

Hawley Collection Trust Newsletter

Winter 2016

THE HAWLEY COLLECTION

Extract from a poem by Tony Hall, one of our volunteer curators

After prolonged and thoughtful reflection
We judge the Hawley to be a fine collection.
This is not just idle speculation,
It enjoys a worldwide reputation.
It is a resource for the use of all.
It provides answers for every call.

It receives and answers hundreds of requests,
Is given funds and handed numerous bequests.
A museum of quality and scale,
It tells the ever changing tale
Of an industrial city's life and work,
Of skills carried out in cold and murk.

It shows the citizen's talents, arts and skill.
The tools and blades that shape, cut and kill.
Metal tools moulded, forged or cast,
Hardened, annealed and made to last....

Since the death of Chris and Ken
It cannot be the same again.
But we work and do the best we can
In honour of the name of the man
Ken Hawley the man we could not tame.
We will never see his like again.
Ken the communicator
Ken the innovator
And Christine Ball
Who seemed to know it all.
They will never ever be forgotten,
This life can be so cruel and rotten.

WIRE DRAWING AT WORTLEY

An early eighteenth century tally was found in Spring 2010 in a field in Somerset. The lead tally indicated wire of the size 18 gauge which could have been used in the manufacture of cloth, and originated from the old wire mill at Wortley near Sheffield.

Where was the wire going and what was its use?
Read more about this exciting find by clicking [here](#)

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

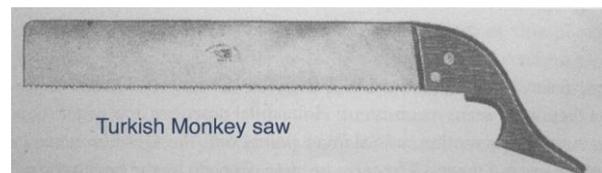
Some confusing but amusing Sheffield tool and trade terms

Blister Steel The product of an early steel making process whereby incorporated carbon causes the surface to swell up or blister.

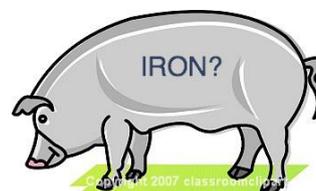
Bushman's friend A pattern of general purpose knife, usually carried in a sheath.

Bull week No bullfighting in Sheffield (that we know of!). The week before Christmas, when the cutlers "bulled at work" or made an extra effort.

Monkey Saw A pistol handled wood saw with a blade that cuts on the pull stroke. We have one on display in our gallery.



Pig Iron The raw material for iron and steel making. The result of smelting iron ore with coke in a blast furnace. The iron is cast into ingots, called "pigs".



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

GALLERY EXHIBITIONS

NEW

THE GIANT'S TOOLBOX

An exhibition of giant tools from February 2016

This is an exhibition of oversized tools made for display at trade shows, in shop windows and for general promotion purposes.



THE GOLDEN RULE March 2016 – August 2016

The exhibition deals with the history of boxwood rules, their manufacture, marketing and export and their development for use in many trades and occupations.

UNIQUE!

A TOP TEN AT THE HAWLEY COLLECTION Selected by Ken Hawley

CRUCIBLE CAST STEEL INGOT recovered from an eighteenth century steelworks site. It is thought to be the only known example of Huntman's method of steel melting, which changed the world of metallurgy.

DIESINKING – 'sculpting' a cast steel die to produce cutlery, flatware etc. Showing a complex die, made for Queen Victoria's 1887 Jubilee spoon in solid silver by C.W.Fletcher, Arundel Street.

STEEL TAPE MEASURE - A World First! Made by James Chesterman of Sheffield in the 1840s. This enabled much more accurate long measurements to be taken, on railways, iron shipbuilding etc. Previously linen tapes were used.

To be continued

FILE CUTTING

Men have sat, year in year out, for a lifetime cutting files, fifty thousand teeth a day or more, for pay so scant that wife and children had to help as the family grew. The work was monotonous and unhealthy. But in spite of the monotony, file cutters didn't go dotty; they stuck to it and managed to appear intelligent; some of them were unusually thoughtful.

But the monotony was there; what sweetened it, and not much of that, was that each file, when cut and while cutting, might be glanced at and admired as a piece of good work well done.

Extract from 'Talks about Steel-making' by Harry Brearley dated 1946

A new permanent exhibition on File Cutting is being prepared.

Website: www.hawleytoolcollection.com

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