

WOLF'S PLUMB BOB NEWS 2013

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HOME MADE PLUMB BOBS

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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

HOME MADE PLUMB BOBS

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1. INTRODUCTION

This newsletter is the answer to an idea of two Fellow Collectors, who asked me to write about home made plumb bobs.

Not all plumb bobs are produced in big or small factories by professionals. A lot of plumb bobs are HOME MADE by the worker who wants to use the tool for his work.

There we have three groups.¹

- People who have a lathe and turn plumb bobs from metal (mostly BRASS) or wood, mostly hardwood (see LISTING ON PAGE 79).

This group is producing plumb bobs just for fun: They do not earn money, when you count all the time for preparing and making these beauties.

- People who are looking what piece in their garage or tool box could be used as a plumb bob.

¹ For more information see my newsletters 2012-03 WOODEN PBs, 2012-07 MAKING MINIATURE PBs, 2012-12 ARTISTS AND PBs and 2008-01 PRODUCTION OF PBs

They will not spend much money for a plumb bob. In this group we find a lot of interesting constructions/combinations. See pictures below.

As you know every heavy piece of metal can be used as a plumb bob when you fix it to a line.

Very often it is not necessary to have a tip on the plumb bob. You need the weight only to hold the line taut.

- Last but not least the number of artists who use or make plumb bobs as an artwork.

I have sent an email to some friends to get pictures of their home made PBs or curiosities.

If you want to know more about the "plumb bob" (made from a broken off handle of a patented faucet) marked with five patent dates shown on top of this page, please visit my NEWSLETTER 2010-06 HIGHLIGHTS FROM COLLECTIONS on my web site www.plumbbobcollectors.info on page "DOWNLOAD PUBLICATIONS".

Thanks to all who helped me with photos or information.

2. TURNED FROM WOOD

On EBay a seller offers his nice home made plumb bobs: *Beautiful hand made Plumb Bob made with brass & rose wood burl, 15oz*



Faberge inspired 1.5lb Plumb Bob made out of solid brass, cocobolo, natural malachite cabochons & steel. Case is hard maple, ebony & brass decor. Everything is hand made & polished.



A friend in Germany, Ulrich Biber, produces with his lathe also excellent plumb bobs from wood combined with other brass parts that he found anywhere. The original caps and tips he bought on EBay. More about wooden plumb bobs you find in my newsletter 2012-03WOODEN PLUMB BOBS.

PERNAMBUK WOOD + EBONY



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YEW+ BRASS+COCOBOLO



GRENADILL+ BONE



BILLARD BALL FROM IVORY



YEW+BRASS+COCOBOLO



KINGWOOD





A MEMORY PLUMB BOB TURNED BY DICK JONES FOR HIS LATE WIFE DOROTHY:



3. TURNED FROM BRASS

In my newsletter 2012-07 I wrote about MAKING MINIATURE PLUMB BOBS with the 10 inch Atlas lathe. Made by David Hale:



Listing of the names of the different wood types

Deutsch/German	Botanisch	English
Eibe	Taxus	Yew
Weißdorn	Crategus sp.	Hawthorn
Cocobolo	Dalbergia retusa	Cocobolo
Grenadill	Dalbergia melanoxylon	African blackwood
Veilchenholz = Königsholz	Dalbergia cearensis	Kingwood
Pernambukholz = Brasilholz	Caesalpinia echinata	Brazilwood
Ebenholz	Diospyrus sp.	Ebony
Bubinga	Guibourtia sp.	Bubinga



Another friend in Germany turns with his lathe big nice plumb bobs from brass (Fig. right) and brass with marble (Fig. left)



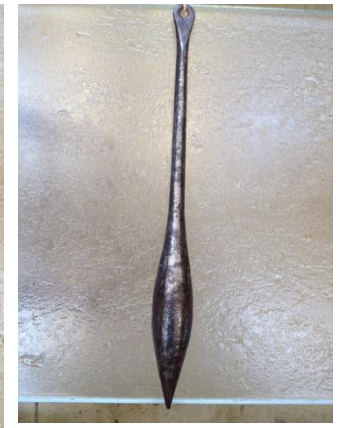
4. MODIFIED TOOLS OR PIECES

Also these tools are real plumb bobs, even when they are not “born as a plumb bob”. They were used as plumb bobs by workers and they must be part of a good collection of PBs.

Wolfgang: attached is the best I can do for a home made bob. The inside is what looks like a piece of a broom handle, with a bent nail as the upper loop and a driven nail as the point. The outer body is a heavy (7.1 oz) metal cylinder. One of the ends is threaded. Fits well. Reminds me of the outer part of a C batter flash light except that it is heavy. Frankly I think it works well. DR



Je t' envoi quelques photos de plomb fais maison , rafistolé avec des pièces de métal de cuivre ou de laiton et remplis de plomb pour le poids, ainsi que deux magnifiques pièces forgée main . MM



One is very nicely done, that looks like a rocket. Someone milled grooves into it before soldering on the fins. KB



And a lot of modified ammunition parts.

I am attaching a photo of a curtain cord weight which I turned out of olive tree wood in the shape of a plumb bob. EZ



Some photos from my own collection. They are looking not very nice, but they are working:



5. OTHER PIECES

Attached is a picture of a "look alike" but not a plumb bob. A nice Christmas tree ornament and a favorite of mine. It is about 7 inches (18 centimeters) in length. NN



At least some from EBay:

Seems to be a top (finial) of a fence post or similar.



Roberts Duplex pat 1887 (unknown source)



Some more from 20 years EBay: weapon?



220045673069 snuff bottle with spoon



6267593930 plumb bob or nail



BIRD SHAPED



Arrow-shaped



250097177417 cherry wooden internal reel CANADA



TOOTH FROM A HAY MOWER CONDITIONER



Blue glass PB from CAN filled with lead



6134976029 Canada Victorian ©



Modified bullet tip

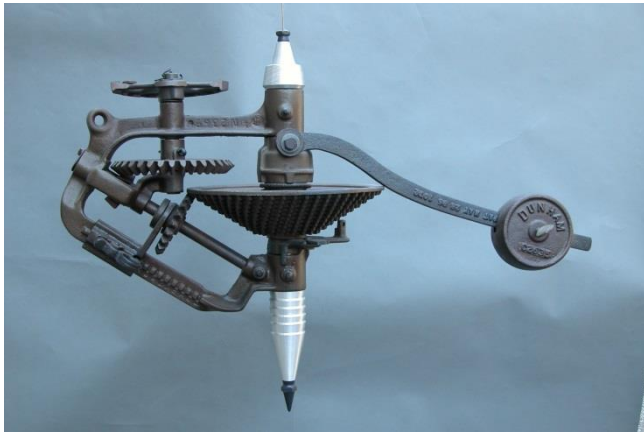


6171070921 Rocket shaped steel PB



6. ARTISTS

Also in this group of home made PBs belong the very interesting artworks of Prof. John WITTERSHEIM Professor of Art at Siena Heights University, in Adrian, Michigan (below some of the over 50 artworks that you can see on my website)



7. SOMETHING TO SMILE ABOUT

I found in a German police document from 1823 the following story (Fig. right: original pages):

SECURITY POLICE
WANTED POSTER

The journeyman, Henry Zenser from Lommartsch was robbed shortly after sunset on the evening of April 15 on his way from Finsterwalde to Dobrilugk in the forest by three unidentified men. During the robbery, Henry Zenser was wounded by a knife in the chest and head and was thrown to the ground. One man had a long coat and round hat. The other two men dressed in short jackets and caps.

Stolen according to his statement:

- 16 gr Kourant (bullion coin)* in 1/12 pieces
- A mason hammer without a handle
- A trowel with wooden handle
- A measuring stick one foot long, made from plum tree wood, every end strengthened a half inch with brass, every inch marked with a brass strip, the half and quarter inches with brass nails.
- **A plumb bob made by a piece of rifle barrel filled with lead**
- A red bandana cotton with white cubes

To assist us in identifying these robbers, anyone with information regarding these men are asked to provide these details to Office Finsterwalde.

Office Finsterwalde, the 18th April 1823
Royal Prussian Justice Office

*A **bullion coin** is a coin struck from precious metal and kept as a store of value or an investment, rather than used in day-to-day commerce.

This text shows that the journeyman made his own plumb bob using a piece of a rifle barrel and filled it with lead. A home made plumb bob from 1823.

8. REMARKS

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

on page "download publications". or on page "WHAT'S NEW?"

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

Enjoy it

Wolf

Ps. For the members of our group the whole world turns around the plumb bob as shown in our logo right. ☺

plumbbobwolf@t-online.de

Wolfs - Blatt

der

Königlich Preussischen Regierung

zu Frankfurt a. d. O.

Jahrgang 1823.

Sicherheits - Polizei.

Der Maurergefell Heinrich Zenser aus Lommartsch ist nach seiner Anzeige am 15ten d. M. Abends bald nach Sonnenuntergang auf dem Wege von Finsterwalde nach Dobrilugk in der unweit Finsterwalde belegenen Waldung von drei unbekanntem Männern räuberisch angefallen, mit Messerstichen in der Brust und am Kopfe verwundet, zur Erde geworfen und beraubt worden.

Von den Räubern hat derselbe keine nähere Beschreibung machen können, als daß einer von ihnen ein langer Mann und mit einem Mantel und rundem Hut bekleidet, die beiden andern aber etwas kleiner und mit kurzen Jacken und Mützen bekleidet gewesen.

Die ihm abgenommenen Sachen sind nach seiner Angabe:

- a) 16 gr. Kourant in $\frac{1}{2}$ Stücken,
- b) ein Maurerhammer ohne Stiel,
- c) eine Maurerkelle mit hölzernem Stiel, welcher oben mit einem messingnen Ring belegt und ein lateinisches S. darein geschnitten ist,
- d) ein Fußstock von Pflaumbaumholz an beiden Enden einen halben Zoll breit mit Messing beschlagen, die ganzen Zolle mit Messingstreifen, die halben und viertel Zolle mit messingnen Stiften ausgelegt,
- e) ein Maurerloch von einem mit Blei ausgegossenen Stück Pfostenlauf durch dessen Rolle ein schwarzes Horn durchgezogen ist.
- f) ein roth baumwollenes Halstuch mit weißen Würfeln.

Da nun an der Entdeckung dieser Räuber viel gelegen ist, so werden alle and jede, welche über die Person derselben irgend eine nähere Anzeige zu machen im Stande sind, um dieselben hiernach verfolgen und zur gefänglichen Haft bringen zu können, oder welchen die bezeichneten dem Zenser geraubten Sachen zu Gesicht kommen sollten, oder bereits in deren Besitz gekommen sind, aufgefordert, hiervon unverzüglich dem unterschriebenen Justizamt bei Strafe der Diebstahlsdelict Anzeige zu machen, die gestohlenen Sachen aber resp. anzuhalten und hierher abzuliefern.

Amt Finsterwalde, den 18ten April 1823.

Königl. Preuß. Justiz - Amt.



Logo of the International
Plumb Bob Collectors
Association IPBCA