

Hawley Collection Trust Newsletter

Spring 2018

GALLERY EXHIBITIONS

GET A GRIP – HANDLE MAKING THROUGH TIME

Until April 2018

An exhibition of the changing materials used for knife handles over time, from horn, ivory and Blue John to stainless steel.

From April 2018: TAYLOR BROS SAWS

RECENT ACQUISITION: The saw presented by Taylor Bros to Queen Victoria's eldest daughter, Princess Victoria, and Prince Frederick William of Prussia on their marriage in 1858.

ANOTHER UNUSUAL DAY OUT

Graham Dolan, one of our volunteer curators, is out again with the grandchildren, this time to **MAGNA** in Rotherham. Today, this is an exciting adventure park for youngsters but also a must visit for those interested in British industrial archaeology and history. The site is the former works of Steel, Peech & Tozer Ltd., which closed about 25 years ago.

Outside, the former scrapyard is now the car park. To walk inside the building is a strange experience. Much large plant still covers the shop floor – ladles, cranes and 'E' furnace at the far end.

There is a simulation – "The Big Melt" – which every hour describes the operation at E Furnace. This is a must for your visit and is an excellent attraction.

For further details on steel making at Templeborough [click here](#)

Would you like to become a **FRIEND OF THE HAWLEY COLLECTION?** See website for details

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Some confusing but amusing Sheffield tool and trade terms

Rat tailed file A slender round file, four or five inches long.

Yarmouth beef Or two-eyed beefsteak (red herrings). The only meat a poor cutler could afford!

Blindmans Rule A carpenter's boxwood folding rule with large black numbers and graduations. More easily read in poor light.

Electric Steels High quality alloy steels made in the electric arc or induction furnaces.

Nelson Knife Unusual shaped knife incorporating the tines of a fork. Designed for use by the disabled, like Lord Nelson, with only one hand. See an example in the gallery.

Puddler Tough manual worker making wrought iron. Puddlers stirred the iron in a reverberatory furnace, the puddling furnace. This trade died out in the early 1970's.

Badger Plane A large beech wooden rebate plane, similar to a Jack Plane, but with a skewed iron and wedge.

Punching bear An unusual stout tool shaped like a G-Cramp, used for punching holes in steel plate. Nothing to do with the fairground!

Braille Micrometer in Hawley Collection

The Hawley Collection possesses a large number of Moore & Wright and Chesterman measuring tools. Probably the most significant of these are the two Braille measuring instruments designed to be used by blind inspectors. One of these is a M&W 0 to 1 inch Braille micrometer and the other is a special Braille caliper. The caliper resulted from a joint project between Moore & Wright and Chesterman.

At the end of WW11 a large number of soldiers returned home with damage to their eye sight with some being completely blind. Before the war many of these had worked in manufacturing industries, some as quality inspectors, and now wished to return to their previous employment. In 1950 the National Institute of the Blind sought opinions on this from several companies that were employing blind workers mainly on automatic machines. The de Havilland aircraft factories had for many years employed blind operators very successfully and safely on capstan lathes and the NIB were keen to extend this employment to inspection operations. The NIB approached Dr Ken Hume, an expert in metrology, at the National Physical Laboratory to see if he could help. He suggested that the best thing to do was to approach Moore and Wright in Sheffield to ask them to apply their expertise in making precision measuring instruments to design and produce a suitable Braille micrometer which could measure accurately to a tenth of a thou. Moore and Wright undertook to do this and made the instrument shown in Fig 1.

This appeared in the 1952 M&W catalogue together with a Braille depth gauge (Fig 2). Moore and Wright also worked with Chesterman to produce a Braille caliper that could measure up to 12 inches with the same accuracy as the micrometer. The Collection was fortunate to obtain one of these calipers (Fig 3) from Mr Richard Morgan of Cinderford in the Forest of Dean. This particular caliper was used by Jim Blake, a blind inspector, when he worked at Rank Xerox. Mr Blake was blinded as a result of a flying incident when he was in the RAF during WW11. This caliper is not shown in any M&W catalogue.



Fig 1



Fig 2



Fig 3

David Eaton
6 December 2017

VISITORS' COMMENTS – Heritage Open Day September 10th 2017

“I would like to see more of the collection the next time that I visit Sheffield.”

“Depths of knowledge of volunteers. Sheer volume of the collection.”

“Keep doing what you do.” “The passion of the volunteers.”

“Love the Princess Saw story”

Website: www.hawleytoolcollection.com

You can now make a donation to help volunteers continue their preservation of the collection through Local Giving