ABANA was founded last March with 20 paid members. An additional 27 joined by the time the first issue of the ANVIL'S RING was published. Since that time 45 more blacksmiths have joined, bringing our total membership up to 92. We expect to have well over 100 members by the time we convene for the second time next March.

Such growth is encouraging to those of us who want to see artistic blacksmithing revived. It seems that last March the concept of ABANA was an idea whose time had come.

The growth of the association, however, brings on some problems. With so many members we must organize better, beyond having only two officers. It may sound rather grim, but there will be a necessity from here on to form certain committees, elect a board of directors, divide the functions so that two men (at this time the president and secretary) will not have to act also as treasurers, public relations directors, publishers, convention managers, etc. If these burdens are divided among the membership no one's job should become too onerous and ABANA can thrive.

It might be well, also, to consider organizing regional or local chapters. Ivan Bailey in Savannah, Georgia has organized a Forge Club which meets once a week. David Wall, in Atlanta, has started the Tullie Smith House Blacksmith Guild. More such organizations could do much to improve communications among blacksmiths, which is the main purpose of ABANA.

(continued)
There will be a little necessary time set aside at the next convention to discuss such organizational matters. All members should be thinking about how we can strengthen ABANA before the convention so that our organizing will take a minimum of time from the program in March.

There won't be another issue of the ANVIL'S RING until after the next convention, about which there is a great deal of information in this issue.

I look forward to seeing everyone in March.

Warmest regards,

[Signature]

1974 ANNUAL CONVENTION SET FOR MARCH 20-23 AT WESTVILLE

The second annual convention of ABANA has been scheduled at Westville Village, Lumpkin, Georgia, on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 20-23. A formal announcement will be sent out to ABANA members and others in the near future.

According to Dr. Joseph B. Mahan, Executive Director at Westville, the dates are set and ABANA members may make plans accordingly.

Professor L. Brent Kington, Program Chairman, is still lining up his artists and will have a program prepared to include with the registration form. Part of the program will consist of a display of blacksmithing equipment from the U. S. and Germany, according to S. David Wall who is assisting Prof. Kington in organizing the program.

In regard to the program Mr. Ivan Bailey has arranged to have his blacksmithing professor in Germany, Herr Fritz Ulrich, come to Westville for a day-long demonstration of advanced techniques.

Herr Ulrich's background is covered in another story in this issue of the ANVIL'S RING. Prof. Kington also plans a number of other demonstrations which will appeal to amateur and professional blacksmiths alike.

Dr. Mahan has announced that this year luncheon will be served at Westville each day to avoid any distraction from the program. The cost of luncheon will be included in the registration fee.

ABANA officials expect about 150 persons to attend the 1974 convention.

TIPS ON TECHNIQUES

Tempering 440C Stainless Steel For Knives

TEMPERING 440C STAINLESS STEEL FOR KNIVES

1 - Heat from 1850° to 1950°
2 - Quench in warm oil or air.
3 - Heat again at 500° for one hour and let cool in air.

This gives a Rockwell Hardness of 57. For harder temper reduce tempering heat. For instance, tempering heat of 400° will yield a Rockwell Hardness of 56.

George K. Schaeffer
Decatur, Georgia
When welding a collar around a round bar, rule of thumb is to leave a gap between the ends of the collar stock equal to the thickness of the collar stock. When the weld is complete, the stock will come together. This comes in handy for making balls at ends of andirons, bootscrapers, what have you.

**Glass Pusher** - 18" Round Stock 3/4" diameter upset into ball form at one end, polished.

**Steel Block** - At least 1/2" thick, long and wide enough to support the work piece - polished to at least 300 grit emery.

The stock should be such that when the split is made and a circle or oval opened up there will be at least 1/2" in depth for the glass to be melted and pressed into by 1/4" thickness all around the eye.

The opening, for best results should be no bigger in diameter than 1 1/2". Otherwise the mass is too great to be heated to the temperature necessary to melt the glass and at the same time keep the iron red hot.

**METHOD**

Place the split opening flat on the steel and cut off a chunk of glass roughly the volume of the hole to be filled in.

Very gently and slowly begin to heat the glass with the torch. Be sure to wear safety glasses. As you get more and more impatient with the torch you will inevitably heat the glass too quickly and bits will pop off.

Pull back on the heat. After an eternity you'll be able to put more heat on the glass and iron until the metal is orange and the glass may be pushed down into the opening. Push from the sides first so the glass won't ooze over onto the metal. Turn the piece over with tongs and push from the other side filling the cavity evenly. Allow to air cool.

As stresses are relieved pieces of glass all around the circumference of the cavity will pop off. Any glass which has lapped over the metal inadvertently will pop off now.

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Dimitri Gerakaris
Enfield, New Hampshire

**THE FUSING OF GLASS INTO SPLIT OPENINGS**

Glass and iron may be combined to good effect as small focal centers, for example, in gates or window grills or if you work as a professional and need to make the most of your practice pieces, in candlesticks.

Necessary tools:

- **Heat** - Oxy Acetelene, gas-air or both.
- **Glass** - In round rod form, clear or amber, blue and red tends to look tacky.

(continued)
Heat the whole piece up slowly again until you're able to fire polish the sharp chipped areas. Air cool. The second time there should be no new chipping.

This technique was tried as an experiment at a workshop where glass blowers were present and molten glass was dropped into the waiting orange hot iron and then placed directly into an annealing oven to cool slowly overnight. Chips sprang out the same as in the torch method necessitating the second heating so it was assumed that the two heatings are as vulcan wishes it to be done.

Good Luck!

Ivan Bailey
Bailey's Forge
Savannah, Georgia

NEW BOOKS


This is a most interesting book on the making of all sorts of tools from scrap steel, using regular blacksmith's equipment in addition to a number of power grinders and similar tools found in the modern shop. Items described include knives, chisels, gouges, pliers, tongs, hammers, tin snips, etc. The book is of interest to professional and amateur alike.

Mr. Weygers, who is an ABANA member, has a pleasing writing style which reflects his deep interest in his subject. Another of his books, MODERN BLACKSMITHING, is to be published in the late Spring of 1974.

WANT ADS

FOR SALE

50 Lb. trip hammer (no motor) and a number of miscellaneous set tools, anvil tools and hand tools. Hammer in good operating condition. For more information write: Russell Maugans, Box 301 Rt. 1, Stockbridge, Ga. 30281.

BLACKSMITH WANTED

HERITAGE PLANTATION OF SANDWICH is looking for an individual to demonstrate smithing in a shop they hope to have going by May 1 of this year.

The smith would work from May 1 to mid-October; however, this job could eventually become a full time position. Applicants need not be of the master class. For further details, contact:

Mr. H. R. Bradley Smith
Curator - Arts & Crafts
Heritage Plantation of Sandwich
Grove Street Box 566
Sandwich, Massachusetts 02563
Phone: (617) 888-3300

A.P.T. ASKS FOR COOPERATION

Recently The ANVIL'S RING received a letter from the Association for Preservation Technology asking that ABANA members be apprised of this organization and its aims and purposes. Material enclosed in the letter is quoted as follows:

"AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE A.P.T.

1. To provide a useful forum to promote the quality of professional practice in the field of historic preservation in North America.

2. To promote the research, collection and publication of technical information in all aspects of historic preservation.

3. To encourage the training of professionals in preservation and restoration technology."
4. To encourage the training of craftsmen in the traditional techniques and skills required for historic preservation.

5. To encourage the establishment of national and local collections of reference materials, tools and artifacts for study purposes.

6. To encourage governmental and private participation and support of the activities described above.

7. To maintain a listing of professional restorationists, consultants, curators, conservationists, craftsmen and sources of supply or other services related to historic preservation."

ABANA members wishing to register with A.P.T. as craftsmen or desiring membership may write to:

A.P.T. Secretary Meredith Sykes
Box 2682, Ottawa 4
Ontario, Canada

AN INFORMAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Alex W. Bealer, President of ABANA, who has also been doubling as Treasurer of the organization, has submitted an informal financial statement covering the period March 17, 1973 to November 30, 1973. A formal report will be submitted to the membership at Westville next March.

Income ( Solely from dues) $390.00

Disbursements:

- Check book $ 9.53
- Bank Service Charges 10.90
- Paste up of AR $ 52.50
- Paste up of Letterhead 18.00
- Typing, AR $ 16.50
- Printing (AR and letterhead) 36.61
- Stamps 12.88
- Typography (AR and letterhead) 20.00
  $176.92

Cash in Bank $213.08

$390.00 $390.00

Since November 30, 1973, about 12 new members have joined ABANA. There have also been a few additional disbursements. In March a full accounting of the finances of ABANA will be reported to the membership.

NOMMA CONVENTION IN FEBRUARY

The National Ornamental Metal Association has requested that ABANA be notified of its Annual Convention, February 12-16, 1974 at Galt House, Louisville, Kentucky.

For further information write to:

Miss Blanche Blackwell
Executive Secretary
NOMMA
443 East Paces Ferry Rd, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30305

THE ANVIL'S RING

Artist-Blacksmiths Association of North America
873 Spring Street, N. W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Founded at Westville,
March 17, 1973

President - Alex W. Bealer III
Atlanta, Georgia

Secretary - Dimitri Gerarkeris
Enfield, New Hampshire
AN INFORMAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

[Content of the financial statement]

THE ANVIL'S RING

ARTIST-BLACKSMITH ASSOCIATION
OF NORTH AMERICA
873 Spring Street, N. W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

[Logo or emblem of the Anvil's Ring]

[Additional information or call to action]