Dear Fellow Collector,
Dear reader of the PLUMB BOB NEWS,
As always, I am searching for new material and information associated with plumb bobs.
Please feel free to share new photos, catalogs, articles or stories of a personal nature.
I welcome input from fellow collectors!
Wolf

PLUMB BOB NEWSLETTER 2015- Q 04
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1. INTRODUCTION

Dear Fellow Collector,
A few months ago, I reassessed the personal effort required to produce 12 monthly editions of "Wolf's Plumb Bob News" and decided to reduce production of my newsletter to one each quarter, rather than one/month. Since this edition will be my fourth newsletter this year, I realize that I have enough material to generate a fifth newsletter this coming December, which will be an abbreviated edition! Topics I have considered for my final 2015 abbreviated newsletter include:
• Alignment of front wheels on old cars
• The plumb bob in the film of Jules Verne "Journey to the Center of the Earth"
• Pins with pictures from plumb bobs
• The weight (plummet) of the chimney sweeper
• The word "plumb bob" or "plummet" in different expressions of each language
• The plumb bob in building aircrafts
• Other interesting topics which may arise during the next few months

If YOU have topics or pictures you deem interesting for inclusion in my final December newsletter, please send them to me during the next few months – I will be happy to review them!

Today, I searched my archives, searching for the results of eBay auctions from the period between 2007 - 2009. Many of them are now in collections of friends. I've added some comments for a better explanation.

Of special interest was correspondence from members of the Leistner family with news and information from a collector about a unknown plumb bob with a very interesting internal reel mechanism. As always, I look forward to receiving feedback regarding such topics from the readers of my publication.

I received an email from a fellow names Clay, while on holiday:
"A plumb bob we recently saw in Taif, Saudi Arabia, Clay"

I love to receive such photos-please keep sending them to me! Not every plumb bob is PATENTED or MADE WITH EXPENSIVE MACHINES. ☺

Cheers
Wolfgang

plumbbobwolf@t-online.de
2. PLUMB BOBS OFFERED ON EBAY
2007 to 2009 (selection).

2007/1

1

2

3

4

5

6
DESCRIPTION of photos 2007/1 on page 88

1A Heavy brass with wooden spool. 88€
1B,C Miners lamp by B&S
1D Interesting decoration
2A Nicely turned and knurled top
2B Lignum vitae 11 inch
2C 36 GBP with wooden box. Parts

2D Stanley London
3A 23 pbs with display
3BC pb boxwood, brass, steel tip PINE HOLDER
3D British brass w initials $23
4A,B ALFRED SHIRLEY is a maker in England

4C,D PICADOR made in England
PICADOR produced between the 1950s and 1980s two types of bobs;
TRADITIONAL as #322 323 324 325 in 60gr 80gr 100gr and 110gr. DIE CAST ZINC (DIE CAST LIGHT ALLOY) PARALLEL as #582 1/2 583 584 585 586 in 60gr 100gr 200gr 340gr 530gr
Catalogues exist from 1963 and 1980.
PICADOR is since Nov 2005 in liquidation.

5A PAUL LEISTNER $67! Last month the same was sold for $400
5B,C MOUNT TAI made in China
5D 3 inch brass filled with lead
6A,B Brass, old. From Bulgarie. 75€+sh
6C Chinese with IVORY inlet
6D Chinese boxed brass $180
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7A</td>
<td>Chinese boxed brass $180. It’s an ink pot and not to storage for a plumb bob 😊</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7B</td>
<td>Chinese flying saucer. Often offered on EBAY.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7C</td>
<td>Chinese brass egg. Top screw is NEW. Not a “born” plumb bob</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7D</td>
<td>3 lbs 5 inch brass with spool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8A</td>
<td>32 mm dia. French carpenter plumb bob.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8B</td>
<td>Turtle #5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8D</td>
<td>Highly ornamented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9A,B</td>
<td>Stanley like reel. 7 inch 2 lbs brass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9C,D</td>
<td>Clinometer with plumb bob. Sold from New Zealand.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10A</td>
<td>French with internal reel. 13 cm high, 5 cm dia. Ring is the SPACER. 158€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10B</td>
<td>French carpenter plumb bob</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10C</td>
<td>Brass 5 inch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10D</td>
<td>French carpenter plumb bob. Both sides.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11B</td>
<td>Brass. 6 inch 3 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11C</td>
<td>Henry Boker 10 Sold from Australia. Made by Gampper, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11D</td>
<td>Plomada bronce from Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12C</td>
<td>Typical cast iron from PRESTON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12D</td>
<td>48 oz ornated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DESCRIPTION of photos 2007/3 on page 92

13A 10 inch, 76 oz. Huge
13B Ivory
13C Stanley like internal reel
13D Apple core shaped brass
14A Tip protection. Combination
14B,C Russian. Only two items are known. Parts see on the photo below.

14D,15A,B Miraculous! YOUNG & SONS brass plumb bob. Patent has not been found.
15C Brass 11 lbs, 12 inch, $700+
15D,16A Brass hollow from Argentina, $99
16B,C Brass. 8 inch, 5 lbs with brass reel
16D Extremely ornated
17A,B Iron with internal reel. $182
17C PLUMB LITE signed by the inventor GRIFFIN. $280
17D Bridge builders pb. 7 inch 4 lbs. Brass
18A,B Shield’s patent. England. Another one was sold on eBay in 2010. It was from the shipyards on the river Clyde in Scotland.

18C,D France SCHUMFELL RELEVATEUR BREVETE $250 USED TO FIND GOLD. Such an instrument was sold 2015 as Rare Antique SCHUMFELL MARITIME

COMPASS French Detector Pendulum in Original Box for $460!

Here are some other photos:
DESCRIPTION of photos 2008/1 on page 94

1A France, brass, 77 mm, marked 1000
1B,C Brass, unusual shape. Starting bid $50
1D Postcard from Wisconsin. 2 masons with a long plumb board

2A Sold in New Zealand for $265. 7 inch brass.
2B 224 € ANCIEN FIL A PLOMB FORME DE CLOCHE EN BRONZE
2C Netherlands. 25 € 1600 g 5 cm dia. To use as flat bottom pb or with a tip.

2D3A French bronze carpenter. 221€
3B,C French small pb with spacer. 142€

3D,4A Acorn shape. Hollow, filled with lead.
4B,C A.L. THOMPSON #3, 7 cm, 178€

4D Signed 1870, brass with cap, $240
5A Marked with MERCEDES STAR. Gift by Mercedes for the clients on the exhibition BAUMA 1980 in Munich, Germany. This type was made by Gampper in nickel and GOLD PLATED

5B Robert and Brandi with hot pants. (Barbara is naked). Patent from 1998. Robert made in 16 oz, the girls in 12oz, 16 oz and 24 oz
5C BRASS 5 inch special top and big storage area. $202

5D,6A Oldest patented US chalk line. Carter’s May 28, 67 $128
6B Old brass combination. $35
6C,D French interesting shape; three parts
DESCRIPTION of the photos 2008/2 on page 96

7A Acorn, brass, 112 €

7B Helicopter pb as a joke 😊

7C HOLLOW SPHERE PENDULUM

7D,8A Wooden body and reel. 23€

8B Ivory 6 in x 2 $765. After the law (ivory ban; selling of ivory items) in the U.S.A. is adapted to most of the other countries, you will no longer see eBay auctions with ivory plumb bobs. Looking back, here are some IVORY (or whale bone) PLUMB BOBS from the collection of my late friend Nelson:

8C Made of a pool billiard ball.

8D jeton cuivre HAEC PONDERA IUSTI 1643

9A French bell shaped 44€

9B LEISTNER surveyor’s plumb bob

9C,D LEISTNER millwright’s plumb bob sold in New Zealand for $299

10A Wooden German plumb level 18€

10B Huge brass, $250

10C Ivory described 1876

10D Ornated brass with patina $350

11A Cover: participated in Operation Plumbbob in 1957 at the Nevada Test Site

11B,C Signet, Germany, Mason detail (picture mirrored)

11D Plumb bob set in fitted wood case $350

12A A French collector bought from China this nice brass shape for $10 😊

12B TILT MECHANISM (pendulum) from a pinball slot machine

12C Decorated brass $56

12D Brass with tip protector and wooden case 203€
DESCRIPTION of photos 2009/1 on page 98

1A $289 6 in 40 oz brass. Unusual shape
1 B, C, D $660 Brass plumb bob inside (1C). Prop(erty) of HUTCHINSON BROS, 14 LIGHT ST. (Baltimore, MD)

Below a newsletter ad from Apr. 20, 1877
Baltimore City Directory 1888: Jesse L. and C. Fred Hutchison, furnaces, ranges &c Light St.

2A, B BRICKLAYERS, MASONs & PLASTERERS enameled PIN

2C 63 GBP Brass with special HOOK
2D OVB Our very best $130
3 A, B Freemason. Member coin
3 C, D French maritime sounding weight
4A 12 GBP
4B John Laird Plumb bob 8 lbs 9 inches. More see my Newsletter 2010-05

ENGLISH PLUMB BOBS Part 2

4C OFFERED AS line bob, but it is a FISH LURE RETRIEVER. Exist also as patent US2553173 in this shape

4D, 5A, B Not a plumb bob, but a top of a helmet in the Prussia Army in the 1900s

5C Got information about this PNTC plumb bob from a friend in 2008. Thanks Wayne

Hello Wolf,
Every other year the PNTC (Pacific Northwest Tool Collectors) hosts a gathering called The Best in the West....This is usually a 3-4 day event and a large banquet is held on Sat. night. At the banquet---we as members of PNTC can receive up to two favors (which we have prepaid) ... Wayne

Additional Information from the Internet:
It is a limited edition of 202 castings, sequentially serialized, boxed and labeled for presentation to full meeting registrants on August 19, 2000. The plumb bob design and art work was done by member and plane maker Christopher Laarman. Castings were done by Cranston Castings of Rhode Island. Machining, polishing, packaging and labeling was accomplished by a dedicated team of PNTC volunteers. This bob is bronze with a steel tip and is about 2 1/4" long and weighs about 4 ounces..

5D, 6A, B SOLID BRASS TWIN SPHERE PLUMBOB

6C Wallpaper border with TOOLS. Now in my museum.

6D Advertising Aerated Concrete poured in plastic. Hebel-Gasbeton GmbH u. Co KG Postfach 1440 4520 Melle
3. **PAUL LEISTNER FAMILY NEWS**

As you know, Paul Leistner was a famous maker of excellent brass plumb bobs in St. Louis, MO and St. Charles, MO. For more information regarding the Leistner's family and his business operations, view my web site on the page titled

“Heimbach and Leistner”:
**The German Art of Metalwork**
St. Louis and St. Charles Missouri
By Nelson Denny and Mike Urness.

This summer, I contacted Bob Allard, a member a member of the Leistner family. The following information I obtained from Bob revealed that Leistner's manufacturing operation was not confined to just making plumb bobs:

Some excerpts from my initial e-mail correspondence with Bob:

“Hello, my wife is a granddaughter of Paul Gustav Leistner. We were delighted to see the work you have done both with the history of Paul Leistner's Manufacturing and also with the Churchbook records you researched. My wife has two of the plumb bobs. They are both small surveyor models. We also have a brass bed, four bed warmers and an ashtray from his company. We would love to find a few more plumb bobs. Can you advise how we might find some?

Thanks for any help you can give,
Bob Allard”

Bob's second correspondence with Mike and I a few days later I learned more about Paul Gustav Leistner III's family and creative design and manufacturing pursuits:

“Hi Mike and Wolfgang,
Thanks for getting back to me. My wife Betty is the daughter of Paul Gustav Leistner III. Paul was born in St. Charles and moved to St. Peters after he married. He had some of the same creative and mechanical talents as his grandfather. He tinkered around and built things I believe while he was still in his teens. He supervised in one of the railroad car companies until they went out of business. He spent most of his years as a carpenter but had the knowledge and skills to work with a variety of materials. They had two daughters that survived to adulthood. We have several tables and chests with inlaid designs that he made.

Shortly after Betty and I married we moved to Cincinnati, Ohio and a few years later to Murfreesboro, Tennessee where we now live. There were **two brass beds**. One is a rounded headboard design that we have and the other is rectangular which Betty's sister has. I am not aware of any markings on them but will look more closely. ...

... Now Paul called them bed warmers. I had never seen the water bottle with the insert slot until seeing the patents. The basic shape we have is the same but the sides are solid without the slot in the side. These are marked 'patented 1911'. When I first saw the patent I thought Paul had taken his basic bed warmer and created an entirely new product.

More later,
Bob”

He also sent me some interesting photos of the family with some remarks and photos of things made in the Leistner factory.

The family photo has a notation that it was taken in 1940 or 1941

#1 Eugene Paul Leistner, born 1916
#2 Paul III Leistner (Gustav, called George), born 1917. Paul III is the father of Betty Allard, born Leistner.
#3 Paul Jr Leistner born 1889, the fourth son of Paul Gustav Leistner, born 1858 from Falkenstein, Germany
#3 is the husband since 1913 of #5 Eugenia Graslauf born 1892. The two are also sitting on the Harley-Davidson on the other photo but around 28 years earlier.
#4 Martha Maria Leistner, born 1915
The Harley-Davidson photo has a notation on the back that Paul Jr. and Eugenia Graslaub eloped, riding the motorcycle to Clayton, Missouri and that was the date of the photo. This was August 1913. (Aug. 30, 1913 they married)
The brass handlebars were added by Paul Jr. for Eugenia to hold onto.

From a Harley web site:

Model 5-D (V-Twin) 1909
The six-year-old Harley-Davidson Motor Company introduces its first V-twin powered motorcycle. With a displacement of 49.5 cubic inches, the bike produces seven horsepower. The image of two cylinders in a 45-degree configuration would fast become one of the most enduring icons of Harley-Davidson history. Also available for the first time from the Motor Company are spare parts for motorcycles.

We know that Paul Leistner made nice brass products as foot warmers, garden tables, fences or plumb bobs …

… but I never heard of
- CANDLE HOLDERS,
- ASHTRAYS,
- BRASS BEDS
- PICTURE FRAMES
and
- INLAID TABLES …
The brass bed with rounded edges and a brass picture holder with a photo of Paul III with one of the inlaid tables he made.
Together with Bob Allard, I modified and updated the 2010 family record of the Leistner family in Germany before their immigration to St. Louis in 1879, filled with information of the “Needle maker guild” in Auerbach and data from the internet.
4. UNKNOWN MECHANICAL PLUMB BOB MADE IN St. Louis, MO

This story started with a short email from Robbie, the tool collector near St. Louis, MO, U.S.A who briefly owned the plumb bob:

“Partial label inside top part from St Louis, MO.
I cannot make out the maker because the label is partially missing. Any help identifying the maker would be most appreciated.
Label also says "Pat. applied for"
Attached some photos ….

The rest of the label (position see red arrow in the picture above) reads …GHS … LOUIS, MO.
APPLIED FOR. (fig. below)

The FUNCTION:
When you pull out the line, the central rod is turning. To rewind the line you have to turn the rod by hand. Robbie the collector sent me a video about this function. Unfortunately we found no brake mechanism to stop and fix the line in a desired position and no spring of other mechanism to wind the line automatically.
When I published my Patent NEWS in 2007 I only found 3 (old) patents of plumb bobs with HORIZONTAL reels inside. Not from all of them I have a photo, some exist as patent drawing only. This was one that was not shown in any patent drawing before.
That was all information I had.
At first glance, the unknown plumb bob’s general body shape and especially the cap looked very similar to a plumb bob made by Heimbach in St. Louis in the 1880s. (See figs. above).

I authored a story with Nelson Denny and Mike Urness in 2008 titled “Heimbach and Leistner “HEIMBACH AND LEISTNER PLUMB BOBS” made in St Louis and St. Charles. For the full story, please visit my web site.

Joseph Heimbach worked in St. Louis between 1882 and 1896 (and worked together with Paul Gustave Leistner).

Further investigation on the unknown mechanical plumb bob.

The last letters of the name on the label were …GHS. So I searched in Google PATENTS for an inventor in St. Louis ending with …GHS. The only name that I found was BURROUGHS. However, a review of patent records revealed that no plumb bob patents were granted to WILLIAM SEWARD BURROUGHS. Detailed scrutiny of the plumb bob revealed the term ‘Patent applied for’, meaning WSB submitted a patent application, but possibly did not receive one from the US patent office.

Numerous patents are attributed to WSB, most related to calculating machines. Some other include:

No. 255,488 FOLDING COOP
Filed Jan. 5, 1882 publ. March 28, 1882
Assignor to Amos E. Colby

No. 370,313 PATTERN MAKERS TRAM
Filed Sept. 29, 1886 publ. Sept. 20, 1887
Assignor to the BOYER Manufacturing Co.

Especially this patent shows that Burroughs invented measuring tools. (See fig. right)

No. 396,070 RIBBON WINDING DEVICE
Filed Nov. 22, 1887 publ. Jan. 15, 1889
ASS. TO THE AMERICAN ARITHMOMETER CO.

No. 388,119 CALCULATING MACHINE
Filed Nov. 30 1887 publ. Aug. 21, 1888
ASS. TO THE AMERICAN ARITHMOMETER CO.

No. 420,618 DEV. FOR RECORDING NUMBERS
Filed July 11, 1888…publ. Feb. 4, 1890
ASS. TO THE AMERICAN ARITHMOMETER CO.

No. 468,414 ELECTRIC ALARM CLOCK
Filed Mar.25, 1890 publ. Feb. 9, 1892

No. 504,963 CALCULATING MACHINE
Filed May 5, 1892 publ. Sept. 12, 1893
ASS. TO THE AMERICAN ARITHMOMETER CO.

The BURROUGHS family:

Edmund Burroughs * 1826, profession MECHANIC had two sons Charles and William (and daughters). He moved in 1881 or earlier (without his wife and daughters) from Auburn, New York to St. Louis, MO.

Edmund Burroughs was described as an “unsuccessful inventor”. All the biographical accounts agree that William Seward Burroughs’ suffered from a “long and serious illness” and that the illness was Tuberculosis. Doctors recommended leaving the severe cold of Auburn winters for a milder climate. His move to St. Louis and the initial partnership with his father there was the result. The desire to build an adding machine that he had expressed earlier would now become an obsession.

Name of the model shop:

Edmund Burroughs & Son, Mechanics

In an ad 1881 we read “pattern maker for casting with 4 years experiences”. That gives us a start in 1877 in St. Louis.
William showed an early talent for tool use and like his father, he was always building something.

A check of the St. Louis 1880 census records finds William Burroughs and his wife, Ida, living at 835 South Seventh Street. Burroughs’ father Edmund is living there with them.

The 1880 St. Louis directory shows Edmund Burroughs as a mechanic operating his business at 114 N. 7th St and residing at 703 Chestnut.

In 1880 William came to St. Louis, and for a short time thereafter worked in his father’s model shop on Pine Street. Later he worked for the Future Great Manufacturing Company, on Morgan Street, and still later for Hall & Brown, on Broadway, in the manufacture of woodworking machinery. His experience with his father and these two firms, covering in all a period of about three years, constituted his entire training in practical mechanics. He had, however, a genius for theoretical mechanics, and his experience in his father’s shop brought him into contact with many inventors.

In 1886 he worked for Boyer Manufact. Co.

**Remark:** All articles in the internet about William S. Burroughs are specialized to his later invention of ADDING MACHINES for banks. So only few information talk about the time before or outside of this object.

J. O. Heimbach lived “next door” (in 1882) and 1883-1885. (see map of St. Louis above)

**Conclusion:** It could be that William S. Burroughs invented and made the plumb bob in the first years of his time in St. Louis 1881 - 1884. He needed money for his family and his work on the calculator and he worked in different factories.

On the other hand it could be that his father Edmund B was the inventor and maker of the mechanical plumb bob, however there was no other patent records to confirm so.

**Last step:**
Filling the INCOMPLETE LABEL with the name. 

**It fits!**

Mike Urness, St. Louis, MO now is the owner of this plumb bob. He wrote to me: “It is the most unusual and interesting bob I’ve seen in a long time and with that paper label having St. Louis on it, I just had to have it.”

**Next step:** He will ask the US Patent Office for information if there was a letter to the US PO in the 1880s by William S. Burroughs.

Do YOU have such a plumb bob in your collection or do YOU know more about it? Thanks for an answer.
5. PLUMB BOBS FROM DALE RIEDESELS

Dale Riedesel, reader of my newsletter and a well-known collector from Twin Falls, Idaho, sent me some photos of his collection, especially some of his small plumb bobs.

Dale has also a big collection of surveying instruments. On the photos below—that I found in my archive—is only a small part of the display shown. Other plumb bobs are displayed in a niche / alcove.

If YOU have some photos of your collection to show here in the newsletter, please send them.
6. REPAIRED TERAZI TRIANGLE PLUMB BOB

From Bulgaria was offered in May a triangle plumb bob. We know this type as Ottoman or Anatolian plumb bobs TYPE 5, called TERAZI in Turkey. The ‘buy it now price’ was $450. (Not really a bargain). When I looked at the photos I found that one of the two hooks was REPAIRED.

Pay attention when you will buy plumb bobs of this type. No problem to buy a repaired plumb bob, but the seller should mention it in the offer. He said: ‘the hooks are sturdy’ and ‘in perfect condition’ 😊

7. GREASE GUN PLUMB BOB

I bought from the USA a home-made plumb bob, made from a patented GREASE GUN.

The patent information is written on the body. Arthur Gullborg, Chicago is the inventor of this lubrication apparatus. The tip is made from brass and not from steel. Weight is 1 lbs 11 oz. It looks good and it is working well!
8. SOMETHING TO SMILE ABOUT

On a box of beer bottles a PB-collector in California found a PLUMB BOB.
Thanks Chris

Here comes the story:
Stella Artois Premium Lager Beer has been brewed in Leuven, Belgium in the same tradition that can be traced back to 1366, using only the finest hops and malted barley.
Over six hundred years of brewing expertise.
Brewed by Stella Artois Brewery, Leuven, Belgium.

Did you also know that there’s a special 9-step pouring process for Stella?
It might sound crazy, but these guys are crazy about their beer, and they insist that it’s the only way to guarantee a perfect glass:

1. The chill: The beer should be chilled to and kept at about 36-38 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. The purification: The glass should be cleaned before serving.
3. The unveiling: “She is a thing of beauty,” so don’t just open it up like any old beer. Be nice.
4. The alchemy begins: When you begin pouring the beer from the bottle into the chalice, hold the chalice at a 45-degree angle.
5. The crown: Once the beer is near the top (there’s a line on the side of the chalice to indicate this), turn it straight up and finish pouring to give it a thick, foamy head.
6. The beheading: Using the flat edge of a knife, slice the extra foam off the top of the chalice.
7. The judgement: Make sure that the head is sufficient— it should cover the distance between that line on the side of the chalice and the very top.
8. The cleaning: Dip the bottom of the glass in water to remove any spilled beer.
9. The bestowal: Place the chalice in front of the worthy recipient and watch as their eyes light up.

To all plumb bob collectors:
CHEERS, Prost, Santé, A la votre, Proost, Skål, Salute, Cin cin, Salud, Şerefe, στην υγεία σας ...
9. **REMARK**

DEAR READER OF THE PLUMB BOB NEWS,
DEAR FELLOW COLLECTOR,

This is an article of the regularly published WOLF’S PLUMB BOB NEWS that is sent on demand as PDF-file attachment by email. FREE.
You can see all former publications on the website [www.plumbbobcollectors.info](http://www.plumbbobcollectors.info) on subpage “download publications”.
Remarks and contact by email: plumbbobwolf@t-online.de

Enjoy it

Wolf Ruecker

*PS. This NEWSLETTER is also available in GERMAN/DEUTSCH.*