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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

I trust not too many of you have suffered damage, and perhaps even benefited from the odd wind blown tree.

REVOLUTIONS is now our Newsletter title. Congratulations go to John Wyckam for this suggestion. We thank all of you who contributed. With more than 70 to choose from it made for a difficult decision. Turning Point is already used by other organisations. REVOLUTIONS was chosen because it was one word which applies to both styles of turning. John has chosen a free place on one of the mini seminars as his prize.

At the A.G.M. we made a promise to keep members informed of what the committee was doing, so here is a brief resume. Since the A.G.M. we have held 2 six and a half hour meetings, the main discussion being on chapters, training, seminars and exhibitions, along with a lot of other things of course.

Chapters. We are making a lot of positive moves in this area and there are some sixteen Chapters of the Association at this time. All organisers should be in receipt of a package from Mike Cripps by now. I will highlight just one or two of the things we are doing to help and which are included in the package. 1) All A.W.G.B. Chapter News will appear in Revolutions if sent to Reg. Sherwin. (I must of course reserve the right to edit this news, but lets hear from some of the chapters who don't send me info please, as well as those who do. ed.)

2) We shall invite three Chapters in alphabetical order to send five examples of their members work for display on the A.W.G.B. stands at exhibitions like the 'Practical Woodworking' and 'Woodworker' shows. Avon, Dorset and Devon have been invited to show at the Wembley PW show on 1st - 4th March.

3) We want to see three Regional Seminars this year with more than one demonstrator. To encourage Local Chapters in this matter, we will pay all the costs of one demonstrator at a Seminar approved by us.

There are a lot of other things which are equally helpful in Mike Cripps's package. Your committee is aware that there are a number of groups who were in being prior to the formation of the National body and at our last meeting we minuted the following:-

In future we will refer only to "Chapters of the Association". There is no such thing as an "affiliated", "approved" or "official" chapter. Woodturning groups may form any association they wish. They will be Chapters of the Association only if they set up with the assistance of the A.W.G.B. and/or follow the criteria laid down for Chapter organisation.

Only Chapters of the Association, or individual members where no chapter exists, will be allowed to participate in or benefit from Association activities. This includes participation in seminars, provision of demonstrators, invitations to provide work for exhibitions, joint marketing initiatives or whatever.

The criteria for A.W.G.B. Chapters is a minimum 75% national membership. We prefer 100% and many chapters have this in their constitution. The Association requests that it is regularly provided with Chapters membership lists.

This is a brief resume of a ten page information pack going to chapters.

SEMINAR. We have evaluated the 1989 Seminar questionnaire's and noted your likes and dislikes. 1991 is booked at Loughborough, August 16th. to 18th. Make a note and don't say you didn't have enough notice. We have already booked our overseas demonstrator/lecturers. Three from the U.S.A. and one from Scandinavia.

TRAINING. This is a matter which has been exercising the committee's minds ever since we set up this Association and a lot of work has been put in. We have been trying to establish the Association as the lead body with the National Council for Vocational Qualifications (NCVQ). We always knew that this would be a long and at times difficult process. We have done all we can at this time and the ball is now in their court so to speak. In the meantime, we have set up a sub committee with a tight brief to report back to the main committee by August.

OVERSEAS VISITOR. On behalf of the A.W.G.B., I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our fellow woodturner, Merryll Saylan. Merryll is from the West Coast of America. Berkeley in fact, which is just across the bay from San Francisco.

She had only just got over the

1990

earth quake there, only to get battered by our gales and rain.

I first met Merryll in the States at a seminar in 1981. Her work was very different in concept from ours in the UK and still is. She uses a lot of dyes and stains in her work and creates some incredible effects. A well known collector even mistakenly thought a dyed maple dish was pink ivory, so real was the illusion.

Merryll is here as craftsman in residence for twelve months at the Grizzdale Forest Centre, Nr Lake Windermere. If you are in the area, why not introduce yourself and welcome her to our country? The R.W.G.B. expects to involve Merryll in some of our activities during her stay here. This will give members a chance to see yet another facet of the woodturning world.

**EXHIBITIONS.** We are now regularly asked to exhibit at the major woodworking shows and we have a list of some seventy members who's work we judge of a quality that does justice to the Association. We are equally aware that there are a great many more members who's work is of an equal standing to those we are aware of. PLEASE, PLEASE send photographs of your work to the Secretary by March 25th, so that your committee can consider your work for inclusion in the Association's first real exhibition. This is to be held in David Woodward's 400 sq. feet Gallery which he has opened alongside his workshop in Hay-on-Wye. David is a member of the Association, - many of you will remember his excellent chainsawing demonstrations at Loughborough - and he has invited us to use part of it for a limited period. The exhibition will run from May 28th. to June 8th, which is timed to correspond with the Times sponsored Literary Festival, so there should be a lot of people about. We expect to exhibit a range of 100 to 120 pieces which will display the wide interests of the memberships' work. Not just the familiar Gallery craftsmen, but work of quality from the production field as well. For instance, four poster bed columns, spinning wheels, balustrades and other items. There will be many invited contributors, as well as those juried in from photographs. The committee will reserve the right not to show work that does not do the Association justice. Incidentally, the commission for sales percentage in this exhibition is set at 25%, and not the usual 18%. URT registered exhibitors will have to adjust their selling prices accordingly.

I sometimes hear the odd moan that it is the same people showing on the R.W.G.B. stand. This is not strictly true, but we will only show quality. We are

doing all we can to show more members work, as the move with the Chapters indicates, but if we don't know what you are doing we can't show your work.

I will leave it at that for now, but I hope you can see we are trying to help all members in some way.

Ray Key, (Honorary Chairman) Feb. 3rd. 1988.



#### EDITORS FORUM.

First the good news. As many of you will be aware, G.M.C. Publications produce 'Woodworking International' which is a bi-monthly magazine. I have been involved with it since its predecessor, 'Woodworking Crafts' first came out in 1981. The Company is to bring out a new magazine, titled 'Woodturning', which is devoted entirely to our craft. There are some big names in the woodturning world involved with the magazine, as well as my own. I have been appointed contributing editor. The publishers have donated the R.W.G.B. a whole page in each issue, for our own use. In these days of high income from advertising revenue this is a very generous gesture. If any members want more information on this quarterly magazine which will be launched in the Autumn, could they please contact the Editor, Bernard Cooper, G.M.C. Publications, 166 High St., LEWES, East Sussex, BN7 1XU. The publicity information will be sent out when available. Bernard would also be pleased to receive material from R.W.G.B. members for possible publication.

We are anxious to increase the R.W.G.B. list of would be demonstrators. The list contains members who are willing to travel to local chapter events and show their particular talents, lathewise. Inclusion on the list doesn't imply endorsement by the R.W.G.B. of course, but let's get some more names on it. We also want to show what each demonstrator specialises in, so that potential hirers have a better idea of what to look for. Mike Cripps holds the list and his address appeared in the last newsletter.

Whilst on committee matters, it was recently decided that any members who had a piece selected for inclusion in the 'Loughborough 48' should have a free copy of the slide which was taken of their own particular piece. Any of the forty members who would like a slide should contact Len. Grantham, Honorary Treasurer, 4, Duncan Court, Lord President Rd., North Berwick, East Lothian, EH39 4RJ.

A subject which is quite dear to my heart is one of R.W.G.B. membership. In his Chairmans Notes Ray has explained the policy which we are pursuing, the reasons being that the R.W.G.B. is developing

woodturning nationwide and for the benefit of all. I would like to expand on one of the reasons for this policy of maximum membership. As you will see from the forthcoming attractions section in this newsletter, I am organising the first of my two annual one day seminars at Avoncroft. Members can attend at the normal rate, but non members must pay extra. Otherwise it would mean that the non members were being subsidised. Neither the organisers of such events, nor the demonstrators make anything from them, considering the production time which is lost before, during and afterwards. As an example, I lose a minimum of two days production time per event and usually three. I get £70 for organising the day and this gives me £35 per day at best, and £23 at worst. It isn't much when you consider that from it I have to pay workshop rent, rates, all the insurances, and many other unthought of overheads. And the fact that the event is on a Sunday means nothing to me, as I usually work a seven day week, if not in the workshop on a lathe, then at home with words. My reason for organising such events is to help further the craft in this country. And I feel that this is common to most of the doers in the R.W.G.B. Moreover, whilst I'm not blowing my own trumpet, I know just how much time I put in each week on this Newsletter, and I also know how much unpaid time other committee members give up, when they could, no, *should* be earning a living. I don't think it's too much to ask of Chapters that they should aim at a minimum of 75% membership. Indeed, some Chapters have it in their constitution that membership must be 100%, the latest chapter to be inaugurated, that of Sussex being one such.

And now to yet another delicate matter. Once more I have suffered a completely unprovoked attack from one of our members. I refer to an illustration which appeared in Phil Reardon's article in December's 'Practical Woodworking'. The father figure was, according to my attacker modeled by myself. Cripps, your only jealous 'cos Phil told you he hadn't got a lathe with a big enough swing to accommodate your figure!

Now to more lighthearted matters. The newsletter title competition brought forth something in excess of 70 submissions, which proves to me that there are some people out there after all. Thanks to all of you. Amongst my favourites were 'Cutting Remarks', 'A Cut above the Rest' and 'Round the Corner'. But a single word title is certainly easier to live with, and to fit onto the page.

Most of the members who wrote regarding the format of Newsletter No. 11 enjoyed the two

column layout but had trouble accepting the typeface. I agree with them, but just didn't have the time to experiment with others. The typeface which you are now reading is a standard one which I have modified in certain areas, in order to make it easier on the eyes. Please let me know what you think. And I have been honest with you so please don't be afraid of offending me with your honesty. My skin is thick. I wouldn't be doing this \*\*\*\*\* job if it wasn't! A couple of members suggested that the Newsletter was produced in A5 format, which is exactly half the size of A4, but turned through 90°. Unfortunately this can't be done on my machine, as the resulting typeface is distorted to illegibility. And now I should like to finish this edition of Forum with a poem which one of our members came across.

Are you an active member, the kind who would be missed, or are you just contented that your name is on the list?  
Do you attend the meetings and mingle with the flock, or stay at home in comfort, to criticise and mock?  
Do you take an active part to help the work along, or are you merely satisfied just simply to belong?  
Think it over members, you all know right from wrong. Are you an active member, or do you just belong?



### FORTHCOMING ATTRactions.

The next Avoncroft one day workshop will be on Sunday 13th. May, and the guest demonstrator will be Dave Regester from Devon. Dave is both a spindle and bowl turner. His 'Trunion Boxes' were amongst the 40 selected pieces at the Loughborough Seminar where he was also one of the presenters. Featured in the July '88 edition of 'Woodworking International', Dave is equally adept in both production and gallery work.

As with previous one day workshops, the fee to R.W.G.B. members will be £16.00, which includes a lunch in the museum cafeteria. A programme for the day and a map showing where to find Avoncroft will be sent to the first twenty members to apply for places. Also please ask me for the 'Where to stay' guide should you decide to make a week-end of it. Send your cheque, made out to the R.W.G.B., to me at my Avoncroft address, which appears at the head of this newsletter. Any spaces not booked by



April 9th. will be offered to non members at £18. Our Hon. Treasurer Len Grantham is organising a one day event in Scotland. Programmed for the early summer, its aims are to start a Scottish Chapter. Len tells me that all of the Scottish members have been notified and that places are limited, with not many places left. And finally, see the adverts page for a similar event in Bedlington, Northumberland.



#### LOCAL CHAPTERS.

The latest list of local chapter secretaries, organisers or press officers is as follows. If you have any alterations or additions, please let Mike Cripps know. It is our intention to update this

list annually.

Avon and Bristol. Simon Keen, 7 Lime Grove, Alveston, Bristol, Avon. BS12 2PN.  
Devon. Peter Bornford, Cummings, Cummings Cross, Liverton, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 6HL.  
Dorset. John Shearman, 15, West Street, Chickerell, Weymouth, Dorset DT3 4DY.  
Hampshire. Sue Dixon, Burley Glen, Nr Newbury, Berks. RG15 0PB.  
Hereford and Worcester. Phil Lees, 21 Church Rd., Astwood Bank, Worcs.  
Herts and Beds. Brian Clifford, 51 Sarratt Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP2 7JN.  
Kent. Mick Eggleton, Flat 1, The Cabin, Upper Vicarage Rd., ASHFORD, Kent. TN24 9AG.  
Middlesex. Dennis Carey, 50 Hayman Crescent, Hayes, Middlesex, UB4 8PP.  
Norfolk. Tony Waddilove, Hill Farm Workshops, Castle Acre Road, Great Dunham, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE32 2LP.  
Oxford. Charles Holdon, Pippin, Bledington, Oxon, OX7 6XH.  
Somerset. (See Wessex).  
Suffolk North. Mike O'Connor, Forge House, The Street, HOLTON, Suffolk IP19 8PN.  
Staffs and South Cheshire. Bill Kinsman, 9 Vanity Close, Oulton, STONE, Staffs ST15 8TZ.  
Surrey Association of Woodturners (SAW), Bob. Godbehers, 7 Globe Farm Lane, Darby Green, Camberley, Surrey, GU17 8DB.  
Wessex. Don Newson, 36 Herne Rise, Ilminster, Somerset TA19 0HL.  
West Sussex. Derek Berry, 16 Truleigh Rd., Beeding, Steyning, West Sussex BN44 3RJ.  
West Midlands. Doug Vaughn, 20 Great Stone Rd., Northfield, BIRMINGHAM, West Midlands, B42 2EH.

4. Yorkshire. Bill Newton, 5 Beacon Brow, Horton Bank Top, BRADFORD, BD6 3DE.

NEWS. AVON AND BRISTOL have had a full year, with sessions on photography, safety with grinding wheels, business studies, profit and loss, and of course the visit from Del Stubbs. Competitions have been held each month, with a bottle of wine going to one winner. Making 18 identical light pulls was another competition, with the pulls going to charity. DEVON WOODTURNERS continue to meet on a regular basis, with a different member hosting each time. The January meeting was hosted by Gordon Moore, with 22 members present. Tobias Kaye demonstrated his (Early U.K. version of) the Dennis Stewart tools. Their next meeting is on 7th. March. The Devon and Wessex Chapters have an agreement whereby members from either group can visit the other group, by prior notice for accommodation reasons.

HAMPSHIRE WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION hold a meeting each month, central Winchester being the location and no less than 30 people attended each of the first two. The programme for each meeting consists of a guest speaker/demonstrator, a competition, a raffle and time for general conversation.

The KENT CHAPTER held one of its regular meetings in January, with Stephen Marchant as the demonstrator. Their newsletter says '...for the members that came to the demonstration on 8th. January, I am sure it was the best £18 worth they have had for a long time.' Stephen wastes not a single movement, some of his tools are ground to most unusual angles and his philosophy is that woodturning is a very individual thing. If it works for you, it is right.

The MIDDLESEX WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION continues with its monthly meetings, with a full 12 month programme devised for each year. Meeting at the same venue each month, they make a once and for all enrolment charge to any member who joins them, and then each member pays a small fee for each of the meetings which he or she attends. They also go out and about, with events planned for April and September in High Wycombe and also a visit to Buxton in August.

SUFFOLK NORTH hold regular meetings, at the last one of which the Dennis White video No. 4 was viewed. This caused some discussion on the use of the skew, and particularly its use as a scraper inside a bowl. Leaving the tool rest in position during sanding also raised an eyebrow or two. Future meetings are scheduled for March 7th, May 28th, and July 3rd.

SURREY WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION, (SAW), have got

together, elected officers and taken the decision to 5. meet once each month, in different venues, so as to even out the amount of travelling time for everyone. Welcome to this chapter, our latest edition to the family. With sixteen paid up R.W.G.B. members and a further ten waiting for your next meeting, I think a successful future looks assured.

The WESSEX Chapter held their first one day workshop, on two separate days, if you see what I mean. Hosted by John and Jan Sanders, the guest turner was Del Stubbs. It was a mistake John! Starting at the top means that from now on you can only go down hill. Del performed what is now quite well known as his repertoire of mini (3/8" high) goblet with masonry nail and 'crook neck skew chisel'. He also emphasised the importance of turning the blank by hand to find out what the tool is doing. He followed on by making and using a hook tool and also making a translucent bowl from wet wood. To this as usual spell binding performance he added yet another feat. Speaking of a recent visit to Ireland, where he worked with a blind turner, Del blindfolded himself and then talked and worked his way through a small section of spindle turning. His point was that doing such things helps to concentrate the mind and really emphasises the feel of the tool cutting. Graham Treharne ends his report, which I have not been able to do justice to, by asking 'Could we have a week next time????' and thanking John and Jan Sanders for organising the event.

WEST SUSSEX held its first meeting of 1998 with Jack Hill, chair maker and R.W.G.B. member as the talker and demonstrator. Three Middlesex members and one from the newly formed Hampshire Chapter were also present and returned home via the 'Oddfellows Arms'. (It's a long way to go for a drink Cripps, ed.) The chapter meets at 12.00 on the first Sunday in the month in Pulborough. Phone Derek Berry on (0983) 814294 after 6.00 for more details.

Just to close this section of the Newsletter, I ought to say that whilst I am still most interested in what each of the chapters are doing, I am trying to edit the very detailed reports of events which I am getting from some of them. This is because I would like to get more items in from abroad and we are limited by cost to a specific number of pages for each edition of the newsletter. Some chapters produce detailed reports anyway, and these are circulated within the local chapter and also to myself and Mike Cripps. This is a good system, as it keeps local members in touch if they can't attend a particular meeting. It also allows me to précis events so that inspiration can be given to other chapters. And encouraging each other is what the

R.W.G.B. is about.

Stop Press. Mike Cripps asks me to apologise through the Newsletter for the fact that he is behind in his correspondence. He will get back up to date just as soon as he can. He could still be lost in West Sussex of course!

Even more Stop Press! I have today received a request for information on Exhibits, shows or workshops that might be taking place 'in Great Britain or southern Wales' during late July and August 1998. The request comes from D.R. Roberts, of Salem, Oregon, U.S.A. If any local chapters would like to have (Mr?) Roberts visit them, or their events, could they please let me have details. I will leave all the information in a package for him to collect on his arrival in the U.K.



BUSINESS SPONSOR NEWS.



Amongst the brickbats which seem to fly thick and fast nowadays, it's refreshing to be able to hand out a couple of bouquets as well. Mike Cripps has asked me to compliment Roy Seeley of Tyne Lathes, who got a replacement motor to Mike within 24 hours of his old one packing up. As this was just before the lathe was to be used in a demo, the service was much appreciated. Tyne Lathes of course, donated a cub to the R.W.G.B., for the 'loan a lathe' scheme, and are now checking it over prior to it's second journey to a borrower.

Also, and this doesn't surprise me, I have had a letter from a new member, Mr D.E.M. Wright, who recently bought a rebuilt Graduate from L.R.E., of Warrington. Mr Wright says 'restored' would be nearer the mark, such is the immaculate condition of the lathe. It was personally delivered by the partners, 'who so obviously take a great pride in the quality of their engineering. I cannot recommend them highly enough.'

I've had dealings with L.R.E. myself Mr Wright, and I couldn't agree more.



## LETTERS.

Chris Clarke, one of our members from Scotland has asked me if we might bring a little controversy into the newsletter by debating a couple of topics. I might just have done that myself Chris, but I accept your suggestion as well, and would like to hear your comments, particularly on 'Marketing'. Could I ask anyone who would like to

air their views to limit themselves to 200 words? I know that is tight, but it will make my task easier and also keep the subject of the debate in sight. Our Secretary Hugh O'Neill has told me that he has contact with a source of windblown timber in the Henley on Thames area and if any members would like more information, could they please contact him direct.

New committee member Tony Waddilove, of Norfolk, asks if any members have been involved with the new 'Hazardous Dust' (COSHH) regulations? If so could they produce some information for the newsletter. As Tony understands it, these regulations, effective from 1.1.98., affect both employers and the self employed, and 'it is up to us to be aware of the requirements and to be certificated!'

On a similar note, Devon Woodturners have pointed out that from Jan 1st, an E.E.C. regulation makes it illegal to sell a toy unless it is identical to others which have been subjected to destructive testing and received an E-mark. They ask, can any other members throw any light onto this most important subject please?

A most intriguing letter has arrived from Alan Griffiths, who is one of our latest members. On a visit to France last December he bought a D.I.Y. magazine, 'having heard that the French didn't go in for it.' (I've heard different Alan, ed.) His eye was taken to a pull-out section, a *Guide Pratique*, which included a twelve step feature on *Turner un pied de meuble*. What intrigues Alan, and me, is a device which looks like a very long two handed potato peeler. A line drawing shows the tool in use, where it seems to be employed as a roughing gouge on square timber. I suspect that there is more than a little artistic license in the illustrations, which show the tool taking a shaving off both the timber and the tool rest. I feel that the product is aimed specifically at the D.I.Y. market, as 'dig-ins' as we know them would be almost impossible to achieve using the tool. As would a cut, come to that. Alan asks, 'Do the French really use a slotted chisel, how is it sharpened, and are the answers common knowledge? I'm pretty common Alan, and it's new to me! If any members have knowledge of such a product could they contact me. Alternatively, a 9" by 6" envelope and a couple of loose second class stamps, to cover the return postage and my photostating costs, would gain them a photocopy of the sketch.

A letter from the Avon and Bristol secretary, Simon Keen, advised me of an offer which a local garden furniture manufacturer has made to the Association. They use teak and will sell their off cuts at a very

reasonable rate to any member who is interested. Simon asks that you contact him first, to arrange a visit to the Bristol address. His number is Bristol (0454) 412642. The Company also helped to pay the costs of one of the local Chapter meetings, and have offered one of their tables as a prize for a future competition. It's very enterprising of this new group to arrange such benefits. Well done everyone!

Finally, a delightful letter from Geoff Heath, which refers to the use of elephant droppings as mentioned in the last Newsletter. Geoff says 'An increment of excrement from an elephant is relevant.' Do we have a serious contender for the tongue twister title I wonder. I must polish up my 'Cripps crept...' comments!

## FOR SALE.

Buy, barter, borrow  
or steal.

Frank Morris has upgraded his lathe and therefore has a Coronet Minor (Red) lathes, 8" circular saw table, morticing table, chucks, arbors & faceplates for sale. All V.G.C. £300. Contact Frank on Worthing (0903) 67752.

Hugh O'Neill has upgraded as well, and has a Whitehead Junior bandsaw, 8" depth of cut, single phase, very solid. For sale at £175.

Ring 01-666 2721.

FOREIGN N—E—S  
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Derek Pyatt, one of our sponsor members, sent me a report of a trip to Canada, which I have at last found space to print. Sorry about the delay Derek.

"I recently visited Western Canada, British Columbia Province, and stayed in Vancouver.

"Whilst enjoying a holiday there I took the opportunity to survey the woodworking scene. Visits were made to several machinery dealers, to view machines for both business and hobby use. I also spoke at length to two full time woodturners.

"The choice of woodworking machinery for industrial use seemed as wide as in the U.K., but for hobby use, more limited. The many Taiwan models were to be found, at prices similar to those in the U.K. There was some choice of heavier duty lathes, e.g. North American made Union, Delta and General. Variable speed models were more common than over here. Turning tools and chucks were mostly of well known English make.

"I did not discover any shops specialising in woodturners supplies. In a part of the world where trees grow everywhere, there were no shops supplying wood for turners. The population of



Canada is very small compared with the vast land area so many people have to purchase by mail order.

"In the three or four woodwork magazines available, there was little mention of woodturning. Woodturners Guilds are unheard of. Tuition is limited. I discovered only one source, an Englishman called Jason Marlow, who emigrated from the Birmingham area about seven years ago.

"Jason uses a Graduate short bed model which he imported. Most of his work is of the studio type. It seems the Canadian public don't buy 'useful' artefacts turned from wood as much as we in the U.K. Jason works with local grown timbers such as arbutus, cherry, cottonwood and various varieties of maple. The other full time turner I spoke to sells his work at fairs and through gift shops.

"One comes back from a visit to that part of the world realising that we in the U.K. seem to have everything we need so readily available and with such a wide choice as well."

Thanks for those interesting observations Derek. I know that we have two Canadian members at the moment, so we could end up with a 'local chapter'. There doesn't seem to be much opposition at the moment.

News of an interesting enterprise has come to me from New Zealand. Tanner Engineering Ltd, makers of woodworking and metalworking machinery, have opened the H.S. Tanner memorial woodturning school, the facility being available to any club or group using their own tuition. It seems that the school is a workshop containing lathes and teaching facilities.

Another innovation from the same company is a left handers lathe. Inspired by a comment made by a 'Southpaw' after a teaching session in their school, the lathe now exists. New Zealand woodturners are invited to call into their workshop and try the machine. I suspect that more information can be had from the company at R.O. Box 12848, Penrose, 19, Station Rd., Penrose, Auckland, New Zealand, although they might have to impose a slight charge to any U.K. turners who ask for information, postal costs being what they are. If you do ask for details, blame me for giving you the information in the first place. My shoulders are broad!

Still in New Zealand, our own Ray Key will be sharing the stage with David Ellsworth and Dale Nish at the 1988 Seminar during June.

And now for a quick trip to the U.S.A. We have an agreement with the American, the Irish and the New Zealand groups that we can publish in our own newsletter anything which has

been published in theirs. Here then, is a precis of an article by Merryll Saylan which appeared in the American Woodturner, March '88. And that accounts for the unusual spelling!

#### "Coloring Wood"

Coloring wood is an interesting subject with unlimited possibilities. Exciting avenues of exploration are available through a large variety of materials and methods. The term is synonymous with staining or dying, and refers to color which is transparent, with the grain and pattern of the wood showing through the addition of color.

Several factors are important in the preparation of the materials, including the preparation of the wood prior to staining. Stains, dyes or whatever, have an annoying tendency to uncover sanding scratches, grain tearing and roughness.

The natural colour of the wood adds its own contribution to the final color and sometimes bleaching gives a more neutral start. Try a few test runs on scrap pieces of timber which have straight, coves and beads, to see what effects you can achieve. End grain, for instance, will give a different appearance to side grain on the finished piece. And be prepared for the unexpected. A wonderful turquoise finish turned totally green when oil was applied. This is what makes the subject so exciting and challenging.

Some of the materials which Merryll has used in her work have been water stains, color pigments, caseins, artist watercolors, chemical stains and synthetic dyes.

Despite the seemingly endless variety available, the most important aspect is the willingness to experiment. A trip to the library yields wonderful new and old books about finishing, and you gain confidence when you see the different methods which people use.

And having given you a very abridged taste of what Merryll is about, I hope that many of you will be taking Ray's advice and heading off up to Grizedale, to see what Merryll is up to. It might be an idea to contact her first. The address is Grizedale Forestry Centre, Hawkeshead, Cumbria.

And that is all for this time. Please let me know what your reactions are to the new look newsletter. I can't answer all letters, but I enjoy reading them.



**DEADLINE.**

for next edition

is end of March.