

WOLF'S PLUMB BOB NEWS 2016

Issue Q 01 SPRING April 1, 2016

PLUMB BOB NEWSLETTER

Author: Wolf Ruecker

www.plumbbobcollectors.info

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 2016- Q 01

TABLE OF CONTENT

1. INTRODUCTION	18
2. Jules Verne's film "TO THE CENTRE OF THE EARTH"	18
3. PLUMB BOBS OFFERED ON EBAY 2011 (selection).	19
4. Irving FRAZEE TURNING ANGLE INDICATOR Patent US 2562142	23
5. GOOD SOFTWARE FOR YOUR COLLECTION "Recollector"	24
6. IVORY PLUMB BOB LEAD FILLED.....	25
7. The mystery \$365 GLASS PLUMB BOB and the full story from DON BOYER.....	26
8. TRENCH ART by soldiers.....	33
9. SHOP PLUMB BOB by Norm Nilsson.....	35
10. ARCHITECT'S PLUMB BOB	35
11. SOMETHING TO SMILE ABOUT	36
12. REMARK.....	36

1. INTRODUCTION

In my newsletters since 2007 I talked about all special themes concerning plumb bobs. Now I will publish some correspondence with collectors who ask questions and I will tell you some other interesting facts about plumb bobs. Thanks to all who shared this information with us.

Let's start with a movie.

2. Jules Verne's film "TO THE CENTRE OF THE EARTH"

The well-known film starts with a **PLUMB BOB** inside bearing a cryptic inscription:

... When Lindenbrook hasn't arrived for dinner, the guests, including the university's dean (Alan Napier), visit his laboratory and find him working over the **lump of lava**. His assistant Paisley (Ben Wright) pours too much aqua regia into the furnace where the professor is attempting to dissolve the lava from whatever heavier object he believes to be inside, and the furnace explodes. The explosion throws everybody to the floor but does **separate the lava from what was inside, a PLUMB BOB**.



On the metal sphere, written in some Nordic language—perhaps in blood—is an inscription and a name, Arne Saknussem, an Icelandic explorer of three hundred years earlier. Lindenbrook has, unwisely it will prove, written to Stockholm about his discovery, to Professor

Göteborg (Ivan Triesault, Erich Mathis in Hitchcock's *Notorious*), the foremost geological authority. While waiting for a reply, the **plumb bob inscription** has been translated. Saknussem relates that he is dying, but anyone who descends the crater of the Icelandic volcano *Snaefellsjokull* (a real extinct volcano) can reach the center of the earth. **Scratched on the plumb bob are three notches.**

More you can find by searching on GOOGLE..



3. PLUMB BOBS OFFERED ON EBAY
2011 (selection).

2011/1

A

B

C

D

1



2



3



4



5



6



DESCRIPTION of photos 2011/1 on page 19

1A \$103 SWEET ANTIQUE PLUMB BOB



1B \$114 Antique Vintage Plumb Bob. Very OLD. Great



1C \$16 Vintage Italy. Hand Carved Wood. Architect Engineer

1D,2A,B \$161 Brass Plumb Bob NO 3 LUNKENHEIMER (modified OILER).

2C \$180 HUGE OLD 10 INCH BRASS & STEEL PLUMB BOB.



2D \$195 Plumb Bob Engineer's type



3A \$27 Vintage copper plumb bob 2 lbs 5 in
3B,C \$419 PLUMB BOB VINTAGE. I don't know why I should pay \$419 for this one ☺

3D,4A \$519 Rare 1906 stamped 6 pound brass Plumb Bob.

4B \$72 RARE OLD HUGE BRASS PLUMB BOB

4C \$75 plumb bob / chalk line combination by RIDGELY.

4D \$ 91 Plumb Bob with reel in wooden box

5A 23€ Old GERMAN mason plumb bob with spool.

5B 40 € Setzwaage (A-level) by Weiss & Sohn Wien, Austria

5C, D 57 GBP Plumb Bob Stanley London



6A, 7 COMMON SENSE. Heimbach. \$1200

6B handcrafted figure with plumb bob



6C Soft toy: My name is PLUMBOB.



6D Small plumb bob in a dome



2011/2

A

B

C

D

7



8



9



10



11



12



DESCRIPTION of photos 2011/2 on page 21

7A 21 cm 1920s combination 2 plumb bobs and level. BRASS



7B 250 € German plumb bob with brass and wood + spool.



7C cigarette case from France with small brass tools. 23€ ☺ Now in my collection.

7D German brass pb from 1910s 131€



8A Pb with wooden spool 61€

8B,C 110€ bicolor brass/iron 4 inch

8D USA brass iron 7 inch



9A Vintage 28 oz Brass & Steel Plumb Bob 3-Piece



9B Vintage Brass Miners Plummet

9C \$8 Vintage Cast Aluminum Plumb Bob TURNING ANGLE INDICATOR. **FRAZEE patent US2562142** from 1951. Now in my collection (**more see NEXT PAGE**)

9D,10A WAR DEPARTMENT tin containing unused plumb line 8GBP

10B A pair of HUGE vials (50 cm) to show how a level works. Now in my collection.

10C Drawing. White cat plays SPINNING TOP

10D 77 GBP Wiesener patent GB190719687



11A,B \$10 from Canada. BRASS PLUMB BOBS - A PAIR IN CUSTOM MADE CASE

11C 10€ Bauwerkmeister Verein Württemberg Sign with mason tools.

11D 300€ Roman bronze plumb bob from Hungary

12A,B 52€ Brass symbol 13 cm. Divider, plumb bob, triangle

12C German KUKA chalk line combination without marking. 25€

12D Chain of a mason with triangle, plumb bobs, hammer, trowel etc..

4. Irving FRAZEE TURNING ANGLE INDICATOR Patent US 2562142



Was offered on eBay USA in Sept. 2011 and I bought it from North Tonawanda NY for \$8 + \$28 shipping ☺

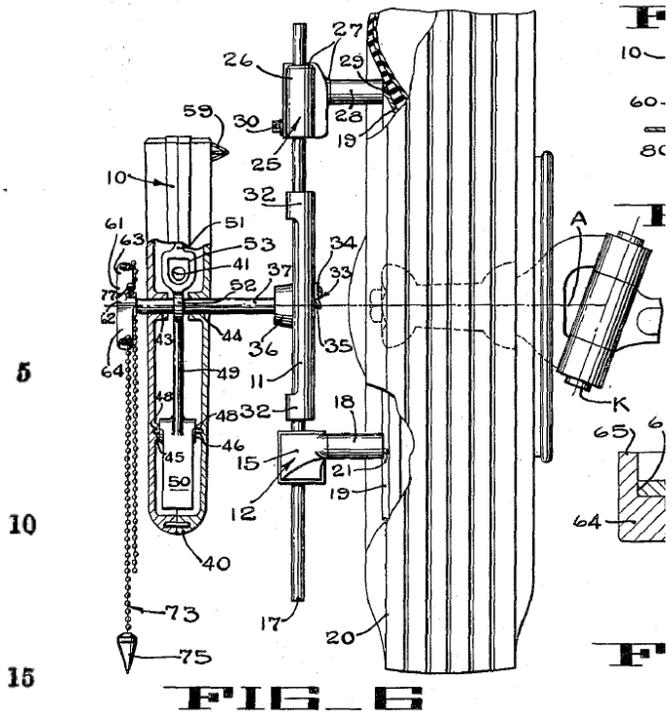
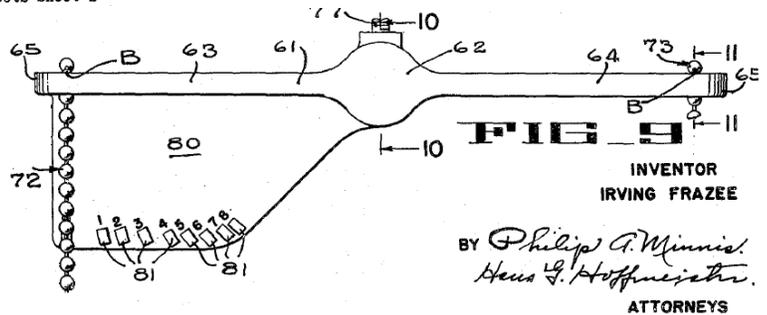
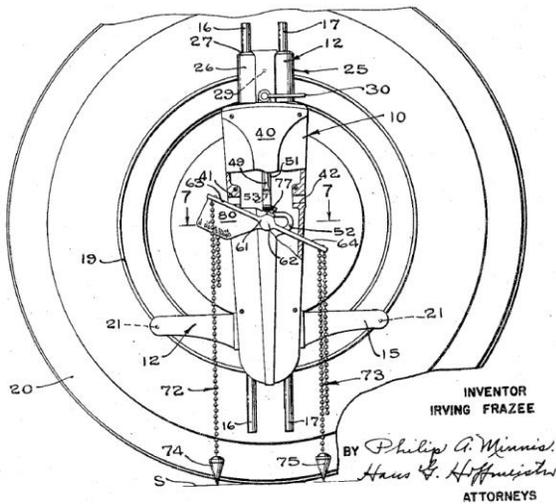
July 24, 1951

I. FRAZEE
TURNING ANGLE INDICATOR

2,562,142

Filed Aug. 14, 1947

3 Sheets-Sheet 1



1
This invention relates to the art of aligning dirigible vehicle wheels such as the front wheels of an automobile and is particularly concerned with the provision of an improved form of turning angle indicator adapted to facilitate the positioning of such wheels at desired turning angles for test purposes.

In testing a dirigible vehicle wheel to determine the presence and degree of such alignment characteristics as caster and king pin inclination, it is a conventional practice to turn the wheel successively to selected angular settings on opposite sides of straight ahead position and to determine the desired alignment characteristics by gauging certain differences in attitude of the wheel at these settings.

5. GOOD SOFTWARE FOR YOUR COLLECTION "Recollector"

In autumn last year I got an email:

"Wolf,
I am wondering if there is a collection database software program that most plumb bob collectors are currently using. I started a trial of "Recollector" software and it seems adequate but I would appreciate any experience others may have had. Also, this program allows the user to put their collection on a website that others can view. Have you or any of the major collectors created a website just to show pictures of the individual plumb bobs in their collection? (I know you have an extensive web site for the benefit of all collectors, but I would love to see your collection in its entirety.)...

.... I still consider myself a "newby" collector but I currently have over 100 plumb bobs and about 20 mechanized (with a line reel). ...

Alan
Michigan, USA"

I did not know any good software. So I bought a license for \$49 and after a test of 2 weeks I wrote to

Jeremy Pool
MapRecord Publications
60 Shepard St.
Cambridge, MA 02138-1523
USA
Tel: 1-617-682-0339
E-mail : info@maprecord.com

Jeremy,

....
I used a simple Excel sheet for my collection before and tried in the past some expensive software for collectors, but was not happy with the results. ☹

After viewing your information on YouTube I bought a RECOLLECTOR license from you and I FIND IT GREAT (even for a "German Old Man" easy to handle) ☺

Especially that I can also use my PICTURES (not only one, but more for one tool) in that listing.

Also that I can modify nearly all parts as I need them and that I could transfer my Excel file as a base for the new listing etc.

Now I am preparing my next newsletter and will tell my friends that I have found a software for collectors that is easy to use, has a good support and can be adapted as you want

Could you please send me some information that I can put in my newsletter to inform my FELLOW COLLECTORS?
Statements, links etc.

Best regards,
Wolf

plumbbobwolf@t-online.de

Here comes his answer:

"Hello Wolf,

I am really pleased that you have discovered Recollector and find that it works well for you as a cataloging tool for your plumb bob collection. It is exactly collectors like you, who have a passion for collecting a not-so-common type of collectible, that Recollector is intended for.

There are literally thousands of different collecting categories, and most of these groups of collectors are too small to expect somebody to produce a customized piece of software aimed at their collecting category. It is by being fully customizable, but still simple enough to customize and use, that Recollector aims to provide a tool that is good for all sorts of collectors, whether of plumb bobs, Zippo lighters, salt shakers, etc. etc. If you watched my introductory video, you saw that I was solving this problem partly for myself, as a collector of antique maps, but I soon realized the broader value of the tool I was developing. The best site to go to for information about Recollector is the web site at

www.maprecord.com/Recollector.html

This has quite extensive descriptive information about the product (and the associated smartphone/tablet apps), as well as the introductory video and various training videos, and links to other pages such as online versions of the User's Guide, lists of recent updates to the product, user's forum, etc.

The site at www.collectingcatalog.com is the sales site for the product, but the previously mentioned site is the one that has the most information.

If there is some particular additional information that I can provide you that isn't found at the web site, please feel free to let me know, as I would like to help you as much as possible in putting together what you need for a piece in your upcoming newsletter.

Best regards,
-- Jeremy"

ID #	Image	Date Acquired	Acquired from	Price €	Material	Form	Category by shape	Group	L (mm)	H (mm)	D (mm)	Cap	Weight g	Make		
581		722														
582		2000	WRS	January 16, 2000	Fátima Portugal	CS55-812	brass	Kugel	spherical	Portugal	138	103	70.8	brass screw hole in 11740	unknown	
584		2001		1-Sep-2012	Ebay F	23	Eisen	Spitzkopf	KEGEL					verzelter Kopf ges		
585		2002				5	Papier	Kombinat	KOMBINATION	GERMANY	177		27	verzelter Kopf mit 4100	?	
586		2003		1-Oct-2012		2	Messing	Eisen	KEGEL	GERMANY	170		57	40	Messing-schraube 250	
587		2004		1-Oct-2012		3	Messing	Eisen	KEGEL	GERMANY	170		57	40	Messing-schraube 250	
588		2005	2005	January 24, 2015	Jorge A. Nicolas	11531	brass	Flat bottom	South America				85	53	fix with hole in the head	unknown
589		2006	2006	July 26, 2015	Benoit Vermeire	bel210	IVORY	Tear drop	IVORY	139	33	18		Brass, horizontal helix	?	
590		2007	2007	March 1, 2014	Char. O'Neil	124	brass	Flat bottom	TRENCHA	150	117	37	7	105 plumb leader		
591		2008	2008	March 1, 2014	thechesszone	36151	wood			45	20		20			
592		2009	2009	February 18, 2014	Bodhique Steven	Jan36	wood	lead	A-level SE	1630	500	21			lead pb 2	
593		2010	2010	March 7, 2014	Jürgen Weber	Yord20	brass			113	84	34		Schraube	179	
594		2011	2011	March 7, 2014	Jürgen Weber	Yord8	brass			100	80	26		screw	290	
595		2012	2012	March 7, 2014	Jürgen Weber	Yord4	brass			80	43	30		Schraubbar	185	
596		2013	2013	February 7, 2014	Richard Hartmann	Al20	brass			125	115	25		see-eded brass 18x400		
597		2014	2014	February 20, 2015	The Bar St Jan4		paper		SCHRIFT	150	105			Judges Limited		
598		2015	2015	March 12, 2015	Flohrmanhändler	m5	brass		dowsing	PENDEL			89	11	25	ASKANA WS.1
599		2016	2016	March 15, 2015	askana_ws	16	brass		WASSERW	CATALOG					375	
600		2017	2017	Awent			brass								375	
601		2018	2018	March 14, 2019	atlasindex	3880	R20	brass							430	
602		2019	2019	March 16, 2019	René Jurke	Halber	13	brass	abgestuft		110			Schragloch	430	
603		2020	2020	March 19, 2019	Sandro Porcu	Früh	glass		WASSERW	40	7					

6. IVORY PLUMB BOB LEAD FILLED

I was asked:

"Hello Wolf,

...I wonder if you might have a look at the enclosed images, of a lead filled ivory plumb bob that weighs 109 grams. I am interested to try and find which country it might have come from and what trade would have used it? The bottom is quite bruised where it has been on the ground and I don't think it ever had a point. If you can help with identification I would appreciate it.

Best wishes.

..."

Additional information:

„I think the lead goes right through, it shows as a plug 9 mm at the top and 15 mm at the bottom, so my guess is that the 15 mm hole was drilled almost to the top with a 9 mm drill perhaps a quarter length, that way the top would look more attractive and the lead plug would not pull out in use. I think the weight of a similar shape and size in ivory without the lead might be 60 g approx.“

I have little experience with ivory. I only got some information from Nelson Denny and others.

I never saw a LEAD FILLED ivory plumb bob.

Ivory plumb bobs were sold often in England and sometimes in France in the time before 1900.

They were not used by masons, but for ceremonial reason, so it was not so interesting to have a sharp tip.

Remark Wolf:

In case you did not see it already, visit on my web site www.plumbbobcollectors.info the SUB PAGE "PICTURE GALLERY 1"

You can use this direct link to the page: <http://www.plumbbobcollectors.info/59301.html>

There you find a lot of ivory plumb bobs from the collection of my late friend Nelson Denny. Some of them are original ivory, some bone (hard to see the difference). All of them have a metal tip and cap to make it more interesting.



WHO KNOWS MORE ABOUT IVORY PLUMB BOBS and the material IVORY used for plumb bobs? ??????

Please let me know.

Thanks

Wolf

7. The mystery \$365 GLASS PLUMB BOB BOB and the full story from DON BOYER.

This is a story about selling a mystery GLASS PLUMB BOB with a lot of additional information.

I was asked by Don Boyer, Franklin, Tennessee U.S.A. for information about a “glass plumb bob”.

This type is known in different colors as you can see below. We changed some emails and finally Don wrote the full story in his eBay offer.

All details you will find below, Photos of the bob from Don and photos of others that I found in the last years.

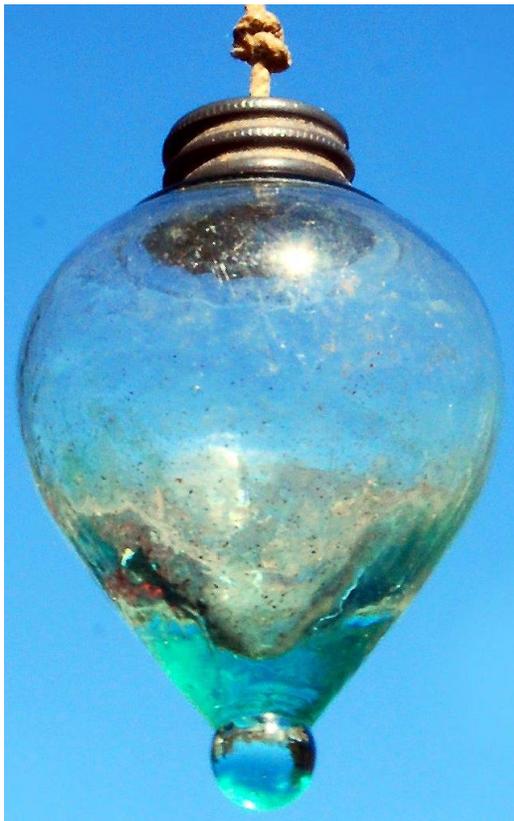
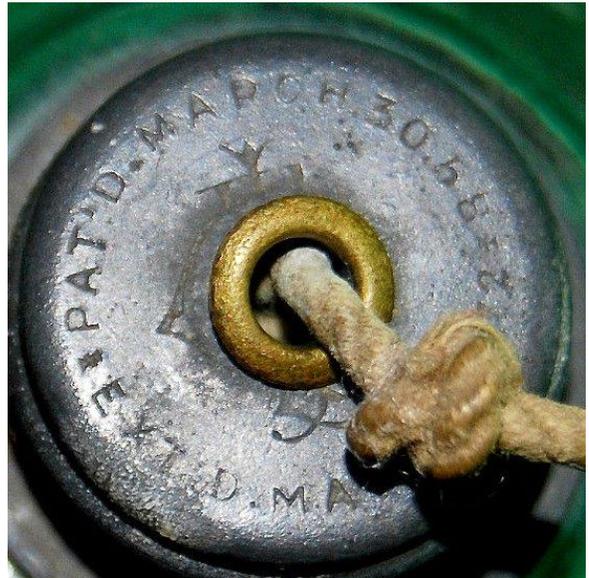
Also the patent.

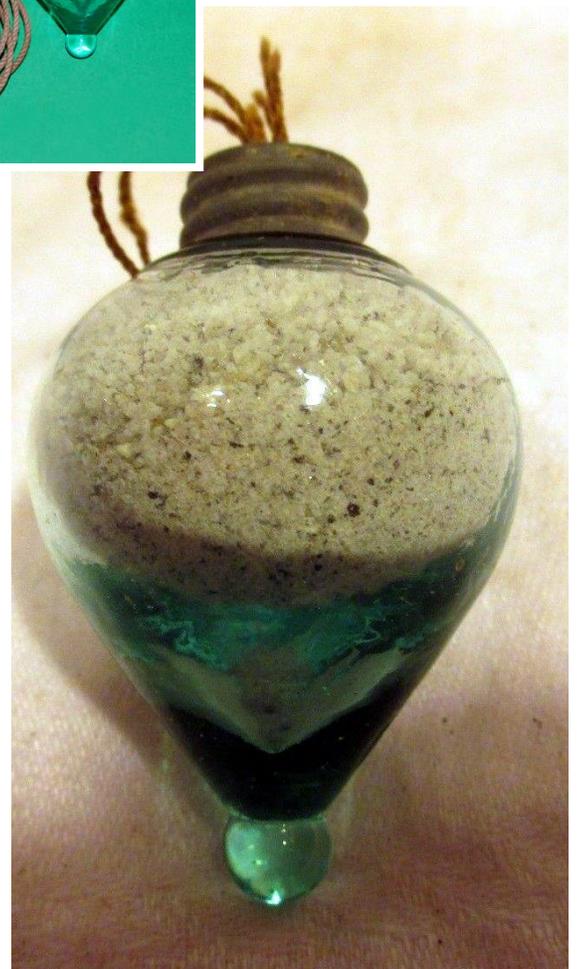
Thanks to Don for sharing all his research results with us.

Even when we now know a lot, we don't know exactly FOR WHAT THIS ITEM REALLY WAS USED!

DO YOU KNOW IT?????

Top is marked *PAT'D March 30, 1858 / EXT'D March 30, 1872*





This was the eBay offer: IT MUST BE THE LONGEST DESCRIPTION FOR A TOOL/PLUMB BOB ON EBAY! ☺

"I'm listing several rare and interesting items so please check my other auctions.

With the help of some fellow members of the eBay community and some glassware experts, I have unraveled a bit more of the mystery of this object, which I am now completely convinced is a promotional novelty plumb bob made of glass.

I listed this object last week with the extent of my prior research and the conclusions I had drawn, but I now know much more. Read on!

This plumb bob is made of aqua glass mouth-blown into a mold. The body has a classic turnip shape, one of the most common plumb bob forms. It is about 1-3/4 inches wide and about 2-5/8 inches tall. The neck of the bulb is molded with threads and the top lip is ground, which was common on early glass vessels.

The threaded cap is made of a non-magnetic metal that appears to be zinc. Around the perimeter of its top surface the cap is stamped, "PAT'D March 30, 1858 / EXT'D March 30, 1872." Into the center of the cap a brass grommet has been installed, and through the grommet a string or line has been knotted. Around the grommet, the outer edges of a stamped monogram can be seen, but the central portion of the monogram is obscured by the grommet.

The tapered end of the glass bulb has a solid hemispherical tip that serves as a protective reinforcement in the event the tip of the bulb should come into contact with a hard surface. Molded into one upper side of the glass is, "PATD." The glass has minor scratches and some dirt inside that I've never cleaned, and the metal cap has some whitish tarnish consistent with zinc oxidation. Otherwise, the object is in amazingly well-preserved condition.

I acquired this object in the late 1990s, over nearly two decades my research had uncovered only one patent from March 30, 1858 that had anything to do with a plumb bob or any object resembling this glass bulb, and that was John L. Rowe's "Plumb and Level" patent, which he had assigned to the New York merchant Frederick Stevens. I could only assume that this glass

plumb bob must somehow be associated with Stevens, but I was wrong!

Two clues set me on the right path: A friend and fellow tool collector recommended I review a book on miner's lamps by Henry Poh, and another eBay member and Mason jar collector informed me that the patents on my plumb bob were associated with the threaded metal lids for Mason jars. Really? Turns out, both clues were important.

I couldn't find a friend with a copy of Henry Poh's book, so I searched online for miner's lamps and found one with the exact same patent markings as on my plumb bob at a terrific website called Hal's Lamp Post, which offers lots of photos and historical information on mining artifacts, mineral specimens, etc. With Hal's kind permission, I am including images of the miner's "mule lamp" with the photos above.

In the center of the lid of Hal's lamp is the monogram of the Consolidated Fruit Jar Co., which controlled the first five patents of John Mason that revolutionized the preservation of food and other perishable goods. So yes, this plumb bob is associated with Mason jars!

John Landis Mason (1832-1905) was a New York City tinsmith. On March 30, 1858 he was granted a patent for a "Chuck for Making Sheet Metal Screws." In my research, I had looked at this patent dozens of times, but stopped reading too early under the assumption that neither a lathe chuck nor sheet metal screws could have anything to do with my glass plumb bob. How wrong I was!

In Mason's terminology, a "sheet metal screw" was a threaded lid formed from a sheet metal blank, and his patent was for a specialized lathe chuck that made it easier to form the threads without tearing the metal. On October 23rd and November 30th of 1858, Mason received patents for improvements in molding glass vessels with threaded necks that could be sealed air tight by his metal lids. The drawings from his March 30, 1858 patent is included with the photos above.

In 1859, Mason sold his patents to Lewis (Louis) R. Boyd of the Sheet Metal Screw Co. of New York City. On March 30, 1869 Boyd received a patent for a threaded zinc cap lined with a glass

insert to prevent metal corrosion from coming into contact with food stored in a jar.

According to researchers Lockart, Shriever, Lindsey & Serr (LSLS), in 1871 the Consolidated Fruit Jar Co. was incorporated as a combination of the Sheet Metal Screw Co., the Mason Mfg. Co., and several individuals. As owner of the Sheet Metal Screw Co., Louis R. Boyd controlled all five of John Mason's original patents, but the patents could only be renewed by the original patentee. To retain control of the patents—and the lucrative royalties—Boyd needed Mason. As a result, the two formed an uneasy alliance that included others involved in the formation of the Consolidated Fruit Jar Co. In 1872, Boyd reassigned the three 1858 patents to Mason in exchange for \$5,000, and Mason was able to renew them for seven additional years.

Despite its name, the Consolidated Fruit Jar Co. (CFJCo.) did not make fruit jars! “But because it controlled Mason's patents it controlled who was allowed to make them.” (LSLS) The CFJCo. made items from sheet metal, such as oil cans, tin boxes, miner's lamps, police lanterns, sprinkler heads, brush ferrules, rosettes and ornaments, and a huge variety of threaded caps for bottles and lids for Mason jars. Included in the photos above is Page 51 from the 1892 CFJCo. catalog, with an engraving of a zinc cap very similar to the one on the glass plumb bob.

The Mason jars and other glass vessels were manufactured for the CFJCo. by various glassmakers. According to LSLS, the Clyde Glass Works of Clyde, New York was a major glass manufacturer for the CFJCo., and “probably the major manufacturer.” At least three other manufacturers are known to have made Mason jars for the CFJCo.: Whitney Brothers Glass Works of Glassboro, NJ; A. & D.H. Chambers of Pittsburgh, PA; and the Illinois Glass Co. of Chicago and Alton, IL and St. Louis, MO.

The glass bulb for this plumb bob may have been blown by one of those companies, or by some other glassmaker who purchased the caps from

the CFJCo. Until an advertisement or catalog listing is found, we may never know the maker. But I'm now certain that it is a promotional or novelty plumb bob.

The CFJCo. registered the monogram as a trademark on April 23, 1878 with a claimed first use date of April 3. The monogram appears in the company's 1892 catalog, which can be found online. The company ceased the production of lids in 1907, so this plumb bob must date to no earlier than 1878 and no later than 1907. Given its appearance and rarity, my assumption is that it dates to the earlier end of this range.

As I explained in my previous listing, because of its shape, this object makes no sense as a container, such as a spice bottle, apothecary jar, salt shaker or vial for perfume. A few fellow members of eBay wrote to me to suggest other possibilities.

One glass collector suggested it might be a Mason nursing bottle that would have been fitted with a rubber tube for feeding an infant, but the hole in the grommet is far too small for a tube through which an infant could have possibly drawn much fluid if any, and early rubber tubing had very thick walls. And this object looks nothing like the Mason nursing bottles I could find photos of.

Another member suggested this might be a bob for dowsing or water witching, the practice of locating water, oil, gold or other underground resources by observing or sensing the motion of a flexible rod, pendulum, or other device. A relative of his had used small leather pouches containing a small amount of the material he was hunting. I had come across pendulums for dowsing or divining, so I searched again for dowsing/dousing, divining, doodlebugging and water witching, and I found a surprising number of patents for divining or dowsing devices, but nothing that resembles this bob, and all the pendulums were much smaller than this bob, probably so their movements could change more easily.

The one remaining possibility I had not previously considered is that this could be a “fire grenade,” a sealed glass vessel filled with salt water, and later, carbon tetrachloride, which was thrown at the base of a fire to retard or extinguish the flames. In researching the Clyde Glass Works I learned they were a major manufacturer of these products. But fire grenades were larger—typically much larger—and were made of thin and often heavily-patterned glass that would shatter easily when thrown. This bob would not hold enough liquid to affect any but the smallest flame, and at its tapered end the glass is quite thick, obviously to prevent breakage, the exact opposite of how a fire grenade would be designed. Furthermore, none of the three known examples of this object have a seal to prevent liquid from evaporating or leaking out, and all three have grommets in their lids through which a string is knotted.

The other two known examples are shown on page 155 of Wolf’s Plumb Bob News, Issue 12, December 1, 2014, a wonderful publication that can easily be found online. Note that one of the bobs shown is made of aqua glass like the one offered here, and the other is made of brown or amber glass. What are the chances of three different owners of a small container made for medicines or perfume all having the same “brilliant” idea to install a grommet in the cap of their bottle to turn it into a plumb bob?

I think it’s obvious that this thing is a plumb bob! *The most logical explanation is that it was manufactured not as a working tool but as an attention-getter or promotional novelty. Whether it was commissioned by the Consolidated Fruit Jar Co. or made to promote the glass factory where the bulb was blown we may never know. But a glass plumb bob is certainly a novel idea that would have aroused the curiosity of everyone who saw it. It certainly aroused my interest when I saw it nearly 20 years ago!*

According to glassware expert Jim Sears, with only the “PATD” marking on the glass it is unlikely we will ever know the maker of the bulb because the number of possible suspects is too large. However, Jim said that many of the glassmakers were known for producing novelty items, so the concept is well-known. From my

research, a glass plumb bob makes a lot more sense as an attention-getter than many of the other novelty items the early glass companies produced.

Here’s your chance to own one of only three known examples of this beautiful and intriguing glass plumb bob. I truly hate to part with it, but a new business venture means I have to let go of my treasures. I guarantee your satisfaction with this little jewel.

Acknowledgements: I am indebted to Mr. Wolf Rucker, author and publisher of the terrific and informative Wolf’s Plumb Bob News, which you can easily find online. I highly recommend it! Herr Rucker spent hours reviewing his own extensive plumb bob patent database in an attempt to identify an alternative patentee for this glass bob. Furthermore, he graciously agreed to read an advance copy of this description and offered his expert comments and insights, which helped to improve the detail and accuracy of the above. Thanks also to Steve Habitz, who suggested I look into mining artifacts and Henry Poh’s book, and to the eBay member who confirmed the patent dates belonged to John Mason. I am also indebted to glassware expert Jim Sears, who I found through an article on early Mason jars. Jim promptly responded to my inquiries and offered confirmation of my research on the CFJCo. as well as my belief that this was a novelty plumb bob. Also many thanks to Hal Post and his website, halslamppost, where I found the photos of his CFJCo. mule lamp. Hal very kindly granted permission to reproduce his photographs in this auction listing. Thanks to all of these fine folks for their kind and generous assistance.

No reserve and low starting bid. I’m happy to answer questions, thanks for looking!

In researching this glass plumb bob, some of the references I have consulted include:

Chuck for Making Sheet Metal Screws or Improved Lathe Chuck: Patent 19,786 issued March 30, 1858 to John L. Mason of New York City.

Consolidated Fruit Jar Co. by Bill Lockhart, Beau Shriever, Bill Lindsey and Carol Serr (abbreviated LSLS in the description above), a history of the company available at the website of the Society for Historical Archaeology.

Clyde Glass Works by Bill Lockhart, Beau Shriever, Carol Serr and Bill Lindsey, a history of the company available at the website of the Society for Historical Archaeology.

Bottle Glossary of the Society for Historical Archaeology, online reference.

Bottle Dating of the Society for Historical Archaeology, online reference.

Celebrating 150 Years of Mason Jars 1858-2008, by Jim Sears and Joseph Merkel, available at the website of The Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors. Jim kindly replied to my email inquiries and offered his expert knowledge and assessment of the plumb bob.

Wolf's Plumb Bob News, by Wolf Rucker, Issue 12, December 1, 2014: Page 155 presents photographs of two glass plumb bobs similar to the one offered here.

Wolf's Patent News 2007, Patented Plumb Bobs of the World, by Wolf Rucker: No listing for any known patented glass plumb bob.

Hal's Lamp Post, a terrific website on mining artifacts, mineral specimens and related subjects by Hal Post, where I found the photos of the miner's mule lamp by the Consolidated Fruit Jar Co. Hal very kindly granted his permission for me to reproduce the photographs of his mule lamp in this listing.

"The Plumb Line, The Definitive Work on the Simple Plumb Bob, The Complete and Original 16 Issues, As Published January, 1991 thru September, 1994," by R. Bruce Cynar: No glass plumb bobs listed.

Report of the Commissioner of Patents For The Year 1858 / Arts and Manufactures / Volume III: Mason's March 30, 1858 patent.

Subject Matter Index of Patents For Inventions Issued By The United States Patent Office From 1790 to 1873 Inclusive, Volume II: Mason's March 30, 1858 patent.

The Executive Documents / Printed By Order Of / The Senate of the United States / Second Session, Thirty-Fifth Congress / 1858-'59 / And / Special Session of the Senate of 1859: Mason's March 30, 1858 patent.

The online patent database of the United Kingdom Chronological Index of Patents Applied For and Patents Granted For the Year 1858 (Great Britain)

The online patent database of Canada.

The Australian patent searchable database AusPat only dates back to 1904.

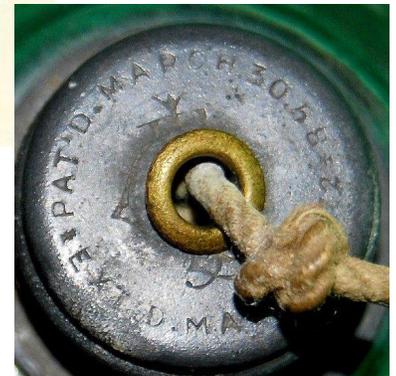
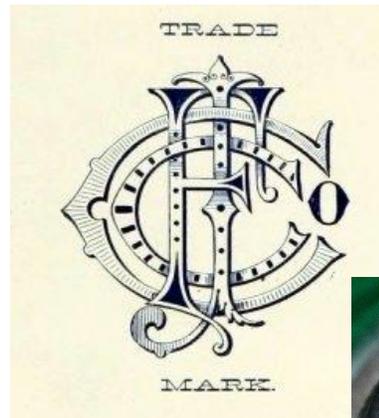
datamp.org

The Mechanic's Magazine, January 2nd – June 26th, 1858 (U.K.)

Introduction to Mine Surveying, Second Edition, by W.W. Staley

P.S. If you've made it this far, an interesting bit of information that turned up in my research is that on March 30, 1858, the same day J.L. Mason patented his lathe chuck, Hymen L. Lipman was granted a patent for a "Combination of Lead-Pencil and Eraser." He sold his patent to Joseph Reckendorfer for \$100,000 (nearly \$3 million in 2015 dollars!). Reckendorfer subsequently sued pencil manufacturer Faber-Castell for infringement. In 1875 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Lipman's patent was invalid because it was nothing more than a combination of two common and long-known items.

NOTE: If the shipping charge estimate seems wrong, please inquire as the eBay calculator is sometimes wrong. I do not charge any handling fees or build any profit into shipping charges, and I pack these fragile historic artifacts to survive the hazards of modern shipping. ..."



On the next page you find the patent of the "sheet metal screw".

And this was the final result:

Glass Plumb Bob or Plummet, John L. Mason's 1858 Patent, Promotional Novelty



Artikelzustand: **Gebraucht**

Beendet: 07. Mrz. 2016 04:30:17 MEZ

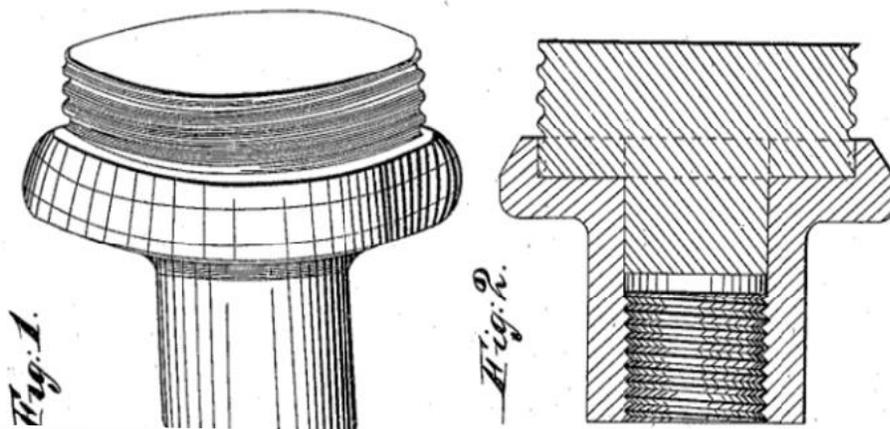
Erfolgreiches Gebot: **US \$365,36** [15 Gebote]
Ca. **EUR 331,93**

Versand: **US \$27,65** International Priority Shipping nach Deutschland

Artikelstandort: Nashville, Tennessee, Vereinigte Staaten von Amerika

Verkäufer: **dnbyr (1628)** | [Andere Artikel des Verkäufers](#)

On our researches we saw this patent often, but we never thought that this one was the one we were searching for. ☺



J. L. MASON.

CHUCK FOR MAKING SHEET METAL SCREWS.

No. 19,786.

Patented Mar. 30, 1858.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN L. MASON, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Lathe-Chuck for Spinning Sheet - Metal Screw - Caps for Jars, &c., of which the following is a clear and full description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part hereof.

When I first discovered the mode of producing pressed sheet-metal screws by the process of spinning, I attempted to spin them on a chuck having the ordinary V thread. During my experiments, when temporary wooden chucks were used, I found that they might be made indifferently well on the dull threads of which the wood would admit by avoiding the pressing of the sheet metal to the bottom of the groove; but it was soon apparent that none of the ordinary forms of thread would answer the purpose when cut in perfect form in metal, as the sheet metal would be cut through at their sharp corners. I was therefore under the necessity of devising a new form for my chucks and screws. As a flange is necessary at the bottom of the screw-cap, and as cheap metal will not admit of being spun to any considerable depth, it is necessary in order to give a firm hold and an air-tight fit that the screw should extend over the whole of the convex surface and be perfect entirely down to the flange, indeed that there should be no abruptness in the termination of either the thread or the groove between the threads, as such abrupt termination would limit the tightness or extent to which the cap could be screwed down, the object being to make the cap air-tight by the perfection of its fit. To produce this screw-cap, therefore, I make my chuck or former with a screw upon its working end, the top of whose thread and the bottom of whose groove is rounded in section with a flange at the back end of the screw, and whose thread and groove are terminated only

by the flange or collar. I also make the screw part of my chuck very slightly conical, so that the cap formed upon it will become slightly tighter and bind more the farther it is screwed. My chuck upon which to form the nozzles upon which the caps are to be screwed I form in the same way, with sufficient difference in the diameter to accommodate the thickness of the sheet metal.

It will be recollected that when screws are provided with a collar or flange the groove and thread terminate abruptly at the point where the side of the chaser comes against the shoulder, and as this would be wholly inadmissible in a chuck for the purposes in question, I avoid it in the following way: I make the screw part separate from the flange with a short stem at its rear. I then cut the screw on it in the most perfect manner, letting the thread and groove run entirely out at both ends. I then form the flange with stem in rear sufficient for screwing upon the mandrel of the lathe. I then bore it out for the reception of the stem on the rear of the screw. I then either screw the flange and screw together by a screw on the stem of the screw part and a corresponding screw in the flange part, or I heat the flange part and shrink the two together, the flange coming so far on that the thread and groove of the screw shall gradually terminate or vanish at the flange.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The chuck herein described for spinning screw-caps, &c., having a flange, a rounded thread, and a rounded groove, the groove and thread vanishing gradually at the flange, substantially as described.

JOHN L. MASON.

In presence of—

W. P. N. FITZGERALD,
EDMUND M. EVANS.

8. TRENCH ART by soldiers

We know a lot of people who use plumb bobs for their work, like surveyors, carpenters, masons etc.

I also wrote about artists who use the plumb bob as an object for their monuments or pictures.

We also know a lot of plumb bob makers, factories or small firms who sold their products word-wide.

But there is also another group that was not mentioned yet: Soldiers in the WWI who were sitting and waiting for weeks at the front line between France and Germany. They had nothing to do and where waiting long time for the next attack of the enemy.

In this time some of them became artists and made some art decoration or other things with the material they found nearby. In the archive of our town I have seen some pieces from wood, sand, iron wire etc. They show the skill of these soldiers.

Some of them also used cartridges or other parts of munition and coins to build plumb bobs.

In my point of view the use of brass for a plumb bob is much better than for munition and war utilities.

Offered on eBay from England:

Trench Art WW1 Plumb Bob George V Pennies 1917



243€ 1916 WW1 Trench Art Plumb bob from PENNIES



From my collection:

Bought from England last year. Integrated in the body is a German copper PFENNIG from 1892 (see both sides on the pictures below) and a skull.

The spool is made of brass.
Measurement of the plumb bob:
Weight: 130 g (4 1/3 oz)
Length: 76 mm (3 inch)
Diameter: 27 mm (1 inch)



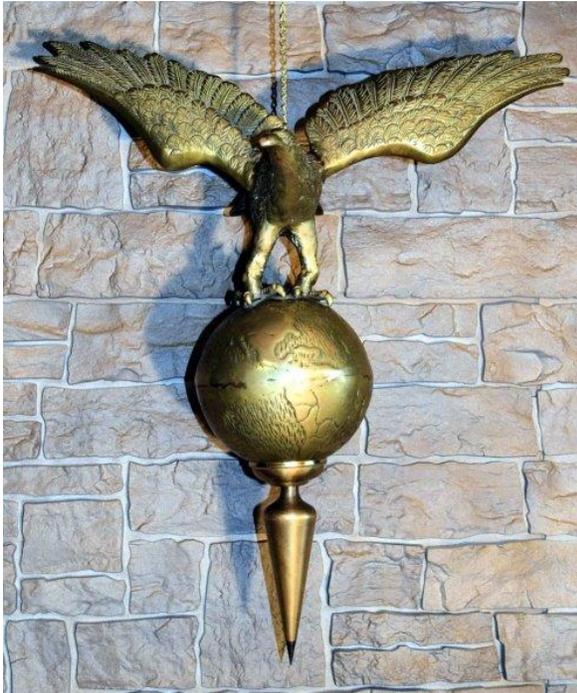
9. SHOP PLUMB BOB by Norm Nilsson

I got an email from Norm Nilsson, Franklin, PA:

"Hi Wolf,

I crafted a plumb bob for decoration in my woodworking shop and thought I would send you a picture."

This sounds interesting. So I asked not only for the picture, but also for a short story.



"Hi Wolf;

*Here is some information on the plumb bob. I was at a flea market and bought the **eagle on the globe**. It had a round base screwed on it. Being that I have used an eagle symbol for some of my identification in collecting tools and the item was very cheap - I bought it. I decided to make it into a plumb bob for decoration in my shop and took off the base. **I attached a 32oz plumb bob to the bottom of the globe** and covered the attachment with a brass part off an old lamp. I then determined where to drill the hole in the top to suspend the plumb bob. Being that it did not hang truly vertical because of the wings of the eagle; I added some lead BBs into the globe through a hole in the bottom of the globe into which the brass plumb bob was attached. This was to bring the center of*

plumbbobwolf@t-online.de

gravity to a point where it now hangs truly vertical.

*As to the weight - it is 14 pounds. As to size - the spread of the eagle's wings is 20" or 50.8 cm. The globe is 6" in diameter or 15.4 cm. **The overall height of the plumb bob is 22" or 55.8cm.** As previously mentioned, the **plumb bob** attached to the bottom of the globe is **standard 32oz one.***

Thanks for your interest. Need more info please feel free to ask.

Best to you

Norm"

10. ARCHITECT'S PLUMB BOB

Who knows more about the details of this plumb bob from Elias in Athens, Greece?

"Hi Wolf,

I am sending better pictures of an architect's type plumb bob that I have acquired. The plumb bob has



a small, one piece, solid brass construction that screws into a brass tube for protection - everything normal to this point. Furthermore, the tube has a slit at the open end which allows the exit of the line, but this is impractical, because the line is twisted and tangled when the plumb bob is screwed into place. There is also a threaded opening at the closed end of the tube, with something possibly missing.

Measurements: Max diameter of the plumb bob 18mm, total length 58mm. Diameter of the tube 16mm, total length 74mm. Length of the slit 19mm. Screw threading appear to be metric, but I am not totally sure. On the closed end of the tube the number 19 can be read.



Please ask fellow collectors if they have seen such a plumb bob before. I am curious about the purpose and the function of this plumb bob.
*Regards,
Elias"*

My first answer:

"Elias,
Thank you for the interesting architect's plumb bob. I wonder if you could not separate (unscrew) part B (tip) from part A (top) and screw it under the body C. And then screw the top screw on top of the body. So you have used all parts and got a big plumb bob. Please try it.

I think the long cut/slit is to store the line inside of the body. But I am not sure.

Wolf"

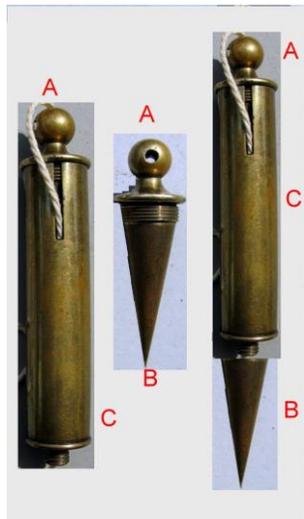
Answer from Elias:

Part A and part B of the plumb bob **are one piece**. The line has to pass through a hole on the side of the sphere and emerge from the top - the very basic way to suspend a plumb bob.

So, unfortunately, the mystery remains.

For what reason is the cut in the metal canister of this Architect's plumb bob?

DO YOU KNOW IT? Please let me know,
Thank you, Wolf



11. SOMETHING TO SMILE ABOUT

Offered on eBay from Bulgaria:

**18th.C ANTIQUE NORTH AFRICAN
CAST BRASS BRONZE ORNATE
UNUSUAL**

PLUMB BOB TOOL 146g

African "plumb bob" for \$345 ☺

Don't know what it really is, but NEVER a plumb bob. It was offered for a very long time, but not sold



12. 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

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.*



Logo of the IPBCA
INTERNATIONAL PLUMB BOB
COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION.
For us THE WORLD TURNS
AROUND THE PLUMB BOB