

TOOLING AROUND

WINTER 2011/2012



Davistown Museum Initiates New Tools Teach Program



Michelle Gifford catalogues tools in the new tool storage area

Museum staff is currently consolidating and expanding tool collections, exhibitions, and publications in a new program entitled Tools Teach. This work follows completion of the new climate-controlled tool storage/study area and expanded Elliot Sayward Memorial Library facilities, the first step of the project. The program will provide a comprehensive overview of all museum tool and history information in an easily accessible format for students, teachers, and researchers. It will include a new volume in the Hand Tools in History series Tools Teach: an Iconography of American Hand Tools, which will be the central component of a new museum website of the same title. Judith Bradshaw Brown's 2004 (rev. 2007) publication Tools Teach: Learning the World Through the Study of Tools will be incorporated in this publication.

Cataloguing Tools for New Program

Tools Teach coordinator Michelle Gifford and Hulls Cove office-affiliated Doug Morley are currently cataloguing the museum's backlog of tools. Many of these newly arriving tools, which were acquired by Liberty Tool or donated by museum patrons in the last three years, are being added to the Tools Teach program. They will be listed with the code TT in the reissued *Hand Tools in History and Archaeology of Tools* series, indicating that they are located in the new first floor facility, where they are available for study on site or for loan.



One of many drawers in new storage area

Michelle recently made the first Tools Teach presentation about coopers' tools at the Walker School in Liberty as part of a school-wide reading project based on K-5 students researching antique tools from the area.

New Tools Teach Publication

Skip and the staff are working on the new publication, Tools Teach: An Iconography of American Hand Tools, which will provide the focus of the new website. Judith

What's New?

- * *New Museum Website* (p. 2)
- * *Skip on Etsy* (page 3)
- * *Fukushima Nuclear Info. Handbook & blog* (page 3)
- * *New axe collection* (page 4)
- * *DTM goes to Kenya* (p. 4)

Bradshaw Brown wrote the museum's first publication with this title, Tools Teach: Learning the World through the Study of Tools in 2004 and revised it 2007, directing her work to K-12 teachers, offering lessons and suggestions for using tools to study all content areas, but she did not include specific content information on tools and history. In the new volume, Skip will offer images of and information about hand tools and their historical context in a concise format for all interested in the history of early American tools and the trades in which they were used.

The first section will offer a brief summary of the metallurgy of early tools. It will include a survey of early smelting and forging technologies and commentary on the images of tools in antiquarian sources such as Moxon (1701), Diderot (1752), English pattern books (1820), and Sloane (+/-1950).

The second section will offer illustrations of the hand tools used in early American trades, beginning with blacksmithing and other related metal working trades (e.g. farrier, gunsmith, (continued on page 2)

(*Tools Teach* from page 1) etc.) and continuing to woodworking, including shipbuilding. This section will also include images of tools pertaining to agriculture, fishing and whaling, cobbling and tanning, and other trades. The organizational format in both this and the following section will be similar to that used in The Archaeology of Tools (a catalogue of the museum's tool collection).

The third section will include a brief summary of major inventions and innovations during the first 100 years of the Industrial Revolution. It will offer illustrations of tools that built machines, followed by images of tools that operated and repaired machinery (e.g. wrenches) and a survey of important 19th century machine-made tools. This section will also illustrate tools from 19th century Industrial Revolution specialized trades as well as tools as sculptural objects. Many of the tools illustrated will be from Davistown Museum collections.

The fourth section will be a reprint of Judith's 2007 publication with her updates and revisions, and the fifth section will provide summaries of and a guide to all volumes of the *Hand Tools in History* series, including an index of all chapter titles, timelines, and selected appendices. The *Hand Tools in History* series provide a much more detailed survey of the history of hand tools for more advanced students, teachers, and researchers. The Eliot Sayward Memorial Library for

the Study of Early Tools at the museum in Liberty will supplement this publication. The publication will be the key component of a new museum website on this topic.

New Museum Website

Due to the size and complexity of the current museum web site, which covers many topics other than tools (e.g. Native American and local history, the Maine Artists Guild and annual art exhibition, environmental history, and Center for Biological Monitoring archives), museum staff have decided to systematically collate all of the *Hand Tools in History* publications, research, and iconography into one website. Beginning with the online presentation of the Tools Teach publication discussed above, the new website will link to the *Hand Tools in History* series books already available on the larger museum website. A specific mission of the new website is to be a comprehensive supplement, if not a competitor, to Wikipedia, an online resource that lacks the depth and detail of the museum's expanding online content. Many of the definitions in the Handbook for Ironmongers and the panoramic detail of the *Hand Tools in History* series are not available anywhere else online.

There will also be a section that focuses on tools offered for sale, since approximately 20 % of these sales fund museum operations. The site will include links to related e-stores, including Liberty Tool, eBay,

Etsy (new), and Captain Tinkham's (new), and to photo tours of the three physical stores: Liberty Tool, Hulls Cove Tool Barn, and Captain Tinkham's Emporium. It will highlight the museum's walk-in history information center in Searsport and solicit photos of important tools for the Tools Teach program, as well as donations of used tools, antiques, and estate lots to be resold at the Jonesport Wood Company stores to help fund museum activities.

The next section will include links to information sources on early American industries, such as the New Bedford Whaling Museum, the American Precision Museum, Early American Industries Association, The Fine Tool Journal, and other online tool information sources. The last section will include some commentary and op eds on the phenomenology of tools. The museum also hopes to establish a Facebook page and put videos on YouTube.

Check the main museum website www.davistownmuseum.org for the status of the project. Links will appear for the new website and publication as they are completed. The museum staff welcomes suggestions, corrections, new information, links, and tool donations.

<p>Tooling Around Winter 2011-2012 Editor: Judith Bradshaw Brown Davistown Museum Newsletter Liberty & Hulls Cove, ME www.davistownmuseum.org PO Box 144, Hulls Cove, ME 04644 207-288-5126</p>

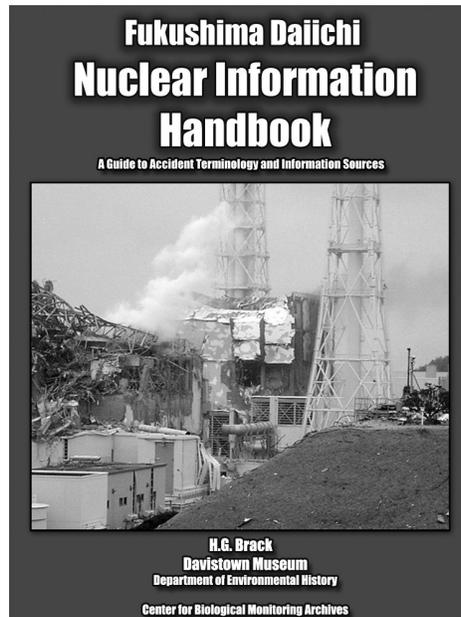
H. G. Brack and Liberty Tool on Etsy

Curator/founder H.G. Skip Brack appears in a wonderful short video on the Etsy website blog www.etsy.com/blog/en/2011/thes-no-place-like-here-liberty-tool talking about the importance of hand tools in a sustainable economy and the role of Liberty Tool in that economy. The video is part of a post from Liberty Tool aficionado Zack Pontz, who visited the store and museum with his parents since he was a child and now offers his take on it as a young adult. In the video, Skip talks of "...a vibrant group of artists and craftspeople who will play major roles in the sustainable economies of the future because they are able to use tools" and the video visits local woodworker Joshua Leavitt in his studio using tools he got at Liberty Tool. It's an artfully done video directed by Andrew Watson with beautiful shots of Skip, Liberty Tool and Joshua working. Zack's post discusses Liberty Tool and his enjoyment of it. The many appreciative comments on the post indicate that there is an encouraging young audience for old tools and crafts. As a result of the video post, there is now an Etsy team at <http://www.etsy.com/teams/11378/Jonesport-wood-company>.

Tool Barn & Sculpture Garden Best of New England

The Tool Barn and Davistown Museum Sculpture Garden in Hulls Cove were listed in Boston Magazine's 2011 Best of New England edition as places not to miss when visiting Maine.

Museum Publishes Fukushima Daichi: Nuclear Information Handbook & Blog



The Davistown Museum Environmental History Department published Fukushima Daiichi The Nuclear Information Handbook: A Guide to Accident Terminology and Information Sources in response to the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear crisis in Japan. It is a clearly written and easy-to-read guide to nuclear accidents, including the Japanese disaster, which concerned citizens, first responders, emergency management personnel, and news reporters can easily understand. The handbook is an essential reference for evaluating the significance, impact, and emissions pathways of any nuclear accident.

The Nuclear Information Handbook begins with a synopsis of the accident and continues with a description of

relevant dosage reporting units, definitions, concepts, radiation protection guidelines, and other information that make it easy for the layperson to understand and evaluate this or any other nuclear accident. It also includes a country-by-country database of Chernobyl fallout, which helps to provide a context for understanding the Fukushima disaster and a review of fuel cladding failure accidents, such as those that closed the Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company at Wiscasset, Maine, information relevant to the operation and decommissioning of many of the world's aging nuclear reactors. The Handbook also contains links to important online sources of radiological surveillance data about the ongoing accident in Japan, as well as to other important nuclear safety information sources. The book is available via the museum website or Amazon.com.

The museum also established a related blog <http://biocatastrophe.blogspot.com/2011/03/nuclear-disaster-in-japan.html> to provide an overview of the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi reactor facilities; provide access to the most important websites for radiological surveillance data on the FD accident in Japan; provide updates about the situation in Japan, including reports on ongoing radiological monitoring and/or the lack thereof; and promote The Nuclear Information Handbook.

Museum Acquires Important Axe Collection

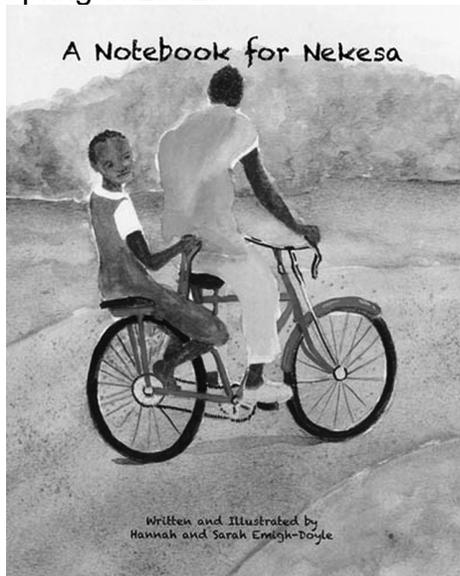


The Davistown Museum recently purchased part of the **Ed Shaw Maine-made axe collection**. Most of the axes from this acquisition are now in the Tools Teach collection. The purchase includes important specimens of axes in the process of being manufactured that were recovered from the ruins of the 1966 Peavey Manufacturing Company fire in Oakland, ME. Started in 1867, the Peavy Manufacturing Company is listed in *Axe Makers of Maine* (Yeaton, 2000), known as the first to make the tool that became known as the peavey, and still manufactures tools, such as the peavey, in Eddington, Maine. The specimens that Ed recovered tell us how axes were made in the early years of the twentieth century and were the subject of a Chronicle of Early American Industries Association article (circa 1973).

Davistown Museum Goes to Kenya

The Davistown Museum has expanded its purview to include Kenya, since the return of Education Director Judith Bradshaw Brown and Sarah Emigh-Doyle from their August 2011 service trip to the Kakamega AIDS Orphans Care Centre (www.friendsofkakmega.org).

Before they left, Sarah and her sister Hannah, both of whom help Judith plan and maintain the Hulls Cove Sculpture Gardens, wrote and illustrated a **children's book, A Notebook for Nekesa**, that tells the story of Kenyan orphan girl who goes on a quest that ends at the Care Centre. Davistown Museum's Pennywheel Press has published the book, which is available on the museum website, and a selection of the watercolor illustrations will be on exhibit at the museum in the spring of 2012.



While shopping at the Maasai market in Nairobi, Judith found an **antique Maasai gouge** and brought it back for the Davistown Museum collection.



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THANK YOU!