

The Horn Book

The Honourable Company of Horners,
The American Guild of Horn Workers

Roland Cadle, Pres.

Clay Smith, Vice Pres.

Russ Young, Secty-Treas.

Volume 2, Number 1

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Results from Our Annual Meeting In Columbus, Ohio

There was a great deal of activity among the 30 or so registered guild brothers over the three days of meeting at the Ohio Historical Society. The area set aside for displays was virtually full to capacity with modern and historic examples of horn work. The lectures were outstanding and the demonstrations were most informative. We thank those who made presentations to share their hard earned knowledge with their brothers.

The business meeting was presided over by the then-president, Russ Young, who is much relieved to no longer hold that office! Roland Cadle was unanimously elected your new president, and Clay Smith is now your Vice President. Russ is now only the editor-secretary-treasurer...

A number of important issues were voted on at the meeting and a brief summary follows-

- 1) the following proclamation was passed unanimously: "The Guild recognizes the life time achievements of Atlee Crouse, our only link to historical horn work, and Roland Cadle, Guild founder and teacher to us all, by making them life time brothers of the Guild." Russ Young proposed this, Proud motioned, Masters seconded.
- 2) In order to expedite mid-year decisions by the Guild, we worked through voting by mail ballot as printed in The Horn Book. The motion by Cravener and seconded by Tschanz carried. It allows for the definition of a quorum to be 51% of voting members by mail or 51% of registered voting members at the annual meeting. Ballots by mail will have 30 days to be returned to be counted.
- 3) In all votes, a simple majority is required for passage. Proud motioned, Byron Smith seconded, motion carried.
- 4) Cravener motioned and Proud seconded the creation of the offices of Treasurer and Secretary, which may be combined with each other or any other executive office. The motion carried. [Russ was very uneasy having de facto created the treasurer's office in order to collect the dues to have money for deposits, etc., to hold the meeting].
- 5) Dues shall be collected by the treasurer at the rate of \$15.00 per annum.
- 6) The newly elected treasurer (Russ Young) was authorized to disburse the full amount due to the Ohio Historical Society for the meeting facilities.

7) We all expressed our sympathies to member Lee Winbourne, whose husband died suddenly just before the meeting. Lee had registered to attend and was missed by all.

Shelby Gallien's hour and a half on the Tansel dynasty of horn carvers was riveting as was the display he brought of original Tansel horns. You really missed something if you did not see and hear his well illustrated lecture.

Roland's staining demonstration held everyone in rapt attention; it almost failed due to lack of distilled water to mix the chemicals - as divine providence would have it, it was raining and a brother simply stepped outside and collected a little pure run off!

The room for guild displays was rapidly filled and I think everyone was amazed by the quality of objects displayed. Bruce Horne and Phil Hodgkinson brought tables full of fine period powder horns, bags, spoons, etc., most of which were for sale. Many members present had tables of their work, ranging from turned objects to inlaid contemporary powder horns. The room became, for three days, one of the world's best museums of horn work. Lee Larkin brought quite a pile of raw horns for sale--- your brothers rather looked like ants on a picnic basket when diving into the pile searching for "their" horns! Lots of new members walked in with examples of their work--- many were *very* impressive.

The out doors demos went quite well although the weather was "bracing." Most of had just enjoyed a wonderful lunch in the restored village and were well fortified against the elements. The Williamsburg craftsmen worked their normal level of miracles and we learned how to make pressed horn flasks... Roland showed a fast demo on making lanthorne leaves and Erv talked more on turning- one of these years we *must get him on a live lathe* so you can see how amazing this really is.

The Ohio Historical Society really did us well, we could not have asked for more. Jim Reilly did a great job meeting and anticipating our needs. Many of the brothers took some amount of time to soak up some of the superlative displays in the museum as well. Thanks folks!

The Treasurer's Report

As of our meeting, we had \$995.00 in the bank. This included dues and meeting registrations. Lee Larkin handed over another group of checks for a total of \$325. The check to the OHS was for \$429.89 (Russ had already paid a \$100.00 deposit from his own pocket; their total charge for our meeting was \$529.89). Another group of checks was deposited on April 25th, for the amount of \$470.00. Russ was reimbursed for the \$100.00 deposit.

Deposits:

\$995

\$325

\$470

for a total of \$1,790

Checks:

Ohio Historical Society \$429.89

Russ Young (for deposit) \$100.00

Bank deductions:

Printing checks \$13.63

Monthly service charge \$12.00 (2 months @ \$6.00)

Sales Tax \$.76

for a current balance as of March 30th of \$864.10; I have received a couple of dues checks since then but they are not reflected herein. Up to this time, unless I am instructed otherwise, I have not levied dues against foreign members, being acutely aware myself that the bank charge in the

country of origin for a check in foreign currency (the U.S. dollar) may easily exceed our dues. We have very few foreign members and I doubt that this will ever be significant.

Your treasurer notes that this should cover Horn Book production and provide adequate seed money for next year's meeting. Your treasurer also notes that he paid for last year's Horn Book issues from his own pocket and is not asking reimbursement or else the balance would be *much* diminished. Expect a treasurer's report in each future issue.

Other unpredictable costs include sending a prospectus to prospective members and general correspondence by the secretary (postage & xerox charges)... none of your officers are reimbursed for telephone calls and I can assure you that the president's phone bill will never be less than \$40/month.

The 1998 Annual Meeting

Your new president, Roland Cadle, has been a real fireball and has already chosen a site for our next meeting! It will be at Davis & Elkins College in lovely Elkins, West Virginia. Besides wonderful meeting facilities and inexpensive motels, the College has one of the premier powder horn collections in the country. A number of the Guild brothers have already examined it, including Young, Odle, Suitor. You can be next to see these treasures! This area is surrounded by spectacular scenery and is easily reached by automobile. Roland has reserved the facility for our meeting on **March 6th & 7th, 1998**--- mark your calendars now!!!!!!

Horn Sources

A major problem on the minds of most brothers is where to obtain good horns. The main source for the last several decades has been the old reliable firm of Karl & Peg Wilburn. However, Karl reports that his source of premium horns is now in jeopardy and he may not be able to obtain more high grade horns.

The slaughter house which Roland Cadle and Lee Larkin have used first notified them that they will no longer collect horns at any price; lately they have relented and will simply charge double their previous price! Roland will have some horns available soon- watch for more information in the next issue!

Well, Roland has already been on the phone and has contacted the Australian trade consulate and is working on leads now. If anyone has the persistence and divine guidance to find a new supply, it would be Roland. We will keep you posted on the progress.

Lead Hazards

Roland demonstrated at our annual meeting the methods for producing period stains on horn. One method involves ferric nitrate (makes a brilliant yellow) and the other uses lead mono oxide (PbO), also known as litharge (to make a dull brown-red). We did not specifically go into the chemical hazards so let me quote from a current book, OVEREXPOSURE: Health Hazards in Photography by Susan Shaw. I must admit that in comparison to other books on the subject, this one is far more precautionary.

She notes that most iron (ferric) compounds are slightly to moderately toxic by skin contact, inhalation or ingestion. Lead compounds, however, highly toxic by inhalation and

ingestion, although not much so by skin contact. They are also known causes of birth defects and are suspected mutagens (can lead to cancer). They also cause lead poisoning, affecting the digestive tract, red blood cells and neuromuscular system plus liver and kidney damage.

Be extremely careful when using these compounds! Be sure the containers are labeled. Keep them out of the reach of kids and idiots. Don't be sloppy. Wash your hands and face and work area after using them. Store in tightly closed containers. Dispose of with care. In some localities, you may be criminally liable for misuse!

Remember the details: mix with distilled water and (in the case of the lead oxide) mix right before use...

From examining period horns, I would conclude that the ferric stain is fugitive, although probably over quite a number of years, but that the lead stain seems fairly permanent. A Pennsylvania member recently showed me a horn *signed by the maker*, a well known gun smith, in the lead and it was still deep and legible. Almost any stain or dye on horn can be faded with enough direct sunlight!

Sparks Mumma

Our Guild brother Mumma had some nice advertising recently. His flat engraved priming horn is part of the cover of the April issue of Muzzle Blasts with further details on page 38. Congratulations! We all benefit when fine work is brought to the attention of the public. Far too often, the horns donated to be given as various prizes at rendezvous and raffles are either of poor quality or have no connection whatsoever with historic designs (for another exceptional piece by a guild brother read on). Sparks has created a beauty of a horn and hopefully the public will get the message that this is a master's work... and a fine model to aspire to making themselves.

Editor's Shavings

Your humble editor begs forgiveness for the tardiness of this issue (flog me later, OK?). My computer had a terminal attack and for 3 weeks, I was without one. Since then, your editor's eighteenth century mind has been vexed by learning Windows '95 operating system and a new printer as well. The new system is far more powerful and flexible than the predecessor and future newsletters should have an improved appearance...

As good as the new computer is, it cannot generate articles on its own accord! You editor *begs* you for articles! It seems that except for Tom Ames (bless him), no one else hears this appeal... I especially would like a review of Mansker's Station Trade Fair!

Attached with this issue is the 1997 membership directory; we ask that you do not share this with outsiders--- it is for the exclusive use of members! If we garner enough new members through the course of the year, I'll send an update if warranted.

Roland Cadle made the grand-prize for the famed Woodbury Rifle Frolic- an entire set built around a Philadelphia style (internal screw tip) horn depicting the battle of Guilford Courthouse showing over 200 (yes, this is NOT a typo) figures !!! He also made the turned powder measure, turned tip bullet bag, bag & game net, etc. If you live in the area, you should be at the match in the hopes that all the good shooters couldn't make it!

~ a small bit
of Bruce
Horne's tables



Williamsburg
pressed flasks ~



~ half of the
• Tansels •
thank to Shelby!

a tiny section
of
Phil Hodkinson
3 table
display ~

