THIS DRAWING WAS MAILED TO THE TULLIE SMITH HOUSE, ATLANTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, AFTER A GROUP OF SCHOOL CHILDREN HAD WATCHED MEMBERS OF THE TULLIE SMITH BLACKSMITH GUILD DEMONSTRATE IN THE SHOP.

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT ISSUE

Apologies are offered for the lateness of the December 1975 issue of THE ANVIL'S RING. Probably this is the most important issue yet published from the standpoint of ABANA. Circumstances quite prevented the collection of all the material, which had to reach the membership before March, in time for the
scheduled date.

Members are asked to read carefully the following items on the inside pages:

CONSTITUTION:

The proposed constitution submitted by David Wall, Chairman of the Constitution Committee. You will note that an additional vice president has been added.

OFFICERS:

The list of nominations for officers. These officers will serve from March, 1976 until March, 1977.

VOTING:

The ballot which is designed to:

1) Approve the nominations or let you make additional nominations. Formal voting will be handled by a mail ballot in March.

2) Asks for your nominations for a board of directors. Actual election of the board members will be handled on the ballot to be sent out in March.

3) Approve or disapprove the proposed constitution. Directions on the ballot will tell you how to propose changes. A final constitution will be formally voted on the ballot to be sent out in March.

CONFERENCE:

Information on the 1976 ABANA Conference which has been compiled by Dimitri Gerakaris, Chairman of the 1976 Conference Committee. See Page 10.

In addition to these critical items above this issue also contains TRICKS OF THE TRADE, news items, letters and photographs.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Alex W. Bealer, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, offers the following nominations for 1976-77 officers of the Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America:

President Roger Phillips
1st Vice President Ivan Bailey
2nd Vice President Karl Dance
Secretary-Treasurer F. B. Daniel

All of the above nominees have been ABANA members since the beginning of the organization. Most have attended every conference. All are dedicated to fulfilling the purposes of ABANA as expressed in the proposed constitution shown elsewhere in this issue.

Also enclosed in this issue is a ballot for nominations from the membership. If someone besides those listed above is nominated by 10 members, his name will be added to the above. This ballot must be returned by March 5.

The nominating ballot will also have provisions for suggested changes and amendments on the proposed constitution.

An official proxy for the actual election of officers will be mailed to each member on March 10.

Deadline for having proxies returned will be March 22.

VOLUNTEERS SOLICITED FOR BOOK COMMITTEE

ABANA President Calvin Smith asks for volunteers from the membership to serve on the book committee. Any member who has had experience in printing or publishing or running a book store will be qualified. Dedicated book lovers will also be considered qualified. Volunteer by writing to Dr. Calvin T. Smith, Rt 9, Lake Circle Drive, Greenville, SC 29609.
LETTERS

Dear ABANA Members:

We are shortly moving the Forge and Anvil, Inc., to North Georgia. Since there are not many buildings in this area, I am having to build both the shop and the store, as well as a house. During this construction, I will be keeping up my own blacksmithing but will not be operating our blacksmith supply business until January, 1977.

In the new store there will be a special section for blacksmith and art metalsmith supplies. We will be expanding the lines and will stock a large inventory in the new warehouse, which will enable us to give better and faster service. In the past we have had some delay in some of our shipments because of problems with our suppliers. Our increased warehouse area will greatly reduce these problems.

Our new catalog will be sent out in February of next year. If you are on the ABANA mailing list or have written us before, you are on our list. Please come by and see us if you are in our area.

David & Holly Wall
Forge and Anvil, Inc.
3271 Roswell Road, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30305

Dear ABANA:

We are interested in inviting as many artist/craftsmen and general public to our third annual "The Berry Patch", and ask for help from you.

"The Berry Patch, Arts and Crafts Festival", April 24-25, Mount Berry, GA 30149 - a unique open air festival at the foot of Lavendar Mountain. For more information contact: Mr. Miels Smith, Berry Academy, Mount Berry, Georgia 30149.

Phil Johns
The Berry Patch, Coordinator

1976 CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Mr. Francis Whitaker of the Mountain Forge in Aspen, CO, has accepted ABANA's invitation to be the major guest demonstrator at the 1976 Conference.

Mr. Whitaker received his training in Germany under the famous Julius Schramm after the first world war. Later he worked with Samuel Yellin before setting up his shop in Carmel, CA. Now Mr. Whitaker still forges and runs a several-man shop in Aspen.

Mr. Whitaker will, we are sure, not only be able to show us many little tricks and special techniques as well as answer questions about Yellin's operation.

Ed. Note: More information on the 1976 ABANA program will be forthcoming in the next ANVIL'S RING.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Hale Farm and Village, a restoration of mid-19th century Northeastern Ohio, will have a full time blacksmithing position opening in May of 1976. We have all necessary equipment in our shop: a collection of early tools, a rebuilt forge, and bellows. The position calls for an individual with interpretive as well as practical blacksmith skills.

For more information contact:

Mr. Dean Zimmerman
Assistant Curator
HALE FARM AND VILLAGE
P. O. Box 256
Bath, Ohio 44210
LETTERS

Let me take this time to introduce myself since at the last blacksmithing conference at Greenville, SC, I was not able to attend. First, BRAVO to the editors of the ANVIL'S RING for their time and new format - keep up your extra efforts.

I myself, do not smith but I am quite interested in the character of the blacksmith. You may recognize my name as the cartoonist of the strip PECKING ORDER in which I try to capture the essence of the blacksmith's character. There is a line from PROVERBS 22:29: "You see a man skillful at his craft: He will serve kings, he will not serve common men." It seems to say much about the artist-blacksmith, you may want to make a note.

Like I had mentioned, because of conflicting duties, I could not make the conference, so in proxy I sent my most trusted friend and alter ego. A graduate from Tyler School of Art and practicing smith (whose shop is in Middletown, PA). I find him the very essence of Longfellow's smith in both work and character. It was his dragon and iron picture in the last issue: Robert M. Smith.

I hope this missive finds you all well.

R. Mark Smith
25 E. Main St., Apt. 4B
Palmyra, PA 17078

P.S. "Just as iron sharpens iron so does one man's wit sharpen another".
Proverb 27:17

Gentlemen:

Enclosed you will find some photographs of a.candlestand I have recently made. I'm sorry I don't have a better photo of the whole stand, but perhaps you might like to put these in the Anvil's Ring.

The stand is 60" high, the bird forged from one piece, the main vertical bar is 1" square, the scrolls are forge welded and collared to the bar and it is finished with burnt-on linseed oil and beeswax.

I have also enclosed a picture of my forge and bellows.

I sure enjoy receiving your newsletter; you're making a real contribution to the renewed interest in smithing. The warning about infrared exposure has led to my purchasing some tinted lenses, #1 as recommended and I find using them leads to much less eyestrain and easier welding - thank you! I'll pass on something to you in return: My ears started ringing so badly that I would wake at night and was unable to sleep. After poking around and researching various ear protectors that looked ridiculous, felt cumbersome and cost a bloody fortune, I read about "silly putty" - the children's toy. If your ears bother you, a plug of the stuff in each ear really works, it's cheap and no bother to use. If you work some wood ashes into it before using, it is less sticky.

Best to you all in the coming year,

Jon Little
East Dover
Halifax Co.
Nova Scotia, Canada
The Women’s International Arts Festival is being held May 2nd with a rain date of May 9th in Rockefeller Center. Crafts-women will demonstrate. They are looking for a female blacksmith. If you know of one who would like to participate please have her contact Doris O'Donnell at 67 Riverside Drive, N.Y., N.Y.,10021. I hope you are well and hammering away. Best regards.

Roger Phillips
30 Lookout Circle
Larchmont, NY 10538

Dear ABANA:

Comment on your drifting thought in September ANVIL’S RING:

For the past 2-1/2 years I have had a blacksmith school here under UCLA extension system, which has had some 400 students plus about 300 special students. In addition to both basic courses in blacksmithing and silversmithing there is also an advanced class in wrought iron work and tool making. The shop is equipped for a class of 16 – and more at a pinch at one time. We do no farriery. Of course we also produce commercial work.

Also, I do stock real hand puddled wrought iron made to specification ASTM 168 and use that for most of my work. It really makes a difference from using mild steel and if you are interested in a short story about that material I’d be pleased to supply one.

George Martin Ph.D.
Creative Metal Crafts
1660 Ninth Street
Santa Monica, California 90404

P.S. I'd be glad to organize a center for Western Blacksmithing here, if it seems desirable.
(letters continued)

Dear ABANA:

Here are two photos for the ANVIL'S RING.

The table knives are Damascus, sterling silver and rosewood, about 8" in length.

The monument is forged and fabricated Korten steel, oak timber. It is located in Crested Butte, Colorado. It is a monument to 58 men killed in the Jokerville Mine Disaster there.

Jim Wallace
Southern Illinois U. at Carbondale
Carbondale, Illinois 62901

Dear ABANA:

Whilst some of your members already know of our existence and have used our services, may we take this opportunity to introduce ourselves to your Association generally, in order that all may benefit.

Briefly, early last year we took over the business of Messrs. F. Landon (of Crowborough, Sussex) manufacturers of specialist and standard Blacksmiths' tools for use in connection with Wrought Ironwork and art metalwork. We now make tools to the same high standards using the same grades of Tool Steels as did our predecessors, and would be pleased to send our Tool List to those of your members who require information on our standard type of tools. Indeed if anyone needed special tools for hand or power hammer use, quotations would gladly be given upon receipt of all relevant drawings and details of what is intended to be produced.

Yours faithfully,
GLENDALE FORGE
F. M. Tucker
Glendale, Monk Street, near Thaxted, Essex ENGLAND

THE ANVIL'S RING

Official Newsletter of the Artist-Blacksmiths Association of North America

Alex W. Bealer, III, Editor
Joan V. Abbott, Associate Editor
Dimitri Gerakaris, Associate Editor
Letters continued

On the chance that you might be planning to use some of the material I sent you earlier, here are a couple of up to date snaps of my shop for you to pick from if you want to print one. You are welcome to keep them. I made them myself and have plenty.

You may note that within the limitations of a city residential basement I am trying to recreate the atmosphere of the old time shop (I really had it there for a while before I licked my smoke problem). This "nostalgia bit" if you want to call it that, comes from long association with historians, collectors and primitive competitive marksmen.

For a beginner and weekend amateur, I am branching out fast. From simple fire tongs to tomahawks (mild steel edge) and now authentic poney shoes for the kids.

Best regards,

Johnny (Egor) DeWalt
740 So. 29th Street
Harrisburg, PA 17111

Dear Editor:

Presently I have my forge in a tepee, a photo is enclosed. It was completed several weeks ago and seems to work very well. With a few simple adjustments of smoke flaps it draws out the smoke quite well. I have a forge, anvil and work bench in the tepee so far and am working out the layout. When I have it adjusted better I will send other photos of the tepee and my work.

Hope to meet you all soon.

Jack Andrews

Editors Note to Mr. Andrews:

Since your address was not included in your letter - we cannot tell which Mr. Andrews on the membership list you are. Please let us know so that we may send you back copies you requested.

Page 7
TRICKS OF THE TRADE

Dear ABANA:

Here is a picture of the leg vise that goes in the hardy hole. I picked it up in Spain and that is the only place I have ever seen one. It is extremely handy.

I welded on two pieces of channel iron to improve the jaws. Thought this might be of interest to the members. It would be simple to weld a tapered, square peg on to any small vise.

Sincerely,

Roger Phillips
30 Lookout Circle
Larchmont, NY 10538

Here is a good way to join a candle cup to an upright or anywhere a mortise and tenon joint is used:

Stock can be round or square. Hacksaw a kerf all the way around going in about a quarter of the way.

File stock away (I use the cutting edge of a 12" flat bastard file). The hack-sawing should leave you a nice square shoulder.

Drill hole in cup slightly undersize and file hole out with a round file until the hole fits snugly over the tenon - the stock should only stick up about 1/16" over the cup when it is placed on top. You can file off any excess. Hit down with a small ball-peen and flatten like you would a rivet or brad.

End Result:

Barry Berman
Valley Forgeworks
Route One, Box 237D
Goleta, CA 93017
TRICKS OF THE TRADE

Here are some suggestions and a technique which I hope will be helpful.

SUGGESTIONS:
1. Publish detailed advice from the old pros on how to start a shop, get it off the ground, and market one's goods, etc.
2. Publish a list with address of the known tools and material suppliers.
3. Publish the names with the address where one can purchase good shop coal.

I make these suggestions because frankly I need the information myself and feel that it may be of benefit to others.

TECHNIQUE:

QUICKIE TONGS

Here is a quick method for making a pair of tongs when time is important and a special function is desired.

Materials:
1 inch diameter mild steel rod
1/2 inch diameter mild steel rod
1 inch by 3/8 inch mild steel flat stock

Procedure:
A) Pivot - Cut two 3/8 inch sections of the 1 inch diameter rod. Drill a 3/8 inch hold in the center of each. A metal cutting band saw works best but a hack saw can also be used.

B) Handles - Cut two 18 inch sections of the 1/2 inch diameter rod. Flatten for two inches at one end and scarf.

C) Jaws - Cut two sections of the 1 inch by 3/8 inch flat stock to desired length.

D) Using an electric welder, weld pieces together in the following manner.


e) Grind off corners as indicated and dress welds. Shape jaws to desired purpose and rivet together with 3/8 inch rivet.

James A. Davies II
Rt. 1, Box 243
Ayden, NC 28513

PETERS VALLEY OFFERS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Glen Gardner, Director, Peters Valley Craftsmen, announces that his next internship program in Blacksmithing will start on March 29 from 10 to 13 weeks. The program is designed to prepare its participants for professional work in blacksmithing. 7 Students will be accepted.

Instructor for the summer session will be Frank Turley, who is returning for the second time. Also, Bill Moran, the maker from Frederick, Maryland will be a guest artist for the course May 22 through May 24. Ron Pearson, the outstanding metal designer from Haystack, will be a guest artist for the same three days.

On April 23 through 25, guest artists will be Mary Ann Schorr of Kent State University who with Glen Gardner will conduct a workshop on engraving and inlaying iron and other metals.

For further information write Glen Gardner, Peters Valley Craftsmen, Layton, NJ 07851
ABANA CONFERENCE - OCTOBER 1976

ABANA takes pleasure in announcing its plans to hold its 1976 CONFERENCE next October 13, 14, 15 and 16 at Carbondale, Illinois.

ABANA's program, in conjunction with the University Museum and Art Galleries of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, will revolve around the theme of THE BLACKSMITH AS ARTIST AND CRAFTSMAN 1776-1976.

The program will include:

DEMONSTRATIONS and LECTURES.
Personnel who have been contacted and tentatively agree to participate include:

HARVEY YELLIN, Owner/Operator of Yellin Metalworkers, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Mr. Yellin has a degree in architecture and studied with his father, Samuel Yellin. He has been asked to deliver two lectures on the Yellin Metalworkers, with emphasis on his father's work.

HAROLD PETERSON, Chief Curator for the National Park Service, Springfield, Virginia. Mr. Peterson holds degrees from Drew University and the University of Wisconsin. He has published extensively on Revolutionary War period and Civil War period weapons and tools. He has been asked to deliver two lectures (with slides):

1. Revolutionary War period weapons.
2. Revolutionary War period tools and iron manufacturing techniques.

(Both with particular emphasis on the role of the blacksmith)

FRANK TURLEY, Owner/Operator of Turley Forge, Santa Fe, New Mexico. Mr. Turley operates a blacksmithing and farrier's school at Turley Forge. He is a former conservator for the Museum of New Mexico. He has been asked to deliver three lecture/demonstrations:

1. Advanced welding techniques.
2. Blacksmithing tool manufacturing.

SLIM SPURLING, Owner/Operator of Skunk Hollow Forge, Morrison, Colorado. Mr. Spurling has been doing major commission work in the west for some time. He is a trip hammer innovator. He (along with his shop personnel) will deliver one lecture on trip hammer maintenance, utilization of dies and explore other possibilities of the power hammer. This will be followed by a three-day on-going demonstration.

ALBERT PALEY, Professor (metalsmithing), State University of New York, Rochester, New York. Mr. Paley executed a pair of forged steel gates for the Renwick Gallery, Smithsonian Institute, for which he was awarded the 1975 Design in Steel Award by the American Iron and Steel Institute. Mr. Paley has been asked to deliver one slide/lecture on design and construction of the Renwick Gates and the Chattanooga Fence. He will also give a demonstration of some of his forge practices.

CYRIL STANLEY SMITH, Professor Emeritus, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, Massachusetts. Dr. Smith has published extensively and is well known as an authority on Damascus steels and early iron technology. Dr. Smith has agreed to deliver two lectures:

1. The manufacture and history of Damascus Steel (pattern welded).
2. The development of iron technology.

FRANCIS WHITAKER, Owner/Operator, The Mountain Forge, Aspen, Colorado. Mr. Whitaker was trained by Samuel Yellin in 1922 and later studied under Julius Schramm in Berlin (1923-25). Mr. Whitaker will deliver two demonstrations:

1. Cold working techniques.
2. Free hand scrolls.

SIU RESEARCH TEAM, Carbondale, Illinois. The group consists of ABANA members Daryl Meier, Bob Griffith and Jim Wallace. They will deliver two demonstration/lectures on Damascus steel (pattern welded). They will cover material selection, welding procedures, forging and finishing techniques and tempering procedures.

(continued)
CALVIN T. SMITH, Greenville, South Carolina. Dr. Smith is president of ABANA. He will deliver a much needed lecture on shop safety, covering such subjects as toxic fumes, light and other hazards encountered in the blacksmith shop.

JUD NELSON, who operates his own forge at Sugar Valley, Georgia, and has demonstrated the art of blacksmithing at countless craft fairs and at all ABANA conferences since 1973. Mr. Nelson is conversant with artistic blacksmithing techniques as well as the practical techniques which were once so important to the American pioneer and farmer.

EXHIBITS:

There will be an extensive gallery exhibit of ironwork to include recent works as well as articles from museums and private collections. If anticipated grants materialize, an exhibit catalogue will be published.

AUXILIARY PROGRAMS:

Will include the showing of films and slides, auxiliary exhibits, some access to workshop forging, etc.

The cost for this four day program, excluding room and board (Please refer to the following information on accommodations) will be $30. We are fortunate enough to present this program at a reasonable a price due to our collaboration with Southern Illinois University and various grants and funds. I sincerely believe it will be an exciting and informative program at a most reasonable price. I hope to see you there.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Those who wish to provide their own room and board are certainly free to do so. Camping and/or trailer hook ups are available at Giant City State Park (2.50/night).

On site accommodations will be available at most reasonable rates through Southern Illinois University's facilities at the Environmental Center on Little Grassy Lake (which will be the site for all demonstrations).

Meals for 4 days (3 hot meals per day, October 13, 14, 15 and 16) plus 4 nights lodging (October 12, 13, 14, and 15, dorm style, averaging 8 occupants per room including linen and towels) comes to a total cost of $48 (IMPORTANT Notice: Since federal funds may be provided for 3 days of the Conference, it is necessary that NON-ABANA members may also participate for these 3 days and as such, they are also eligible for room and board accommodations. You, however, as an ABANA member are being given a several weeks advance notice. Beware, 1st to register, 1st served).

REGISTRATION:

Conference fee of $30 (minimum of $15 deposit required. Late registration, after July 4, 13 an additional $5.)

Room and Board fee of $48 (if you plan to attend for only 3 days, $36). Non-refundable down payment of at least $12 required.

Total amount remitted:__________

Send application fees to:

ABANA
c/o Daryl Meier, Conference Coordinator
University Museum & Art Gallery
Home Economics Building
Southern Illinois U. at Carbondale
Carbondale, Illinois 62901

P.S. Notice:

A few cabins in camp may be designated for family groups, but a special family price could not be granted if the cabins were required for the prevailing per person per day rate.