

The Forum

January 2008



Vol. 10, No. 1

February 13 Guild meeting set for Oakeshott Institute, Mpls

The Oakeshott Institute's mission is to promote the interest in ancient arms and armor through a hands-on educational approach.

The Oakeshott Institute, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, was established by Christopher Poor in 2000. The Institute is named after the late Ewart Oakeshott, a leading authority on European arms and armor. Ewart spent a lifetime researching and collecting swords. His collection, now entrusted to The Oakeshott Institute, contains more than 75 pieces and spans nearly 4000 years of history including a sword from the First Crusade and a Scandinavian sword from the Bronze Age.

The Oakeshott Institute's President, Christopher Poor, owns Arms & Armor, a business specializing in the replication of historic artifacts. He first met Ewart Oakeshott on a research trip to London in 1985. Their mutual passion for medieval armor led to a deep and lasting friendship.

As the relationship grew, Ewart and his wife, Sybil Marshall, expressed concern that when they were gone his life-long collection would be auctioned off, or worse, scattered and lost. Ewart was always delighted to share his boundless knowledge and his amazing collection. Sybil, an innovative educator, lecturer and novelist, shared his enthusiasm for learning and also collected artifacts. At their request, The Oakeshott Institute was conceived, and a trust was established to carry forward their love of ancient artifacts and the educational opportunities they present.

It was extremely important to Ewart and Sybil that the collection be available to future students, not just as relics behind glass but as living pieces of history. Ewart firmly believed that to truly experience the sword one needed to touch it. He would say "a sword is a sad, lifeless object - but hold it in your hands and it comes to life!" A major goal in forming the Institute was to provide a space where both scholars and the public could share in the unique experience of interacting with historical pieces.

Ewart Oakeshott died in 2002 at the age of 86. Sybil Marshall passed away three years later, at the age of 91. But their legacy lives on through the work and efforts of The Oakeshott Institute.

See map on page 7

Oakeshott Institute is located at 1101 Stinson Blvd NE in Minneapolis. On Interstate 35W, take exit 23 A from the south and 21A from the north. Meeting starts at 6:30 pm with potluck, followed immediately by membership meeting. Be sure to read your copy of the bylaws--old and proposed change--in the centerfold of this issue of The Forum. We will be voting on their adoption at this meeting.

Forum deadline for February: Monday, Jan. 14, 2008

The deadline for The Forum is always the third Monday of the month. If you have activities that will be occurring in the next few months and wish to have them published in the next Forum, please send them by Monday, Jan. 14, 2008 to Georgia Myers, editor, by e-mail to:

forum@metalsmith.org

(e-mails will be forwarded to Georgia Myers), or to

gldmyers@embarqmail.com

or mail them to:

Georgia Myers
413 W Dakota St
Lake City MN 55041



The Guild of Metalsmiths, St. Paul, MN, publishes the GoM Forum monthly. It is intended as a tool to further our educational mission, to keep members up to date on current happenings, to publicize projects and workshops, a place for all members to express their opinions, concerns, learn more about each other—in short, to help us run our organization.

For address change, or to submit comments, please mail to: The GoM Forum

Georgia Myers
413 W Dakota St
Lake City, MN 55041-1869
or e-mail to

forum@metalsmith.org or
gldmyers@embarqmail.com

Guild educational grants

There is grant money available for Guild members to study intermediate and advanced metalworking techniques.

The Guild educational grant program is designed to bring new skills into the metalworking community. Participants are given money to pay for a portion of their expenses and are expected to learn some new or poorly understood skill, and then to share what they have learned with other members and the public through an article in our quarterly magazine, “The Metalsmith.” They’re also expected to lead a workshop on the topic (or other educational service approved by the board).

Application forms are available from the president or treasurer at a regular meeting, or by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

The Guild of Metalsmiths
PO Box 11423
St. Paul MN 55111



‘The Forum’ is online

To read an electronic (PDF) version of *The Forum* each month, go to our website, www.metalsmith.org.

Making the Showy Lady Slipper

When: Saturday & Sunday, Jan. 12 & 13, 2008

Class starts at 9 am each day

Where: Myron Hanson's studio, Eagan MN

(Map on previous page)

Fee: \$40

Class size: Maximum 8 students

Instructor: Bill Krawczeski,

Description: Master blacksmith Bill Krawczeski will teach you how he makes the yellow lady slipper. This is a two-day class. On the first day you will make each individual piece for your yellow lady slipper. Day two you will learn how to assemble these parts into a work of art. At the end of this class, you should take home a completed yellow lady slipper and all the parts for a second yellow lady slipper.

Safety Equipment: Safety glasses and earplugs, gloves, apron, cotton clothing, leather shoes

Other Equipment: You will be sent a list of chisels along with individual drawings and dimensions for each one. These tools will be used to make the various components for your flower. If you have time and are able, make your own set and bring them with you to class. If you cannot make them prior to class, there will be tools that you may borrow during class.

Lunch arrangements: Bring your own lunch with you, or visit one of the fast food restaurants close by. You will have approximately one hour for lunch.

This is a Guild-sponsored class.



Fill out the form on next page. Send your registration with check for \$40 made out to The Guild of Metalsmiths to:

**Jim Moenck
661 Dorland Rd S
Maplewood MN 55119**

Making the showy lady slipper

Register for this class now! You'll not be sorry! Join one of the most talented blacksmiths in the upper Midwest, Bill Krawczeski, as he instructs you in the fine art of creating a piece that will end up looking similar to the photo at right.



Register for "Making the Yellow Lady Slipper." Fill out form below and mail, along with check for \$40 made out to "Guild of Metalsmiths" to:

Jim Moenck
661 Dorland Rd S
Maplewood MN 55119

For questions, call Jim at 651-735-4461 or email jrmoenck@yahoo.com

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Gate Project - 2008



February 9th & 10th
Instructors: Myron Hanson, Bill
Krawczeski, Dick Carlson, Bob
Johnson, Jim Moenck, and
others

Class fee: \$60

Class size: maximum 12
students, minimum 8 students

Where: Dick Carlson's shop, Flint Rock Ridge
Forge
19700 Red Wing Blvd
Hastings MN 55033 (map next page)

This Gate Project class will give participants first hand knowledge and experience to learn how to build a gate. Many processes will be used, such as executing a design plan, punching, drifting, upsetting, mortise and tenons, collars, rosettes, riveting and scrollwork. Participants will be responsible for making various parts of the gate. This project will be used in conjunction of the Ring Contest which will be held at the 2008 Madness. The gate will be auctioned for sale at the conference, and the winning bidder will have their pick of rings from the contest installed in this gate. This will be an educational event to build your blacksmithing skills, as well as a fund raiser for The Guild of Metalsmiths. (see next page for more details and map)

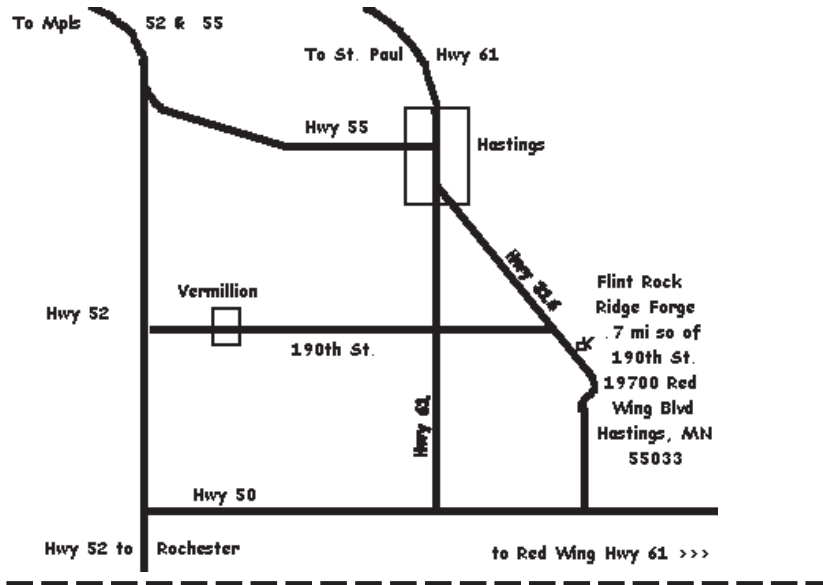
**Register now for this unique Gate
Project. Fill out the form on the next
page and mail with check.**

Equipment to bring: Bring your bucket of favorite tools; hammers, punches, chisels, twisting wrench, etc.
Safety Equipment – safety glasses & ear plugs are mandatory. Other safety equipment may include: gloves, leather apron, cotton clothing, leather shoes. Any other equipment will be furnished.

The gate we'll be working on is 3' wide and 5' high. The gate on the previous page is only a representation and not the actual design we'll be working on.

Lunch Arrangements:

Bring your own lunch. This will be an intense workshop, and you will not have time to run into town for lunch.



Register for "Gate Project 2008." Fill out form below and mail, along with check for \$60 made out to "Guild of Metalsmiths" to:

**Jim Moenck
 661 Dorland Rd S
 Maplewood MN 55119**

For questions, call Jim at 651-735-4461 or email jrmoenck@yahoo.com

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Bylaws Vote at February Membership Meeting

Approximately one year ago, we published a copy of the current bylaws of The Guild of Metalsmiths in our publication “Metalsmith”. These bylaws were originally written in 1978 and were later revised and amended in 1990.

It was noted by many people that the current bylaws do not really reflect how our organization operates or should operate. In this issue of “The Forum” you will notice a reprint of these bylaws plus a proposed updated version of the bylaws. The second version was developed by the Long Term Planning Committee under the leadership of Gary Myers and reviewed by the Board of Directors. We feel this updated version is a better match for the way our organization works and provides a better framework for us to use.

According to the current bylaws any amendment or rewrite must be published to the membership then voted on and approved at one of our regular meetings before the new bylaws may be implemented.

This issue of “The Forum” is considered the official publication of the new version and the Board has decided to hold the approval vote by the membership at our regular February membership meeting. This vote will be a simple approval or rejection of the new bylaws as published in this issue of “The Forum,” no amendments or changes will be accepted.

It is hoped that all members will read the proposed new version and come to the meeting next month ready to vote on this change for our organization.

Rich Herman, President

NOTE: the two versions (current and proposed updated version) of the bylaws are printed in the centerfold of this publication. Please loosen the staples and remove them for ease of reading.

Map to Oakeshott Institute



Finney Company announces acquisition of Astragal Press

News Release
December 17, 2007
Ann Prescott, Marketing Manager
crafterbooks@finneyco.com

Finney Company is pleased to announce the acquisition of Astragal Press, a company that publishes affordable books for those interested in antique tools and early trades and technologies. Astragal Press has been relocated from Mendham, New Jersey to Lakeville Minnesota.

Astragal Press was founded by Martyl and Emil Pollak in 1983. Since then, Astragal Press' book list has grown to over 90 titles. The types of books published are new works as well as reprints and previously out-of-print classics. Astragal Press is one of the principal resources for those interested in antique tool collecting, metalworking, carriage building, early science, and early trades. Popular titles include Five Hundred and Seven Mechanical Movements, Horse Drawn Sleighs, and Restoring Antique Tools. This newest Finney imprint has an additional international appeal, joining titles like A Blacksmithing Primer, Horsemanship Handbook, and other Finney Company publications that are currently distributed worldwide.

Finney Company and Astragal Press had a working relationship prior to the acquisition. "With common customers, including members of The Artisan Blacksmith Association of North America (ABANA), we are excited to combine our publishing and marketing efforts," states Alan E. Krysan, president of Finney Company. "The synergy between our two organizations makes this an ideal merger of resources. Both customers and suppliers will benefit from adding Astragal Press as an imprint of Finney Company."

These and all books published by Finney Company are available at local bookstores, specialty retailers, catalog companies, online booksellers, as well as Finney Company by calling 866-543-3045, or visiting www.astragalpress.com or www.finneyco.com.

Finney Company, established in 1947, is a growing independent publisher and distributor of educational materials and trade books. In the last six years, it has acquired eleven companies, expanding both the proprietary titles and titles distributed for other publishers. Astragal Press has been added to this list of highly regarded companies for a combined total of more than 200 years of providing quality materials to schools, libraries, and individuals worldwide.

NEW MEMBERS

Kurt Reichenbach
N6878 US HWY 12
Black River Falls, WI 54615
715-284-3525
KMREICHE@CENTURYTEL.NET

Please be sure to add this name and address information to your copy of The Guild of Metalsmiths directory.

What is a mentor, and why do we need them?

You will be hearing a lot more about mentoring, and being a mentor. What is a mentor, you ask? All of us have been mentors at one time or another in our lives. No matter who we are, where we come from, what age we are, we have been mentors to one degree or another. Mentor is defined in the dictionary as advisor, counselor, guide, tutor, teacher or guru. Well guru might be a stretch, at least in my mind. But we all have guided or taught. Whether it was our children, co-workers or friends, we have been a mentor at some time or another.



In order for our Guild to continue to grow, and pass on the skills in blacksmithing, we need mentors. Period.

We know it is easier to learn a skill if some one teaches it to you than to learn it on your own. We benefit from the mistakes of others, and the learning curve becomes much quicker. We must continue to pass the knowledge we have on to others, and they in turn to others, and so on, and so on. That way, the skill of blacksmithing will continue to flourish. If you are asking yourself right now, “what can I do, or what do I have to offer, in order to be a mentor”, here are a few things to consider.

If you are a board member, you automatically are a mentor. If you want to be a mentor, you can be. Any member can be a mentor.

Every new member needs to be assigned to a mentor. We want every new member to feel welcomed to our Guild. By simply being available to let them know when the next meeting is, where it is at, and would they want to ride with you to the meeting can be a big help to a new member. And don't just tell them where it's at or take them there, sit with them at dinner and introduce them to other members. Help make them feel welcome to our community. So, in a nutshell, here is a list of things you can do as a mentor when you are called upon:

I have come to realize that a good many members don't have a place to smith. Perhaps you could invite them over to your shop some afternoon, and share some of your time and skills with him or her. Or perhaps you could tell them about a class of interest that they could take. Maybe they don't have any tools, and don't know where to find them.

Can you do anything to point them in the right direction? I think you can. And, if you are interested in becoming a mentor, contact Gordon Barr, and help the Guild perpetuate the craft of blacksmithing. Gordon can be reached at agbarr@aol.com, by phone at 952 894-4821, or contact him at a Guild meeting.

— Jim Moenck

Our neighborhood of smiths

Check this page every month to see what's going on with our neighboring colleagues, and read about activities in their smithing groups.

UMBA

Visit <http://www.umbaonline.org/events.html>

UMBA DVD-R library

125 different titles

\$5 each, \$2 shipping per order

Never return them to library - www.umbaonline.org

Badger Blacksmiths meetings

Our contact information is as follows:

President: Paul Branch

715-248-7788

715-222-9239

pbranch@frontiernet.net

Jon Gooding

(715)-688-2067

hdriderjr@baldwin-telecom.net

Lake Superior Metalsmiths

Lake Superior Metalsmiths (LSM) meet the fourth Saturday of the month at noon from October through April. The meetings are potluck at noon at Dave Hanson's house, 5873 Taft Road, Duluth, Minnesota, 218-721-4572.

Northern Minnesota Metalsmiths

The NMM meetings are the first Monday of the month, often, but not always, at Keith Johnson's shop in Bemidji. Contact Keith for monthly specifics at keith@greatriverforge.com. The Northern Minn. Metalsmith's website is up again, different name, www.nmmetalsmiths.org

Updates are needed to information on this page!

If you have information to share about one of our neighboring smithing groups, please email Georgia Myers, editor of The Forum, at gldmyers@embarqmail.com.

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Letter to The Guild of Metalsmiths from the Blacksmith Association of Missouri (BAM)

Dear Editors,

Greetings from the Missouri smiths! The Blacksmith Association of Missouri would like to invite you and your membership to the 17th Annual Ozark Conference on May 1, 2, & 3, 2008, being held at the Missouri State Fairgrounds in Sedalia, Missouri. This will be our largest conference ever, and we would love for other organizations to share the experience with us.

We are looking forward to a wonderful 3 days, so we hope you can join us. After all, we do this “For Love of The Craft!”

Thank you,

BAM 2008 Conference Committee
Kirk Sullens, BAM President
2008 Conference CoChairman
417-863-8628
kirk@kirksullens.com

NOTE: to learn all about the BAM conference, go to
<http://www.bamsite.org/> Preregistration is needed by April 14, 2008.

News from Tunnel Mill...

In 2008 Tom Latane’ will be teaching 1 or 2 classes at Tunnel Mill, depending on interest . Gothic Chest Lock—The class will cover the forging, filing and fitting of components of a chest lock with a spring loaded bolt to retain a hasp. A roughed out key blank will be available to be fitted, using saw and files, to a set of wards which will be fabricated with mortise and tenon joints and forge brazed.

Those who participated in the Gothic chest class will be constructing a lock to be affixed behind the front wall of the chest. Other students will make a lock which could be mounted on the exterior of any appropriately sized wooden chest. Date—May 29, 30, & 31, 2008

- Kirsten Skiles will be doing another Repousse of her choice ..date not yet set. (possibly leaf forging techniques)
- Roger Degner will be doing another Roycroft cooper vessel class. Date not set.
- Nathan Robertson will be doing a hammer class or hammer forging techniques.
- We have been talking with Bill Fiorini on doing a class of his choosing.

If interested in any class just let us know. John & Carol Adams, 507 378-4983 at Tunnel Mill, or email jcadams@msn.com

Goings on...



...a calendar of GoM events at a glance

Events in January, 2008

- Jan. 9, Guild board meeting, Myron Hanson's in Eagan.
- Jan. 12 & 13, Making the Showy Lady Slipper, Myron Hanson's Studio in Eagan.
- Jan. 19, Beginning Blacksmithing, B class, session 2

Events in February, 2008

- Feb. 2, Beginning Blacksmithing, B class, session 3
- Feb. 13, Guild meeting at Oakeshotte Institute, 1101 Stinson Blvd. NE, Minneapolis
- Feb. 16, Beginning Blacksmithing, B class, session 4
- Feb. 23, Beginning Blacksmithing, C class, session 1

Events in March, 2008

- March 8, Beginning Blacksmithing, C class, session 2
- March 12, Guild board of directors meeting, Myron Hanson's studio, Eagan, MN
- March 22, Beginning Blacksmithing, C class, session 3
- March 29 & 30, welding class, details TBA

For sale:

I have some blacksmith equipment that I would like to dispose of. I have a cone, blower, vise, and anvil. There is also a slab of solid metal and some tools. I am not a blacksmith, so do not know the terms by which you know these items.

If you know of anyone who would be interested, please have them call me to make an appointment to see these items.

Rose Prissel
715 -672-5895
Durand, WI