structural tests. Operation Plumbbob had the tallest tower tests to date in the U.S. nuclear testing program as well as high-altitude balloon tests. One nuclear test involved the largest troop maneuver ever associated with U.S. nuclear testing.

I could not find any information why they used the word PLUMBBOB as a code-name.

11. REMARKS

Something to smile about:

Ebay seller from Spain created a plumb bob and a level for the winner of a plumb bob and (at the right side) a sign especially for (plumb) bobs



**Please join us for the
4th PLUMB BOB COLLECTORS MEETING
Autumn 2012 in ATHENS, Greece.
Oct. 5, to Oct. 7, 2012**



If you are interested, please let me know.

This is an article of the monthly published WOLF'S PLUMB BOB NEWS that is sent on demand as PDF-file attachment by email. FREE.

You can see all former publications on the website www.plumbbobcollectors.info

Remarks and contact by email: plumbbobwolf@t-online.de

Thank you for your interest

Wolf