

WOLF'S PLUMB BOB NEWS 2014

Issue 06 June 1, 2014

POTPOURRI OF PLUMB BOB INFORMATION

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

POTPOURRI OF PLUMB BOB INFORMATION

TABLE OF CONTENT

1. INTRODUCTION	69
2. DETECTOR FOR FOREIGN OBJECTS by SIEMENS with plumb bob.....	69
3. BADGE with PLUMB BOB US ARMY 332nd Engineer Regiment.....	71
4. PENCILS FABER CASTELL U.S.A. Type 777 PLUMB LINE	73
5. ALFRED SHIRLEY Ltd. UK	74
6. EBONY LAWS in the U.S.A.	74
7. A-LEVEL and MONUMENT in FRANCE	76
8. MAGENHEIMER ROOF GAUGE 1938	77
9. PLUMB BOB WITH REEL.....	78
10. SOMETHING TO SMILE	78
11. REMARK.....	78

1. INTRODUCTION

In past issues, my monthly newsletter, "Wolf's Plumb Bob News" have been mainly devoted to one topic. However, in this issue, I want to change the format and provide you with multiple articles, somewhat of a "potpourri of plumb bob topics". My next several issues will feature articles that address a wide variety of subjects related to plumb bobs and surveying equipment. Wolf's Plumb Bob News will contain a "potpourri" of plumb bob and surveying information-something for every collector!

2. DETECTOR FOR FOREIGN OBJECTS by SIEMENS with plumb bob

Recently I found a foreign object detector at eBay. In the photo I saw a plumb bob. The seller in Brunswick, Germany confirmed to me that it is a plumb bob, but was not able to give me information how it works. A



thorough search of the internet located no information about the "object detector" which utilized a plumb bob. Following the purchase, I contacted Siemens, the manufacturer of the instrument, about the detector's application and function and why a plumb bob was incorporated into the design. I received a detailed response from Erlangen, Germany, the facility where the instrument was made and received an

instruction sheet containing the following details about the instrument. The email:

*"... I have processed your request and came across in our Siemens MedArchiv to the instruction manual for the foreign objects detector Siemens-Reiniger-Werke AG, which I send you herewith. **The first image of this device, which is in our archive, date from about the year 1940.** At that time, the unit should be the first time more widely been used. I hope that the manual can answer your questions extensively."*

With the operator's manual I could understand the function of this additional device to an X-ray machine:

The device is used for the localization of projectiles in the human body.

Two X-ray images have been performed in different positions. Well defined. See Figure V. The **plummet** (top right) is used to align the x-ray machine just above a reference point. The **counter weight** holds it in position.

Here are some pictures from this manual.

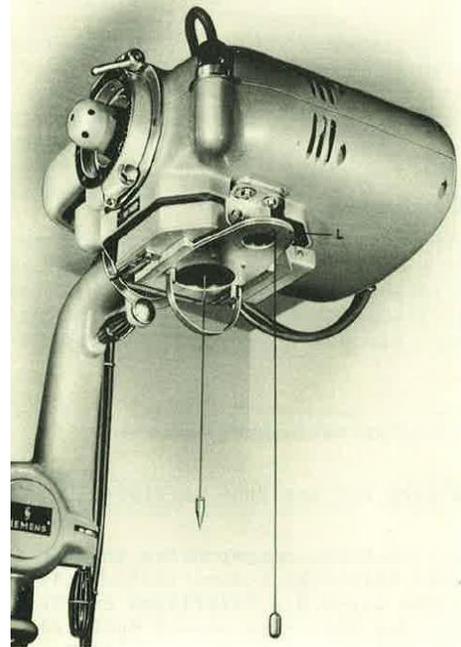


Abb. IV

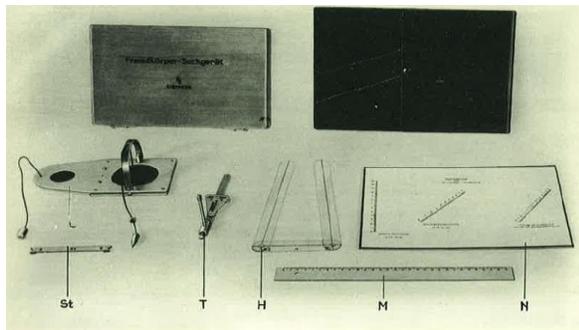


Abb. I

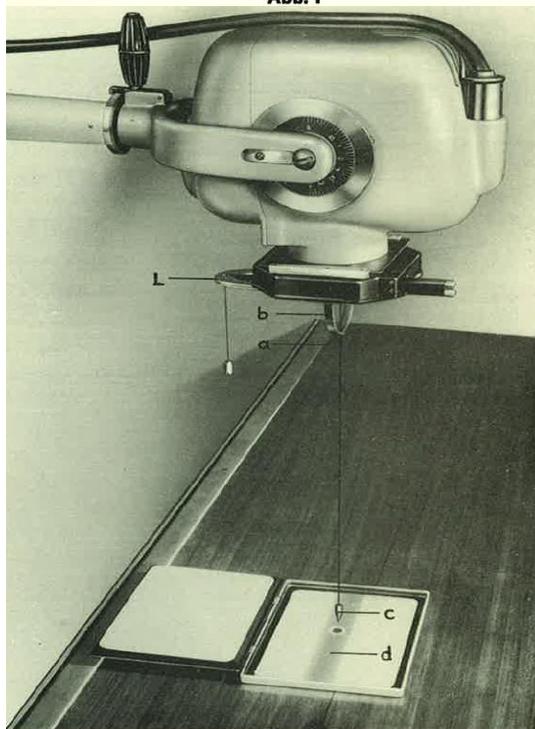


Abb. XIV

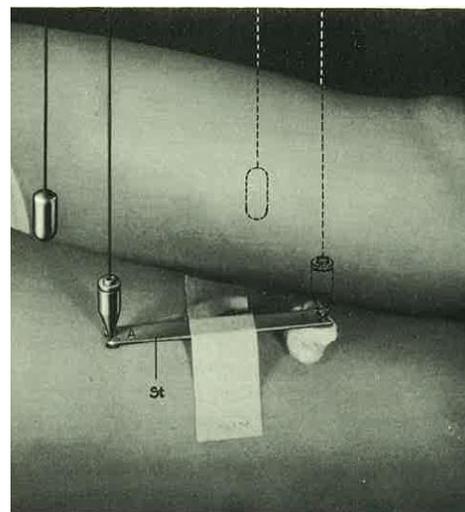
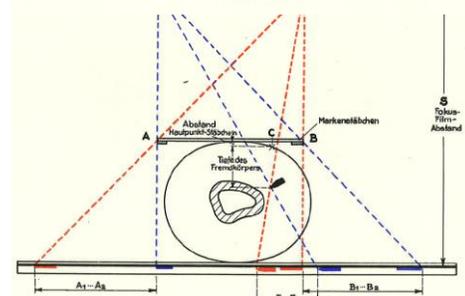


Abb. V



3. BADGE with PLUMB BOB US ARMY 332nd Engineer Regiment

In Michigan, U.S.A. I saw a BUILDERS BADGE with a plumb bob for sale and bought it on eBay.

It is made of enamel and brass and shows a plumb bob combined with a red / white target sign.



On the badge reads the motto:

TO BUILD TO CONQUER.

My research revealed that it formerly belonged to the 332nd Engineer General Service Regiment.

On the commemorative website¹ of this unit we find the history.



Active from 1942 until 1953.

Exactly 6 months after the United States of America entered World War 2, through the execution of War Department General Order #43, HQ 3rd Army, San Antonio, Texas the unit known as 332nd Engr GS Regiment was activated as a Special Service Regiment. Later, during training at Camp Claiborne the

¹ <http://www.332ndengineer.com/>

regiment was made a General Service Regiment. The unit shipped overseas to England in 1942 after but a few months training. The 332d paved the way, so to speak, by preparing bases for the buildup of American troops prior to D-Day. Later this unit entered the continent and successfully constructed bridges and roads through Europe. The 332nd continued in service through the entire war and remained in **Germany** for the Occupation, for the purpose of rebuilding Germany. It returned to the U.S. in October 1949; was subsequently demobilized and put on the inactive list. In June 1950 the 332d E.G.S.R. was reactivated and sent to Korea. The Regiment returned to the U.S. in August 1953 and was permanently deactivated with due ceremony.

There have been other Army Engineer Units with the designation 332nd Engineer but these units have not (to my knowledge) been connected to the unit described above. ...

The name 332nd Engineer lives on in the 332nd Engineer Company (Dump Truck) a reserve unit located in Kittanning, Pennsylvania. The 332nd Engineer Company is served our country in the rebuilding of Iraq with the purpose of building roads and bridges and recently returned in January 2005. We are happy they have returned safely to the U.S.

I don't know in what period of this regiment my badge was made, but I think between 1942 and 1953, because it is worn and the needle at the back is broken.

History from WIKIPEDIA on:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/332nd_Engineer_General_Service_Regiment

The regiment remained in Germany in the Allied Occupation Zones in Germany under the command of the U.S. Fifteenth Army, later being deactivated in 1949. By May 1946 the 332nd was actively involved in rebuilding the airstrip at Wiesbaden. [WR: 40 miles to my home] At the time it was known as Fliegerhorst Wiesbaden. It came to be called Wiesbaden Army Airfield (WAAF) and is still in operation today.



In order to concentrate engineering resources and to distribute available heavy equipment, the concept of the "engineer group" was begun. General John C. H. Lee was pleased with the work performed with the use of the special and general engineer regiments since mid-1942. These were new concepts of army organization for a new type of war. Still, there were engineers with civilian experience that knew that more improvements could be made with the engineer group idea. In this organization five or six engineer units, including regiments, dump truck companies, welding detachments and engineer maintenance companies would work together on larger projects. Some army engineer officers were lost to aviation construction battalions for runway construction.

Information about the **VICTORY BRIDGE** (see fig. on top of the page) at Duisburg, Germany:

<http://www.webcitation.org/5kjKBTiOD>

The greatest accomplishment of the 332nd Engineer G. S. Regiment (as a member of ASDEC Engineer Group "A") was the reconstruction of the Duisburg-Hochfeld rail bridge, 2,815 feet (858m) long, over the Rhine River in the record time of six days, fifteen hours and twenty minutes. The site of this bridge was crossing the Rhine River between Duisburg and Rheinhausen, Germany. The railroad bridge was completed 8 May 1945 and was named the "Victory Bridge".

In building the bridge, the Engineer Group had to finish the demolition of the nearby railway bridge. Near the new piers was part of a masonry bridge that looked similar to the Castle Design of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This was a fitting tribute the Army Engineering.

A lot of information for a small badge. ☺

plumbbobwolf@t-online.de



I have some more badges/pins with plumb bobs in my collection:



Baumeister Verein Württemberg



WBB



Bricklayers, Masons & Plasterers Int. Union

4. PENCILS FABER CASTELL U.S.A. Type 777 PLUMB LINE

In my collection I found a package with pencils by the maker FABER CASTELL, type 777 hard, produced in the U.S.A. and marked PLUMB LINE on the box and on each pencil.



I asked a specialist for pencils, Doug Martin.

Below his answer:

"I am familiar with the Plumb-Line pencil - I have at least one in my collection. Like most Eberhard Faber pencils, this one is no longer made (the US company was bought by Sanford Corp ca. 1995 and most pencil products were discontinued). I will have to do a little research to see if I can determine the age range for this model. I can't think of any other brand names that might be related to plumb bobs, but I will take a look. My collection of carpenter pencils is not extensive, but I know some others who collect them more aggressively than I and I can ask them about it.

Have a great day!

Doug Martin

By the way, while searching for pencils I found the website of an artist who was cutting small tools from PENCIL LEAD!
(sorry for the wrong address in my last version of this newsletter)

Dalton M. Ghetti

<http://www.daltonmghetti.com/index.asp>

There you can find (and buy) his works:

<http://www.daltonmghetti.com/shop.asp>

plumbbobwolf@t-online.de



Artist at work.



Heart



Saw



Hammer



Screw

And something that looks like a plumb bob!



looks like a

Get out your carving knife and try it. Good luck!

5. ALFRED SHIRLEY Ltd. UK

The first time I came across a plumb bob with a maker/dealer inscription named Alfred Shirley, Ltd. UK inscribed on the top was on eBay. The fixed cap is further marked with the number 8, followed by the period: 1861-1945.



When I asked several of my plumb bob collector friends about this company, one of them, Ulrich, was aware of other plumb bobs from Shirley in his collection.



6. EBONY LAWS in the U.S.A.

A friend told me that there will be new laws which govern the sale of ebony on American products, which will be similar to the laws

currently in Europe. Future sale of ebony plumb bobs may be impacted by the US guidelines governing ebony.

Thanks Bruce!

AntiqueWeek
THE WEEKLY ANTIQUE AUCTION & COLLECTING NEWSPAPER

NATIONAL SECTION

.COM

APRIL 21, 2014

Ivory collectors, auctioneers call ban 'sucker punch'

BY ERIC C. RODENBERG

The Obama Administration is waging open warfare against antique owners, collectors and auctioneers, say ivory collectors - many of whom may be treated as criminals for buying and selling ivory in the near future. The repercussions of the Feb. 11 executive order effectively ban all sales of elephant ivory in the United States. In essence, the new regulations ban Americans from importing and, with narrow exceptions, exporting any item that contains even a flake of ivory. The rules do not ban private ownership, but they outlaw interstate and intrastate sales of ivory items, unless collectors meet what sellers describe as insurmountable hurdles.

APRIL 21, 2014

Ivory Ban

FROM FRONT PAGE.

Current U.S. regulations permit the sale of ivory that is more than 100 years old. However, in the future, sellers must provide documented proof that the piece of ivory in question is more than 100 years old.

Trouble is that very few Victorians artists - and early skilled ivory carvers and craftsmen - routinely left notarized statements attesting to the age of their medium.

So, for the most part, that relegates historical ivory pieces - inlaid gun pieces, canes and walking sticks, musical instruments, chess sets, netsukes and much, much more - to the scrap heap.

President Obama issued the executive order in response to the annihilation of elephants by poachers seeking to profit from the animal's ivory tusks. The order is structured to clamp down on ivory movement into and throughout the United States.

In short, collectors feel like they have been sucker punched.

“We were blind-sided by the government,” said Doug Bandow, a collector of finely crafted chess sets. “Here we collectors have followed the law, and then they change the rules. Now, the government has created a sense of desperation among collectors who – if they need to sell or want to buy – may be forced to go underground. And, what does that do – that just encourages traffic to go through the bad guys who through their illegal acts caused the problems.

Already in 2004 we got information about the different laws:

Laws governing ivory

There are many laws governing Ivory at both Federal and state levels. If you plan on collecting ivory you should become familiar with them. Read the laws listed below in their entirety as well as your own state laws. They are lengthy, complex and often misinterpreted, so read them carefully and try to understand them

Marine Mammal Protection Act: 16 USCS 1361 – 1407: This generally prohibits or restricts the import, export, possession, take and sale of marine mammals and their parts and products. These species include whales, walruses, narwhals, seals, sea lions, sea otters and polar bears.

Endangered Species Act: 16 USCS 1531 – 1544: This generally prohibits the import, export, possession, take and sale of species listed as endangered or threatened in interstate or foreign commerce.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species: International treaty signed by more than 140 countries and implemented through the Endangered Species act, which regulates and in some cases prohibits imports and exports of wildlife, plants and animals that are threatened by trade.

African Elephant Conservation Act: 16 USCS 4201 – 4244: This generally restricts the import and export of African elephant ivory.

Lacey Act: 16 USCS 3371 – 3378: This prohibits the import, export, transport, sale or purchase of fish or wildlife taken or possessed in violation of State, Federal, Indian Tribal or Foreign Wildlife Law. Many countries completely ban or restrict wildlife trade.

For all collectors who don't own ebony plumb bobs, you find in the right column some photos of them from the collection of Nelson Denny †:



IVORY PLUMB BOB WITH CHECKERING
MARKED: "A.J. TELL" (IN SCRIPT)
UNITED STATES
4.6"X2"
5.75 OZ.
#448 DENNY

7. A-LEVEL and MONUMENT in FRANCE

A friend sent me a photo of a monument with a woman (Marianne), holding an A-level in her left hand, which he encountered on a tour to southern France. The A-level is the symbol of the French Revolution and stand for EQUALITY.
Thanks Claus!



Here on this "place" was erected in 1878, the statue of Marianne.

It is listed as the first stone statue of the French republic.

It was created by the sculptor Taillefer.

It was renovated in 1989 and again in 2005.

I own a medal from bronze (Dia= 60 mm Weight= 110 g) with the same motif. „médaille maçonnique par Jacques-Édouard Gatteaux“



8. MAGENHEIMER ROOF GAUGE 1938

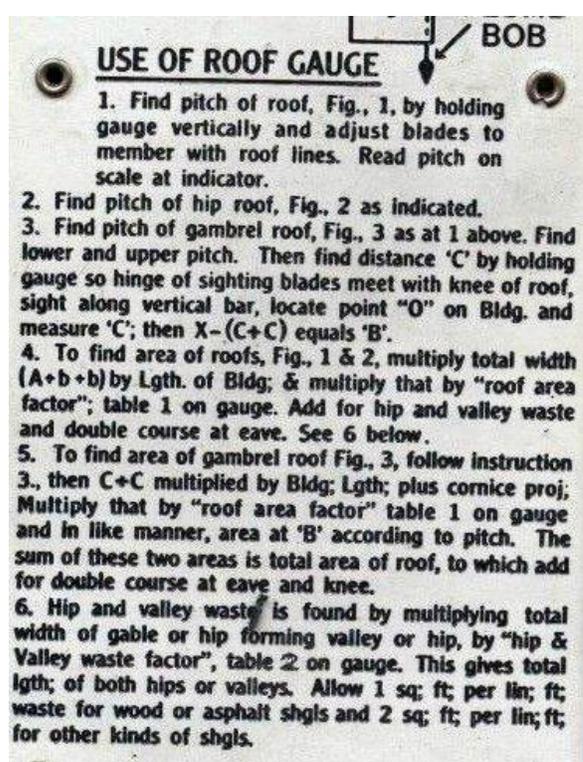
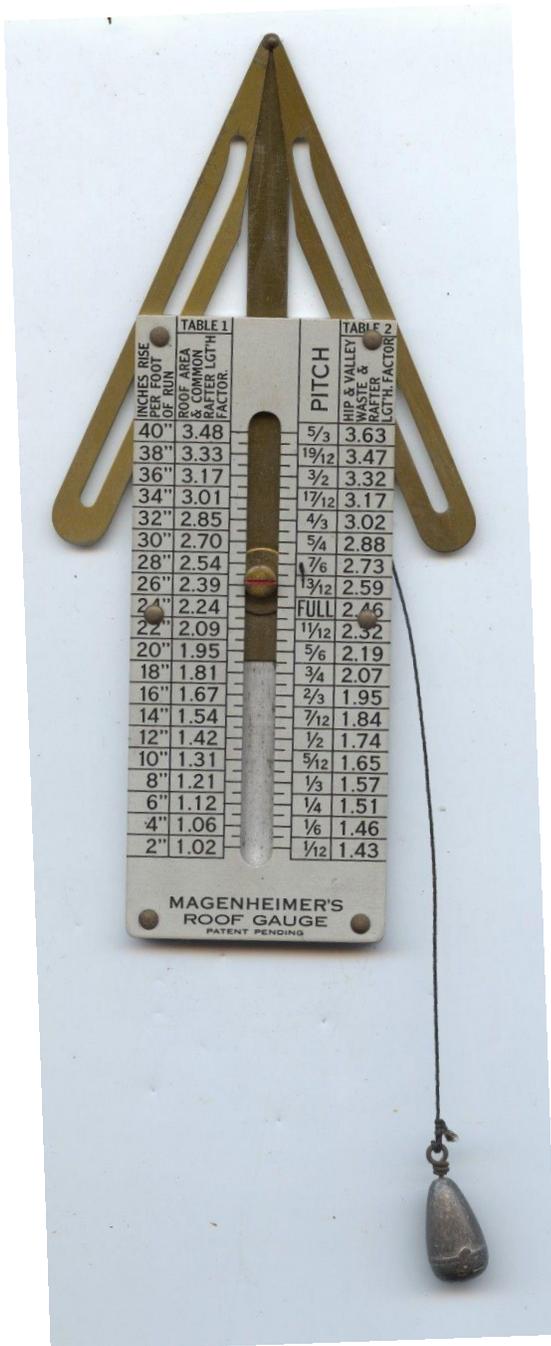
From Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A. I bought a roof gauge with plumb bob. It is used to find pitch of roof and area of roofs.

Total height is 8 inch.

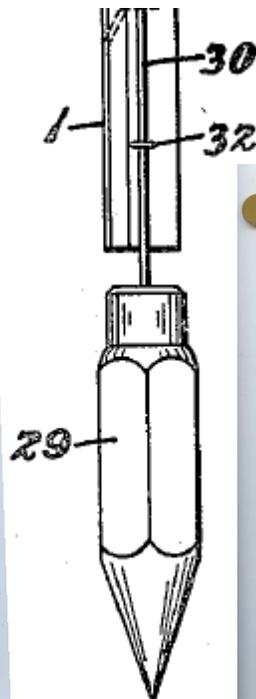
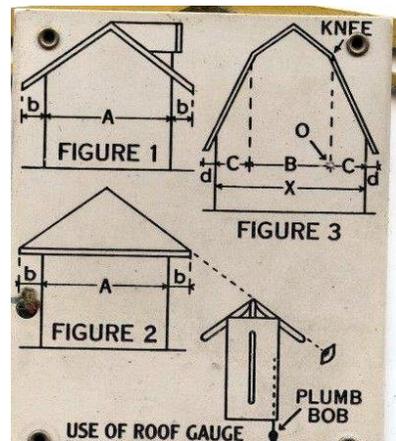
It is marked PATENT PENDING.

Note: You can search for American patents by using Google patent search. This is for American patents only. Patents from all other countries of the world you will find in the European Patent Office, Munich, Germany online with English instructions.

If you need help, feel free to ask.



I found the patent of this instrument:
 US2138551 1938 ROOF GAUGE
 CLIFFORD O. MAGENHEIMER,
 Rochester, N.Y. U.S.A.



9. PLUMB BOB WITH REEL

Ulrich Biber found on eBay Australia this common American plumb bob, but with a reel inside. Usually the reel is in the upper part or the middle of the body. There are no maker marks on the bob, but the sheath is marked GENERAL. The braking system with the spring works similar to the well-known Stanley plumb bob.

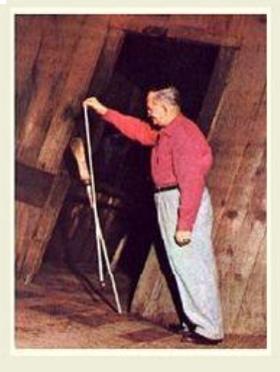
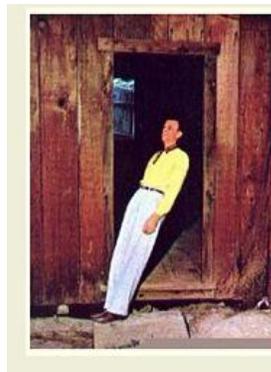
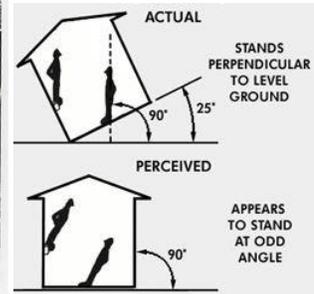
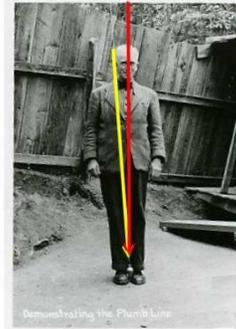


10. SOMETHING TO SMILE

In the U.S.A. we find many “so called” MYSTERY SPOTS or GRAVITY HILLS where the gravity force and our plumb bob seems not to work any longer. ☺

Search on Google for photos of MYSTERY SPOTS and GRAVITY HILLS. The expose will make you smile

Some figures below give you a first impression. The presentation is both humorous and mysterious. ☺



11. REMARK

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

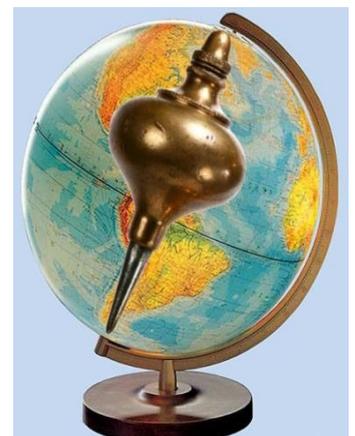
This is an article of the monthly published WOLF'S PLUMB BOB NEWS that is sent on demand as PDF-file attachment by email. FREE. You can see all former publications on the website www.plumbbobcollectors.info on sub page “download publications”.

Remarks and contact by email: plumbbobwolf@t-online.de

Enjoy it

Wolf Ruecker

plumbbobwolf@t-online.de



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