A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear ABANA Members:

Much activity will take place during the next few months in preparation for the conference in May. I would like to tell you a little about it;

There will be rooms available in a motel and hotel 2-4 blocks from the convention site. (I will have to give you rates later.) There will be camping sites both at a State park and at my home for those wishing to camp out. We are working out a plan so we can be served lunch at the conference site and have a fried chicken and catfish dinner for our banquet night. The Program Committee has included and will try to include as many as possible for the different demonstrations that you have requested. There will be fewer forge set-ups than have been available in the past, because we don't think they will be needed. At the previous two years' conferences only about half of the available forges were used. Many of the men brought their own and the forges used by the demonstrators can be used, so we feel around 5 extra ones would be adequate.

I have had a rather heavy letter load both from the membership and "outside" folk. I must say I've been behind most of the time and I appreciate people who have patience. There have been many requests to have our conference held at various places over the country; some are out of the question as sites, and others could be excellent. I shall try to have the information available on the legitimate ones at the conference in May for your perusal. We must look to the future sites now and hope the energy problems don't shoot our plans down.

All the final notices about the conference -- costs, accommodations, etc., will be under separate cover and should be answered promptly so we can have some idea how to make our final plans.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely yours,

Cal
Calvin T. Smith, M.D.
President, ABANA

MEMBER SEeks BLACKSMITH LORE

ABANA member Paul J. McMahan, is seeking information about blacksmiths of the Adirondack area of New York State - customs, heritage and folklore. This material will possibly be published in the future.

Mr. McMahan also is seeking information concerning the construction of smithies.

Any reader who can help should write Mr. McMahan at "Cricket", Estli Avenue, Cooperstown, New York 13326.
BOSTON U. PLANS BLACKSMITHING COURSE

Mr. Richard I. Roessbacher, Director, Program in Artisanry at Boston University, has recently notified THE ANVIL'S RING of possible plans for teaching blacksmithing, as part of the Franklin Institute Projects, in 1976.

Material forwarded by Mr. Roessbacher states:

"Boston University introduces a new program in artisanry, beginning in January 1975, with major concentrations in ceramics, metals, textiles and wood. Students with ability and motivation may become designer-craftsmen prepared to find a fulfilling livelihood through their craft.

The program in artisanry seeks to develop the students' ability to unify ideas, skill, materials and the environment through the creation of personalized objects. The program provides an intensive studio experience to develop thorough understanding and skill in a craft. Courses in liberal arts and fine arts refine the coordination of conceptual and physical learning. Students also study small business management in preparation for establishing their own businesses.

Artisanry students will normally concentrate in one material, while developing proficiency in others. The flow of studio learning involves the development of basic technical understanding, advancing to journeyman capability in the second year and subsequent development and refinement of a personal philosophy and design approach culminating, academically, in a senior thesis piece.

Over the next two years additional studios are planned. Under consideration are furniture, musical instruments, tapestry, blacksmithing, plastics and glass. In all, twelve studios are planned for 1976."

Further information on this program may be obtained by writing Boston University, Office of Admissions, Program in Artisanry, 121 Bay State Road, Boston, Massachusetts 02215, or telephone (617) 353-2300.

SMITH WANTED

CHARLES TOWNE LANDING 1670
1500 Old Town Road
Charleston, S. C. 29407
(803) 556-4450

TO: Dr. Calvin T. Smith
President of ABANA
Route 9, Lake Circle Drive
Greenville, South Carolina 29609

Dear Dr. Smith:

You have been recommended by Robert Owings in regard to our locating a person to ply the trade as a village metal smith in our Crafts Area.

Enclosed is a brochure on the Landing for your information.

Our Crafts Area is under development and our next structure is to be the Smith's Shop. Although we are restricted by architectural considerations, we do desire to have a craftsman working with us during the final designing and construction of the building in which he is working. This job is under the State classification and the Smith is a salaried employee. We would appreciate knowing of any possible applicants which you may recommend. The position is available immediately.

If you have not visited the Landing, may I extend the invitation.

Jasen D. Cox
Managing Director

Anyone interested may write directly to Mr. Cox.
SOME DRIFTING THOUGHTS

The membership list attached to this issue of the ANVIL'S RING shows the 20 or more charter members how ABANA has grown by leaps and bounds in less than two years. Such growth may be a source of pride from a quantitative viewpoint, but what of qualitative growth in the practice of our art? Where does a dedicated aspiring smith learn to be a fine artist-blacksmith? It seems, sadly at this time, that the desire to learn is not matched by the capacity to teach.

Of course, there are a few places in the U. S. and Canada where blacksmithing is taught: Turley's Forge, Alexander Weyger's Sculpture School, Bailey's Forge, The Philadelphia School of Art and at a few universities such as Brent Kington's courses at Southern Illinois University. Also, there seem to be more and more (at least in the Southeast) craft workshops in which a blacksmithing workshop is included.

But with the exception of Bailey's Forge, most of these facilities offer instruction from only a few days, at a workshop, to six weeks, at Turley's Forge. And Bailey's Forge, which offers an apprenticeship program lasting up to a full year, can only accommodate about three apprentices at a time, since Bailey's is a working forge which must produce to stay open.

The problem is not easy to solve. Teaching facilities are limited by the scarcity of well-trained smiths who are capable of teaching and willing and able to do so. Training in art is as important as training in forging techniques. Experience under supervision is quite as important as basic knowledge.

There will be no overnight solution. But there must be something done about the problem so that it does not continue forever.

Perhaps one of the most critical matters to be addressed by ABANA at its next conference in May is how to help establish training facilities. Perhaps an educational program might be developed by the organization, including workshops, help in setting up full courses, investigation of available grants from various sources all over the nation which might help finance apprentice programs and workshops. Bailey's Forge, for instance, could hardly offer its apprentice program without a sizable grant from the Georgia Council of the Arts. There may well be other such grants in various parts of the country, and ABANA members might look for them.

Surely, if our new membership will put its collective mind to this problem ABANA can come up with a solution next May. Solving the problem will possibly do more than any one thing to perpetuate and develop blacksmithing as a living art.

ULLRICH SENDS REGARDS

Prof. Fritz Ulrich of Aachen, ABANA's beloved Lifetime Honorary Member, was recently visited at his home by member Garrett DeRuerter. Garrett was asked to tell the ANVIL'S RING that Prof. Ulrich has been ailing recently and as a consequence has not been able to answer the letters to him from many ABANA members.

He sends his regards, however, and looks forward to attending another ABANA Conference when his health allows.

THE ANVIL'S RING

Official Newsletter of the Artist-Blacksmiths Association of North America

Editor - Alex W. Bealer, III
THANKS

Below is some basic information and terminology on files, an elemental tool of the iron worker since the dawn of the venerable art. ABANA is indebted to the Grobet File Company of America, Inc., for allowing THE ANVIL'S RING to publish the information below, as it appeared in Grobet's most recent catalog. The next issue will offer a splendid article out of the same catalog on proper filing techniques.

* The standard scale of Swiss precision file cuts is explained below, as well as a comparison with American pattern file cuts.

* All weights given are approximate to the nearest ¼ pound.

**SCALE OF CUTS**

The scale of cuts for Swiss precision files as well as the basic shapes were developed by Grobet over 150 years ago. Additions and refinements have been made to meet the most exacting requirements of modern technologies. Here is the scale of cuts for Grobet-Swiss Precision Files:

![Teeth per inch (upcut)]

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<th>38</th>
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<th>64</th>
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<tr>
<td>Regular Rifflers</td>
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![Teeth per inch (upcut)]

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<th>Teeth per inch (upcut)</th>
<th>97</th>
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<th>142</th>
<th>173</th>
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<td>Escapement Files</td>
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<tr>
<td>Needle Files 4&quot; to 7½&quot;</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular Rifflers</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Here is a table comparing Swiss cuts with American Pattern cuts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>No. 0</th>
<th>No. 2</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Pattern</td>
<td>Bastard</td>
<td>Second Cut</td>
<td>Smooth Cut</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There is no equivalent in American Pattern Files for Swiss Pattern cuts numbered from No. 4 to No. 8.
MEMBERSHIP LIST

Published below is the annual listing of ARANA members, circulated as a means of facilitating communication between members. At this printing the list is not quite complete, according to S. David Wall, Secretary-Treasurer of ARANA, who processes membership applications and checks. David says that new members have been enrolling as fast pace the last couple of months, so fast that processing has fallen behind. He mentions that Daryl Haler has alone been responsible for recruiting about 20 new members.

If any paid member finds that he is not on this list for some reason, please write to S. David Wall, 3771 Roswell Road, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30305.

Mr. John Allgood
Colonel Williamsburg
311 Cashiers Road
Williamsburg, VA 23185

Mr. Clark R. Allen
315 Michigan Avenue
Swarthmore, PA 19081

Mr. Andre J. Anderson
2778 Meadow Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Mr. John Andrews, Jr.
516 Westwood Avenue
High Point, NC 27262

Angelo's Shop
Route # 1, Box 177
Rocky Mount, VA 24151

Mr. Robert Armstrong
Route 1, Box 40
Belfast, ME 04918

Mr. A. V. Baggarly
"Snooky"
Route # 6, Box 310
Macon, GA 31201

Mr. Ralph V. Banham
418 South Harrison Street
Palmyra, VA 22963

Mr. Iwan Baileys
Bailey's Forge
221 East Bay Street
Savannah, GA 31401

Mr. Mark Bear
Sundae Road
Jacksonville, ME 04346

Mr. Alex E. Belcher, III
873 Spring Street, N.W.
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Smithsonian Institution
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Penland, NC 28765

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Atlanta, GA 30303

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Aberdeen, GA 31709

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Wayne, PA 19083

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Bridgewater, IN 47836

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Newville Village
Lumpkin, GA 31758

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Washington, D.C. 20016

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Mesa, CA 95458

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Designer/Craftsman
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Kendal, NY 14476

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Brooklyn, NY 11201

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Lexington, VA 24450

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Stockbridge, GA 30281

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Appleton, WI 54911

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Northbrook, IL 60062

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Maximme, WI 53960

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Hollister, CA 95023

Mr. Roger Peltz
Route # 1
Harwood, MD 20776

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American Craftsmen Council
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New York, NY 10019

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Route # 6
Friedberg, NY 12705

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The Crossroads Forge
Old Plank Road
Phoenix, NY 12446

Mr. Stephen D. Norrill
General Delivery
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Foster Hill Road
Hanover, NH 03749

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Waverly, NY 13175

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Camp Ozella
Lake Shore Road
Winooksi, VT 05404

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Cheltenham, PA 19012

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Naples, NY 14020

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Camfield, OH 44026

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High Point, NC 27262

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Cobblestone
Lumpkin, GA 31758

Mr. Peter Bentz
The Arden Forge Company
Route 104, Route 1, Box 104
Chadds Ford, PA 19317

Mr. Daniel B. Briel
The Chronicle
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Michigan City, IN 46360

Mr. Larry Ritter
Route # 1, Box 1
Morristown, NY 48111

Mr. James C. Roach, Histo.
Fort Frederica Nat'l Park
St. Simons Island, GA 31522

Mr. William M. Rodefs
700-23rd Street
Vienna, VA 22180

Mr. Frank Rokette
350 Honeau Street
Concord, MA 01742

Mr. Steve Romano
Route # 2
Watertown, MA 02472

Mr. Richard L. Roschuk, Program in Arterian
Boston University
150 Commerce Street
Boston, MA 02215

Mr. Keith D. Rowland
R.D. # 1, Route 910
Allison Park, PA 15101

Mr. Sam Russell
200 Maple Street
South Burlington, VT 05401
MAPLES FORGE NEEDS ITEMS TO SELL

ABANA member Roy Maples will be opening a gift shop in conjunction with his forge at Gatlinburg, Tennessee, in the very near future. Maples is soliciting wrought iron items for his gift shop, such as fireplace hardware, kitchen utensils, lighting devices, door hardware and others. He is interested in modern and traditional designs.

The first item accepted by the Maples Forge will be paid for on acceptance. Additional items will be carried on consignment.

For further information write: Roy Maples, Maples Forge and Metals, 895 Parkway, Gatlinburg, Tennessee 37738, or telephone 615-435-4182.

NO COAL SHIPPED FROM ATLANTA

Member S. David Wall has been forced to adopt a new policy, on shipping blacksmith coal. Wall says that he can no longer ship it by the bag or other container outside Atlanta. He still has a good supply on hand, however, and will gladly sell his fine coal to customers who can pick it up.

NEW MEMBERSHIP POLICY

ABANA’s Executive Committee has instituted a new policy on membership. The membership for all who have joined since the 1st Westville Conference will enjoy official status until the anniversary of the date dues were paid. Originally dues were paid for annual membership which began in March.

Renewal dues for all current and future members will be billed one year from the date last dues were paid.