



METALSMITH

A NEWSLETTER OF THE GUILD OF METALSMITHS: an organization to promote appreciation and study of the Metal Smith's Art; serving Smiths in any form of metalsmithing.



Dear Friends,

May this newsletter smile upon your day.

Our corporation proceedings are all finished and with the proper "John Hancock's" we'll be on our way to a non-profit status. What we'll try to do in this first publication is provide you with a list of those attending the first meetings and other interested parties. We'll fill you in on what's happening as a guild in the hopes that you will be able to give the vital input needed to support it. Here are a few ideas: Send in your logo design for the guild; a swap column; a project to photograph the works of early smith Charles Knabe (any amateur photographers out there?); writing for grants and help in fund-raising; dates, times, and places of shows; exhibits, conferences, etc. that the guild members might be interested in; expanding our mailing list (send in names and addresses); names of wholesalers and trade tips (or secrets) would be welcome. What would you like to see done as a guild? What we put in is what we'll get out of it so let's do the best we can as we grow together.

NEW SCHOOL TO TEACH BLACKSMITHING

The Minnesota School of Horseshoeing and Blacksmithing opened for business in January offering courses in Horseshoeing and in traditional Blacksmithing. The horseshoeing course is a full time program designed for people interested in becoming full time professional farriers. The blacksmithing course is a part time course offering instruction in the basic techniques of traditional blacksmithing and incorporating those techniques into useful projects. The blacksmithing course is very attentive to where people are coming from and what their specific interests might be. The school invites all guild members to visit their facility in Anoka. It is located at 6260 Hwy. 10 NW Anoka (about 2 or 2½ miles west of Anoka on Hwy. 10 turn left at the Sunset Motel and we are the blue building behind Dixon plumbing).

INTERESTED PERSONS:

* Indicates members of the Board of Directors

Jock Spurgin
Carol Deming
Lulu Spurgin
* Lisa Rood
Dick Lindeke
* Steven Bell
* Lucky Davenport
David Christoffer
Skip Drake
Andy Lininger
Greg Wind
Bernie Hoffman
David Craig
Paul Hubler
* Bill Habein
Peggy Longest
Leopold Lisovskis
* Pieter Maas
Robert Olson
* Mark Nichols
Chris Brovold
James Carmouche
Dan Kral
Paula Williamson
Rick McClelland
Joe Ordos
Irv Shoemaker
Gramps Teal
Wayne Raske
Robert Tubbesing
J.W. Baldwin
Bill Kidd
Helen Lofstrom
Bob Schade
Cliff Evans
Wayne Hensche
Tony Crimi
Floyd Nelson
John Webb
Jerry Simer
Tony Collodoro
Bob Dressel
John Scheiber
Frank Bifulk
Bernie VE Ve
Bert Auger
Ernie Green
Mark Gelbman
Wilburn Meyers
George Lansing
Harold Sulzback
John Linder
L.E. Tompkins
Steve Dalthorp
Richard Hunt
Bob Milliman
Sally Brock
Kevin Byrne

BOOK REVIEW

DAMASCUS STEEL

PASTRY TOOL. Robert Griffith. Sixteen layers of ASTM A203E and wrought iron.
Photo, Aaron Mascari



ONCE in a Blumoon a book is published which, standing binding and cover above all the rest, the serious metalsmith and developing artist cannot afford to overlook. Such a truly stunning book is "Decorative and Sculptural IRONWORK; Tools, Techniques; Inspiration" by Dona Meilach, 1977. Very reasonably priced at \$7.95, "IRONWORK" explores at extremely close range an amazing number of the properties of iron and the procedures for working it, including the other metals in the process. But the aim of the book is not merely technique, though it draws together a visual feast of past and contemporary works including: carved animals, lockworks, forging bronze, angle raising in silver, forged sculpture, blade and armour smithing, the latest research into damascus steel and pattern welding, jewelry techniques, and more. As the Author states in her Foreword: "...the scope of 'Decorative and Sculptural Ironwork' deals with the activity that is emerging as a renaissance in an art form that appeared to be dying but instead has been steadily smoldering. It is not so concerned with the history or romance of the blacksmith, with a preservation of antique styles, or the making of tools. Rather, it presents a no-nonsense adaptation of the smith's techniques to the expressive output of the contemporary artist-craftsman. It offers the best available examples by people working today whether they are creating objects for personal expression as sculpture, for functional use as gates, grilles, hinges, weather vanes, utensils, and myriad other items, or a combination of functional-sculptural pieces."

"The concern is with the trend, how it is growing, where it appears to be moving; to introduce the reader to the potential of forging techniques and how they may be adapted to his own work."

This is the contemporary definition of the metalsmith. You won't go away from this book with your questions unanswered. 700 photos, 20 color plates; Crown Publishers, Inc. N.Y. Suggested by Rich McClelland, review by David C.

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MORE WANTS

Wanted to Hire: Blacksmith to make historical reproductions for the Finn Creek Open Air Museum in New York Mills, Mn. Hinges, bolts, misc. hardware, tools, utensils, etc. for Finn pioneer homestead; about a week or so of work. CONTACT: Darrel Nicholson, Proj. Director, Finn Creek Open Air Museum; box 357, New York Mills, Minnesota; 56567 A working vacation?

For Sale: "Dumore" Flexible Shaft Machine with swivel table stand and rheostat, Jacobs chuck; \$ 30 , CONTACT: Bill l'Argent, 825- 2564

WANTED! Persons interested in metalsmithing, for small but determined "GUILD OF METALSMITHS" Be prepared to attend general membership meeting to elect officers, and to organize goals and objectives. This is YOUR opportunity to determine Guild policy. Mark Sunday July 10th as reserved for your Guild; MEETING PLACE AND TIME: The Place, Butler Square Bldg., 100 N. 6th St., Mpls. Sunday afternoon, 1 pm to approximately 3:30, refreshments available.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE: "THE ANVILS RING"
The major source of information and exchange in contemporary North American Smithing is pertinent to both novice and professional. The 30 page newsletter-magazine is published quarterly by The Artist Blacksmiths Association of North America; 1372 Peachtree St.N.E. Student-\$5.00 Atlanta, Georgia 30309 Regular-\$15.00

URGENT

URGENT

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NO COAL?

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THERE WERE NO MORE SMITHING COAL???

This may become a reality for everyone who gets their coal from the Great Lakes Coal and Docking Co. of St. Paul. Great Lakes is seriously considering discontinuing stocking Blacksmiths coal (Pocahontas #6) when their new terminal is completed in favor of more money-making coal from Wyoming for industrial uses. In the past, Great Lakes has continued to supply smithing coal as more or less a service to local farriers and smiths, as the income from the relatively small volume traded is a small fraction of their yearly income. The only other source for smithing coal in this region is in Duluth. Imagine the expense and inconvenience of getting coal if it is no longer locally available. If you are a user of Great Lake's smithing coal it will be in your interest to help us do what can be done to see that this service is not discontinued. TIME IS IMPORTANT. The first thing you can do is to send a card or note expressing how important this source is to you and urging them not to discontinue stocking smithing coal. The Address is:

c/o R. J. Colombo

Great Lakes Coal & Docking Co.
2102 University Ave.
St. Paul, Mn 55114

SPREAD THE WORD!

Second, help us out by sending the Guild an estimate of how much coal you use in a year, no matter how small the amount is. The Guild will use this to compile an estimate of yearly smithing coal consumption, which Great Lakes has indicated would be useful in making their decision. Our address is:

Guild of Metalsmiths
c/o Gibbs Farm Museum
2097 west Larpenteur Ave.
St. Paul, Mn 55113

OR call Mark 935-7595 and
leave message.

Last, another possibility is for the Guild to form a buying coop. This would work to our personal advantage as the individual cost would decrease. Let us know if this interests you.

This is an urgent matter, please respond quickly without delay.

Art Fair List

There is a Regional Art Fair List available at a subscription cost of \$8. The following states are included; Minn. Wisc. Iowa, Ill. Mich. The lists are available for purchase at the Arts Alliance office; Butler Sq. Bldg. or to order your own subscription write; Regional Art Fair List
Box 136, Route 1
Stockholm, Wisc. 64769

A local Art Fair List is available through the Arts Resource & Information Center, by calling 870-3131 or sending a self addressed stamped envelope to the; ARTS ALLIANCE
Butler Square Bldg.
Phone; 332-0471 Room 301 100N. Sixth St.
Mpls. Minn. 55403

RESERVE JULY 10TH

The Board of Directors of the Guild of Metalsmiths issues an INVITATION AND CALL FOR ORGANIZATION To All Interested Persons; to elect officers, and determine policy, goals and objectives for our Guild. This is your chance to influence what directions the Guild will grow, and your opportunity to get "plugged in" with others who are beginning to realize how much we have to share with each other. MEETING PLACE: 'The Place', Butler Square Bldg., 100 N. 6th St, downtown Mpls. TIME: 1 pm, July 10, refreshments available.

GIBBS FARM REPORT

Well, the whitewash is going on at the Gibbs Farm thanks to the Weekend warriors and David Christofferson, commander-in-chief. The Guild is working with the Gibbs Farm Museum staff to create an operating blacksmith shop, which will be open for the use of guild members. David's got the double forge all worked out on paper. The footings are poured and the forge raising is to start on April 16 and 17. Bring some bricks, beer, and bratwurst. The fun starts at 10 AM on Saturday and 10:30 on Sunday: hope to see you there! Any person wishing to help beforehand call David at 225-6177; mark at 938-7595; or Skip at 646-8629 for times and information.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 16-17 - Forge raising and picnic at Gibbs Farm.
- April 23 or 24 - (tentative) work crew going to Renaissance Festival and first meeting of the Renaissance Festival project group.
- April 15 - Board of Directors meet at Gibbs Farm, 7:00
- May 22 - "Metalsmithing Sunday" at Gibbs Farm.
- Aug. 20 through Sept. 25 weekends - Renaissance Festival
- October 8-9 - Gibbs Farm Fall Festival

STEP BACK INTO THE 1820's

The Minnesota Historical Society's restoration of Old Fort Snelling opens to the public again on April 15. Guild members are invited to stop out and see the working blacksmith shop and talk "shop" with the smith on duty.



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

We would encourage you to support this organization and its efforts by becoming a member. We ask a minimum membership contribution as follows:

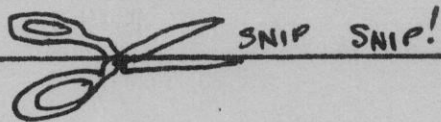
- Organizations \$20.00
- Individuals \$ 5.00

If you are able to help out more, please do!

All contributions are tax deductible.

As a guild we can offer you a chance to meet others with like interests, participation in guild projects, events, and a newsletter to keep you informed.

The Guild of Metalsmiths
c/o Gibbs Farm Museum
2097 West Larpenteur Ave.
St. Paul, MN 555113



Name: _____

Address: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Date _____

Contribution Amount enclosed: _____

Areas of interest: _____

Comments: