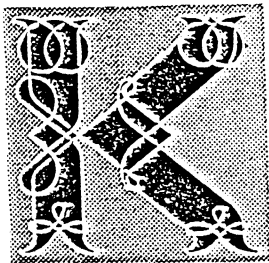
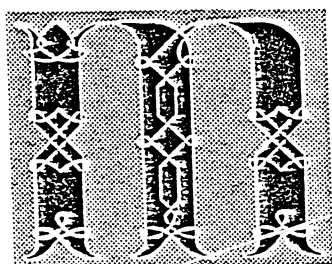


Issue No. 6
January 1984

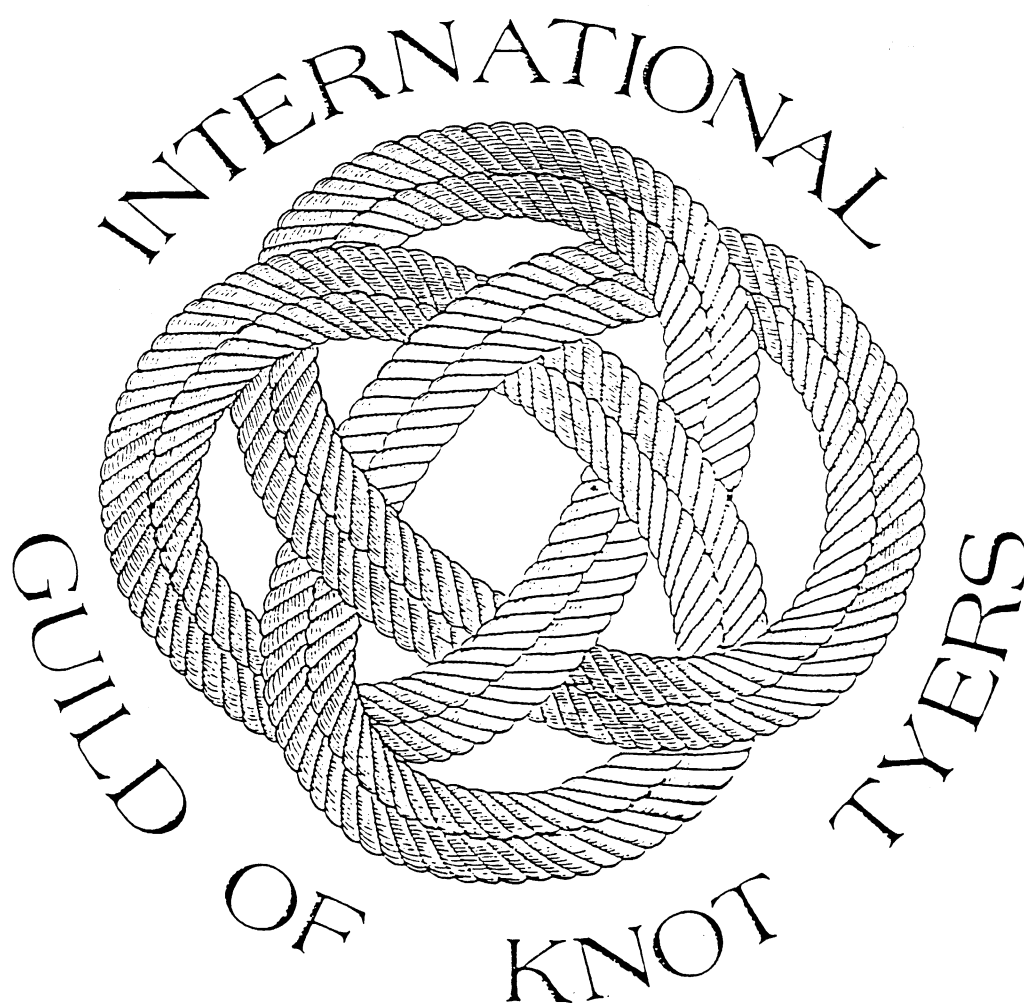


Knottting



Matters

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE



"KNOTTING MATTERS"

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL GUILD OF KNOT TYERS

President: Percy W. Blandford

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Issue No. 6
January, 1984

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Editorial

Cy Canute raised the question of what "-ology" we practise. Others asked: "Does it matter?"

Well, it certainly isn't vital to knot tyers. Oddly, it does obsess outsiders who seem to need a label for us, and - preferably - a pretentious one.

I guess the only folk who rarely talk about toxophily are archers themselves. Apiarists no doubt call each other beekeepers, while piscators are really only anglers. It's those of us not involved who take pride in knowing the obscure and pedantic noun for the thing.

So, if we knot tyers are to answer this recurrent query from strangers, it might be sensible to learn a word which will do the job and satisfy them. Then we, too, may be a question in a T.V. quiz game.

Robert JACKSON favours "Knottology" or "Nodology" (Latin: Nodus/ Nodo - Knot). Harry ASHER offers "Kompology" (Greek: Kompos - Knot) but thinks the whole idea is nonsense. Tom SOLLY uses "Funicology" (Latin: Funiculus - a cord).

Make up your own mind. There's something there for everyone.

Quotation

"Sally's father was an old poacher and a first class netmaker; we would sit together of an evening making my nets . . . All the wrinkles of the net-maker's art he showed me . . . He made me the finest and lightest pair I ever had - all in silk."

'A POACHER'S TALE', by A.T. Curtis, related by Fred J. Speakman, pub. G. Bell and Son Ltd. (1961)

Starting Square Sinnets

by JOHN CONSTABLE

It can sometimes be difficult to start a plait or sinnet neatly from a fixed position. This particularly applies at a change point in a lanyard or bellrope, etc. Often the transition is concealed with a Turk's Head braid. With care, however, the need for a braid can be avoided. For some sinnets this is easily achieved; for others the solution may not be so obvious. The methods for starting four and eight strand square sinnets are given. In both cases it is assumed that they follow a knot or a different plait which has been secured by a temporary stopping.

Four strand square sinnet

Hang the lanyard vertically with the working end at the bottom. Straighten and tighten the cords where they leave the knot or stopping. Arrange them in a square (see drawings) and mentally number them in the sequence shown as seen from above. Lay off 1 to the right, i.e. towards your own right side. Lay off 2 to the front left. Bring 3 forward, crossing over 1, and lay off to the left beside and in front of 2. Bring 4 forward under 2, over 3 and lay off to the right beside and in front of 1.

The plait now proceeds conventionally by taking 2 round the back to the right, bringing it forward between 1 and 4 and laying off to the left beside and in front of 3. Repeat the move on the other side by taking 1 round the back to the left, bringing it forward between 3 and 2 and laying off to the right beside and in front of 4. Continue the moves from each side alternately.

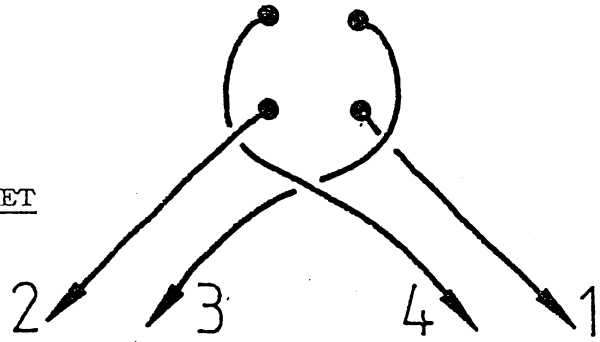
Eight strand square sinnet

Prepare the lanyard as before and mentally number the cords according to the diagram. With the first and second fingers of the left hand separate the front and back rows from the two middle cords 3 and 5. Lay off 1 to the right and 2 beside and in front of it. Lay off 3 to the left. Lead 4. forward over 1 and 2 and lay beside and in front of 1. Bring 5 to the right front, over 1 and 2 and lay to the left in front of 3 and 4. Bring 6 to the left in front of 7, under 3, and lay over 4 and 5 to lie on the right in front of 1 and 2. Bring 7 forward to the right in front of 8. Lead it under 1, over 2 and 6, and lay to the left in front of 3, 4 and 5. Lastly lead 8 to the left, under 3 and 4, and over 5 and 7 to lie below 1, 2 and 6.

From now on the plait proceeds according to the normal instructions. 3 is led round the back and forward under 1 and 2, over 6 and 8, to lie below 7. Then 1 is led round the back and forward under 4 and 5, over 7 and 3, to lie beside 8. Continue the moves alternately from each side.

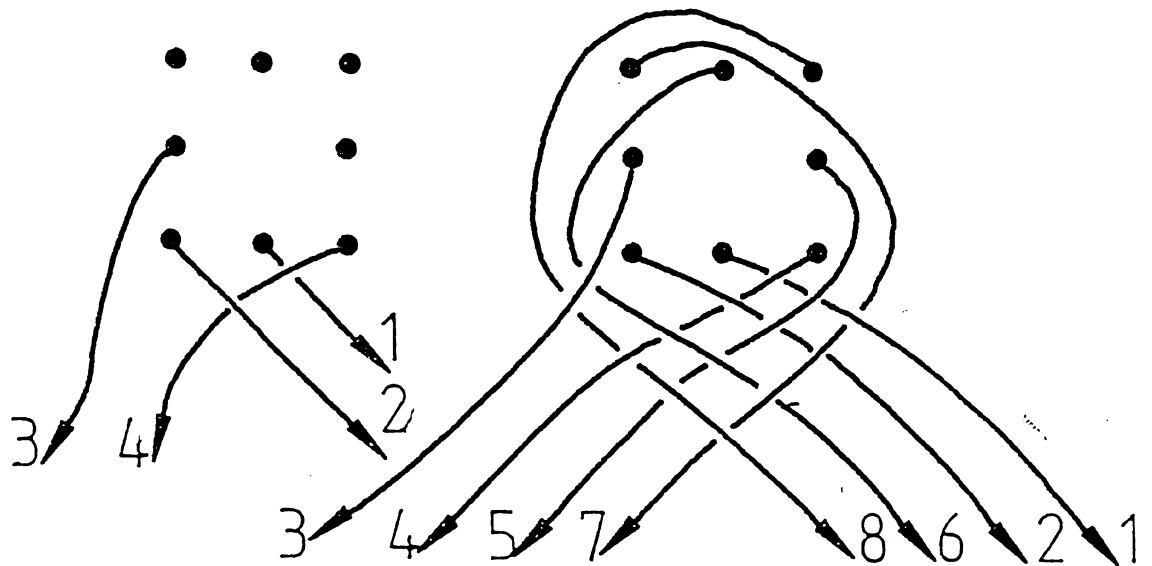
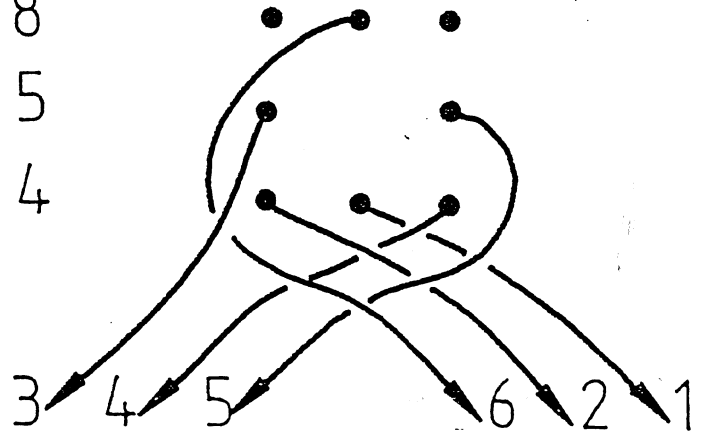
4 • • 3
2 • • 1

FOUR STRAND SQUARE SINNET



7 • 6 • • 8
3 • • • 5
2 • • • 4
1

EIGHT STRAND
SQUARE SINNET



Quotation

"The reason why so few marriages are happy is because young ladies spend their time making nets, not making cages."
(Jonathan Swift, 1667-1745)

KNOT CHARTS

When the Guild was asked to put on a display at the annual Gilwell Reunion, for nearly 2000 Scout officers, Eric Franklin had the idea of producing a few charts for sale there. This caught on and a very large number were sold during that week-end. Obviously, he had a good idea, which we have followed up. Those who were at the last Guild meeting will have seen, and maybe bought, the first fifteen charts. The number of charts has gone up to fifty, largely due to a massive effort by Geoffrey, who has added charts for a complete knotting alphabet for people to ornament anything from a notice board to a dressing gown.

The charts are on paper the same size as this page and each deals completely with the subject of its title. They are available to members at meetings or by post at 10p. each or mixed 12 for 1, plus envelope and postage: add 16p. for up to eight, 20p. for up to fifteen or 42p. for fifty.

Send your orders to Mrs. Ivy Blandford, Quinton House, Newbold-on-Stour, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 8UA (Tel. Alderminster 257).

Include payment in stamps for small amounts, notes or cheques for larger amounts (Cheques payable to the International Guild of Knot Tyers).

Titles available are:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Turks head mat and hitch mat. | 12. Rustlers knot (square knot) |
| 2. Lanyard knot. | 13. Sheet bend variations. |
| 3. Three-lead five-bight Turks head. | 14. Sheepshank variations. |
| 4. Monkey fist. | 15. Clove hitch variations. |
| 5. Ocean plait mat. | 16. Constrictor knot. |
| 6. Four-lead three-bight Turks head. | 17. Chinese lanyard knot |
| 7. Sailmakers whippings. | 18. Turks head (12 bight, 5 lead) |
| 8. Common whipping variations. | 19. Mat - tied with a single cord. |
| 9. Basic eye splice in three-strand rope. | 20. Celtic knot design. |
| 10. Back splice in three-strand rope. | 21. Knob covering. |
| 11. The end of the rope - wall knot. | 22. A square knot. |
| 49. Scaffold hitch. | |
| 50. Highwayman's hitch. | |
- 23 to 48 inclusive are the alphabet of knots, showing the letter indicated after the number:

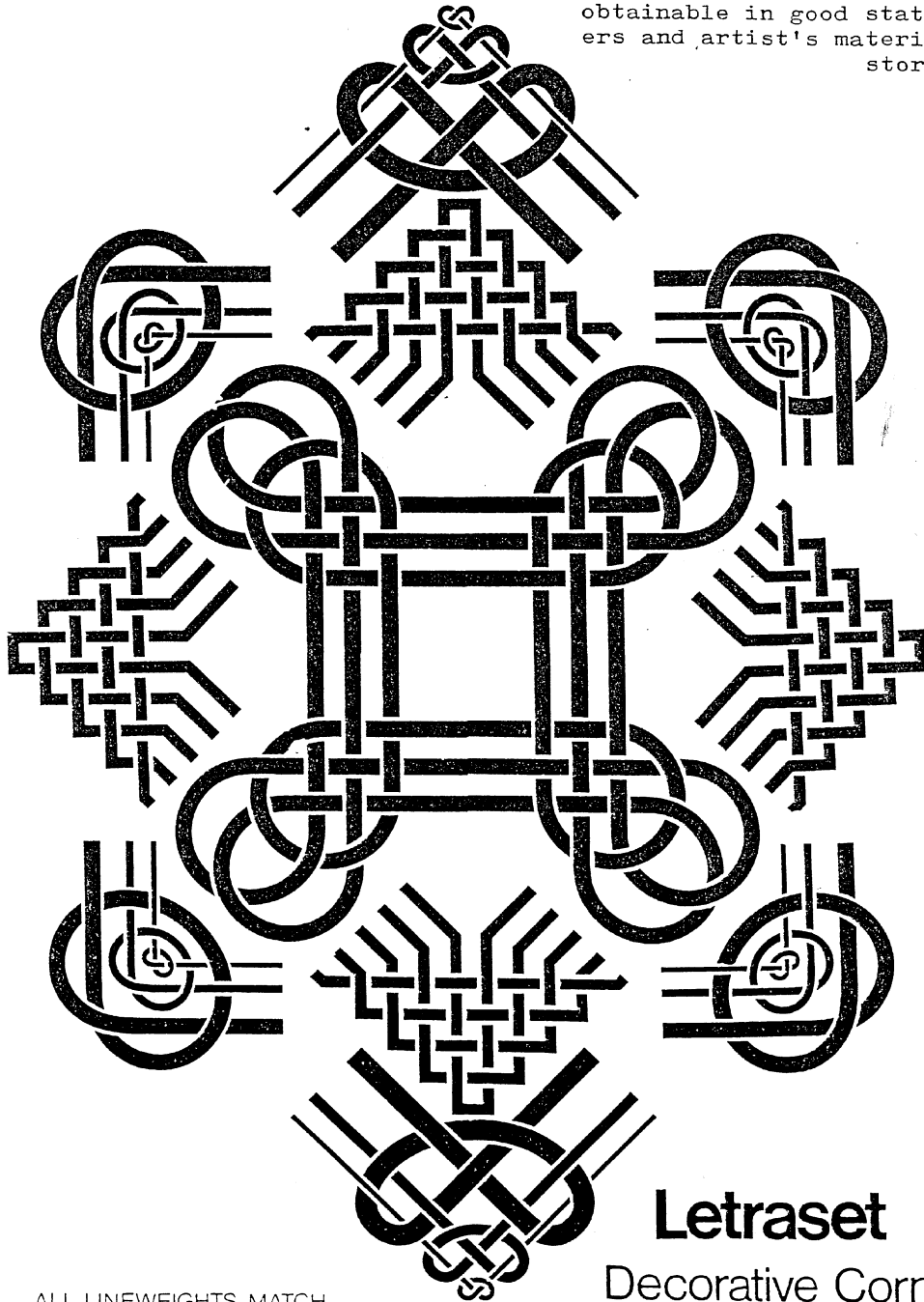
23A, 24B, 25C, 26D, 27E, 28F, 29G, 30H, 31I, 32J, 33K, 34L, 35M, 36N, 37O, 38P, 39Q, 40R, 41S, 42T, 43U, 44V, 45W, 46X, 47Y, 48Z.

No doubt the series will be extended. The range of possible charts is almost infinite. So far the charts have been drawn by three members, but if anyone else feels they could contribute anything on their speciality, their efforts will be welcomed, but see some existing charts for guidance on layout. If you do not feel you can make finished ink drawings, give us your rough ideas and one of the 'experts' will draw something printable. Profit margin is small, but what there is goes to the Guild.

How to Draw Knots - 3

By GEOFFREY BUDWORTH

This page took just $\frac{3}{4}$ hr.
with LETRASET instant
lettering, sheet No. 4434,
obtainable in good station-
ers and artist's materials
stores.



ALL LINEWEIGHTS MATCH
LINE RULES ON SHEET NO'S 557 & 558

Letraset
Decorative Corners

4434

CyCanute

Are knots public property, as free to use as the air we breathe; or can individuals assume ownership of particular ones . . . and forbid their use? No - and yes, in that order it seems, from an experience I had a few years ago.

A business firm exported sacks of powdered and granular products and had devised a cheap and labour- saving way to handle the loads. Two slings of rope or webbing were interlaced to grip and support each sack like a belt and braces all at once. When the load was hung from a crane hook, the crossing points of the two slings generated just enough heat to melt slightly and fuse together. They became effectively part and parcel of the load. From warehouse to lorry, to dockside and ship, from ship back to shore, each sack kept its slings. Included in the purchase price, they were only cut off and discarded at the final destination.

It was an ingenious device and much trial and error had gone into finding out just what size the slings needed to be to cope with melting yet not to break.

Suddenly the only other company in the same field announced that they had PATENTED this handling method. Other people, they warned, must no longer use it or risk court action and a swingeing fine!

The Managing Director of the originating firm was first flabbergasted, then furious. "Knots are everyone's," he protested. "They can't own a knot."

"Oh yes, they can," advised the learned patent lawyer brought in to scrutinise the 7 pages of small print and technical drawings which made up the patent specification. "Unless you can prove this arrangement of slings was used in the same way and for the same purpose by some third person before these claimants patented it as their own, you must comply with their requirement to stop using it."

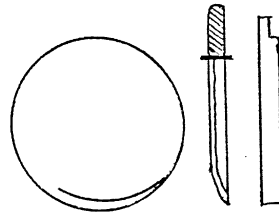
They couldn't; so they did...and that's how matters stood when last I heard.

Ties

The multi-knot design dark blue tie with white rope motifs is available, price 3.50p (incl. p. & p.) from the Hon. Secretary. Please make cheques payable to 'G. Budworth' (it's his money that bought them).

Fellow knottsmen may be interested in an old countryman's method of making leather laces from old boots and scraps. Careful handling can produce surprisingly long strands from small circles, sufficient even to make plaited ropes.

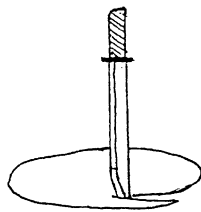
- 1 You will need a piece of leather shaped and cut as shown, a sharp knife and a guidestick notched to about the thickness of the leather and back about a centimetre from the end.



Cutting Laces

by TOM SOLLTY

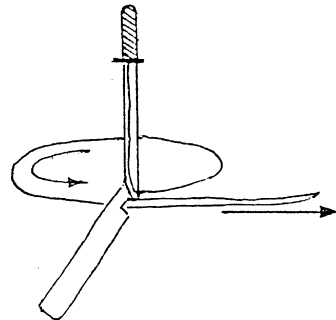
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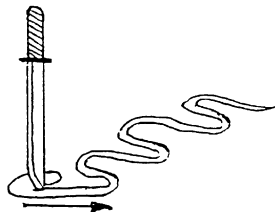
Stab the knife point securely into a board with the cutting edge away from the operator's position with the slotted leather into the cutting edge.

3

Use the stick as a guide to hold the leather down and to guide it evenly into the blade, then with a steady motion, pull the tail firmly and smoothly.



4



The leather will rotate and form a decreasing helical cut as the leather lace is formed.

Here is a skill acquired by experiment with a variety of leathers dry, moist and oily, with various blade angles and different notches in the guidestick. The usual advice is given about keeping the knife very sharp, and ensuring that the fingers are kept behind the blade.

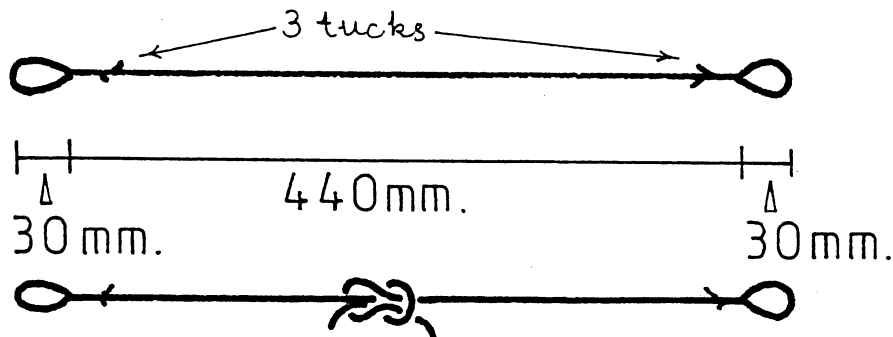
Testing Knots

Alan WALBRIDGE has kindly offered to test the strength and maybe also the security of knots for Guild members. Here he explains his method.

Dear Geoffrey,

There is a British Standard concerned with testing ropes, etc., BS 5053: 1974, and this seemed to be a good starting point. There are basically two types of machine used:- (i) Long-span, where at least 1 m. of man-made fibre ropes is used, and (ii) Short-span, suitable for ropes of up to 10 mm. in diameter. It is this latter type of machine which I can simulate.

To see if the machine was suitable I made up some specimens in 1/4" terylene 500 mm. long with eye-spliced ends - the minimum BS length is 250 mm. - some specimens without reef knots and some with.



Stretching the rope at a constant rate of 50mm/min. the results were consistent within 5% - which did not seem too bad on old used rope - and were in fact

No knot	765 kg.
Reef knot. . .	310 kg.

A reef knot reducing the strength to about 40%~ The maximum load this machine is capable of is 10 tonnes.

Apart from just getting the breaking strain the machine plots a strain-extension graph which shows the knot slipping and tightening, i.e. the load momentarily drops when the knot slips. This may be useful in assessing the security of knots.

The machine seems therefore suitable for tests as long as specimens are presented in a suitable format - that which I used of 1/4" rope, 1/2m. long, with eye-spliced ends seemed O.K. To do a test is quick and easy and for return postage people could have back their broken specimens and 'test certificate' which maybe we could design.

Yours, Alan

4, Broadacres,
Templepatrick,
Co. Antrim, BT39 OAY.

19 Sept.

(Please do not bombard him with specimens, and do send return postage for any reply; but take advantage of this valuable service. Perhaps Alan could collate his results for publication in this newsletter.)

Disc Knots

by Ettrick Thomson

Ashley invented Disc Knots, in the sense that there are about 20 knots of this form in "The Ashley Book of Knots", but he says practically nothing about the family resemblance between them. I have chosen the name "Disc Knot" on the strength of Ashley 2232, a "disk-shaped covering", illustrated in Fig.1. Fig.1.1 is meant to show the essential form and so the strands are endless: there are two of them in this particular disc knot, but Ashley's 2232 has been modified to use only one; Fig.1.2 is an amended version of Ashley's drawing.

Fig. I The original Disc Knot

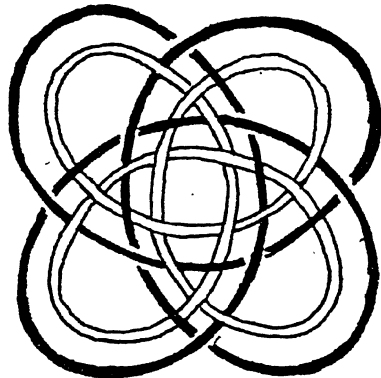


Fig.1.1
Essential form

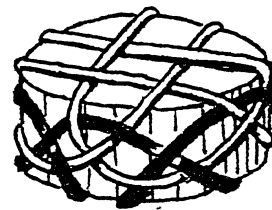


Fig.1.2
Appearance

A Disc Knot can be thought of (but not tied) as starting with a Turk's Head with an even number of bights-a 4-Lead,8-Bight (4L:8B) in Fig.1. Fig.2 illustrates the process with a simpler Disc Knot starting with the 3L:8B Turk's Head of Fig.2.1. On its own, the Turk's Head would cover the curved surface of the disc. Fig.2.2 shows the Single Disc Knot, which extends the cover to one of the flat surfaces of the disc, by replacing every other bight (those marked * in Fig.2.1) by a crown; and Fig.2.3 extends the process to the Double Disc Knot, covering both flat surfaces, by introducing yet another crown, replacing the 4 bights marked * in Fig.2.2.

When it comes to advancing from a Single Disc Knot to a Double, there is a choice of 2 sets of bights-in Fig.2.2 either the set marked * or the set marked +. Then the number of leads is odd, as it is in Fig.2, there is no essential difference: but when it is even, the number of strands may be different. Fig.1.1 has two strands; if the other choice had been made, there would have been six strands.

As with Turk's Heads, it is interesting to try to find a rule for the number of strands. Unfortunately, the rule (whatever it may be) is far from simple. All I can say is that for Double Disc Knots with an odd number of leads the number of strands is odd, in most cases one; with an even number, there are at least two strands, and the knot is an interlacing of two Turk's Head forms-but not necessarily with an over-1-under-1 weave.

Fig.2 Formation of a Disc Knot

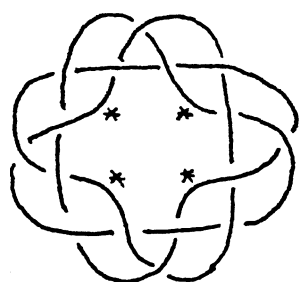


Fig.2.1
A 3L:8B Turk's Head

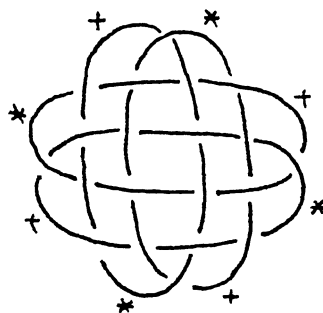


Fig.2.2
Single Disc Knot

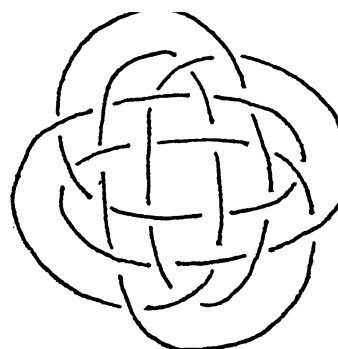
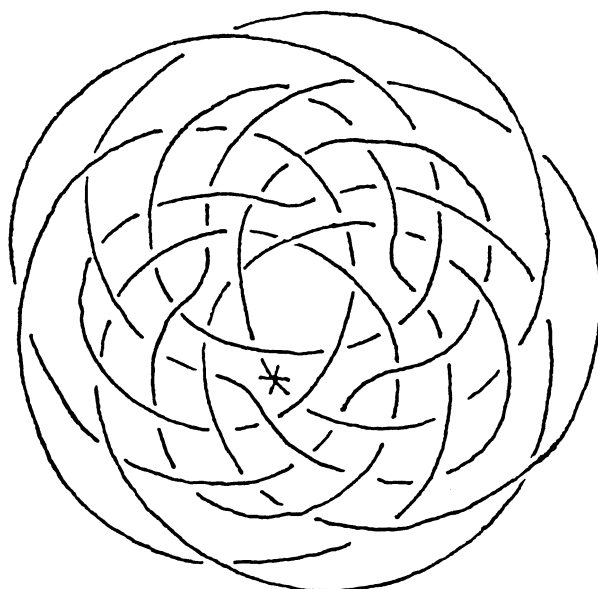


Fig. 2.3
Double Disc Knot

Disc Knots are decorative rather than workaday knots. They are very useful for forming knobs, and those of us who were present at the 1983 AGM had the opportunity of tying such a Disc Knot, in Des Pawson's demonstration of a way of finishing off a bell rope. This was a Single Disc Knot, based on a 5L:8B Turk's Head, in an S-strand form. Ashley's 2223, modified to use one strand, is another version.

To conclude, here are two new Disc Knots. The first (Fig.5) is a Button Knot; if carefully drawn up, it will form an almost perfect disc, with a diameter about twice its height. It is a Double Disc Knot based on a 5L:10B Turk's Head, but the weave is over-2-under-2, so the 5-strand crowns are 2-tuck crowns. The "-X-" shows a convenient place to start and finish; doubling is not necessary.

Fig.3 A Button Knot



The second (Fig.4) is an elaboration of the Knife-Lanyard Knot (Ashley 787), which is based on a 3L:4B Turk's Head. Fig 4.1 is a diagram for the Knife-Lanyard Knot, 4.2 a diagram for the new knot, a Single Disc Knot, and 4.3 an impression of 4.2 (doubled), showing that the lower leads, those that go to the knife, come out together, but that the upper leads come out separately, making it tidier when going round the neck or round the shoulder.

Fig.4 A Knife-Lanyard Knot

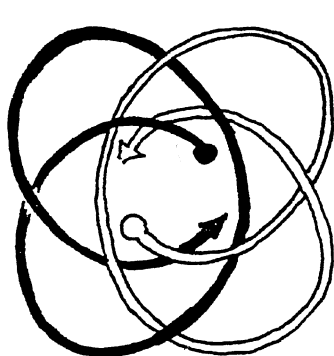


Fig.4.1
Ashley 787

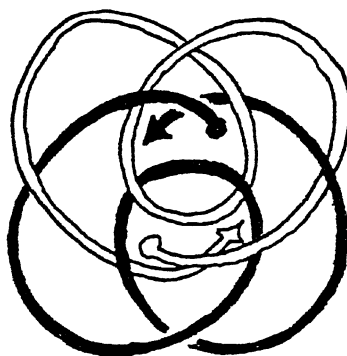


Fig.4.2
Single Disc Knot

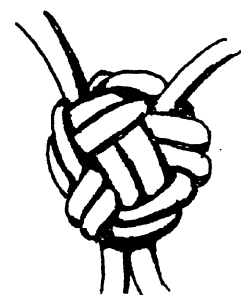


Fig.4.3
Appearance

The circled ends come up from below the plane of the paper; the arrowed ends rise up above it.

Disc Knots in "The Ashley Book of Knots"

Leads	Bights	Single/Double	Serial Nos
2	8	S	955
3	6	S	609,625,912
3	6	D	643,1391
3	8	S	924
3	8	D	925,2216
3	10	L	999
4	6	D	2220
4	8	D	2232
5	8	S	994,2223
6	8	D	2218
7	6	S	2222
10	8	D	2219

Quotation

In June, 1497, when Venetian John Cabot landed in North America he believed he'd found the Orient, a land of inexhaustible riches. Back in Bristol in the first week of August his only trophies were "...a net and some snares abandoned at a campsite."

'THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE' by Brendan Lehane, pub. By Time-Life Books (1981)

Proprietor: Mrs. Glad Findlay
(I.G.K.T. Member)

7a Madrid Road
Guildford Surrey
GU2 5NU
Tel: Guildford 571799

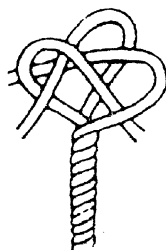


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Alternatively, send a large s.a.e. for our latest mail order Price and Book Lists. The Book List includes over 100 titles of macramé books, booklets and pamphlets; as well as - a number of good knot books. The Price List too is mainly intended for those doing macramé. As it is NOT possible to send out samples of all available cords, knotters attempting more complicated work should write explaining their requirements as fully as they can (including a sample of cord if possible) and we will do our best to find the right thing.

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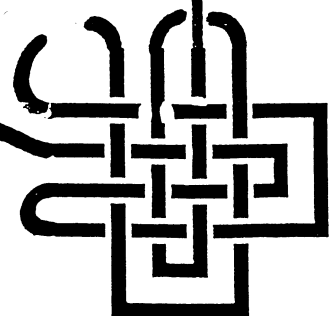
makes church bellropes (and will make up ropes to order);
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string, etc.

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Proprietors: P. Annison, C. R. Annison

'THE HAWES ROPEMAKERS - Past & Present', by Ruth Annison and Lesley Chapman is a delightful booklet published by the authors in 1983 and available from W.R. Outhwaite & Son under its new proprietors for just 1.50p.

Their main products are agricultural ropes (cattle halters, horse leading reins, etc.), bannister and barrier ropes and church bellropes.

A wide variety of other products includes traditional wooden toys, twines (retail or wholesale), and macrame cottons, jutes and synthetics.

A s.a.e. is appreciated with all enquiries NOT accompanied by an order. Send for price lists, etc. Quote this entry in 'Knotting Matters' as the Annisons are thinking of taking a regular ad. with us.

Quotation

"The nets you take ferreting will be new and white. Get a handful of soil and rub it into the cord so that it turns brown, otherwise the rabbit may see them. . ."

'THE POACHER'S HANDBOOK' by Ian Niall, pub. William Heinemann Ltd. (1950)

"Put your hand in the horny palm of Francie McGinn and come to the stable to learn the knots for net-making."
(ibid.)

"The setting of a long net is a thing no aspiring poacher can master without the instruction of a man who has actually put down a net and succeeded in catching rabbits by this means. A long net may be seventy-five yards, but more often a hundred yards, in length, and three feet or so in width." (ibid.)

"In the grey light, walking home with the broken net, they were overtaken by a policeman, who took them in charge."
(ibid.)

Bends

Three Decorative Bends
by Harry Asher

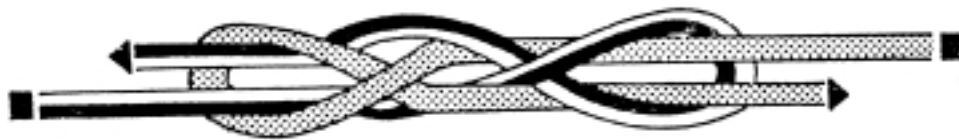
Drawings by Eleanor Draper

Vice Versa Major and Vice Versa Minor

The only difference between these two bends is that in V.V. major the half hitches at the two ends are both right-handed, whereas in V.V. minor one is right- and the other left-handed.

Simple Simon

This one is on the lines of a Sheet Bend and has a half hitch at one end only



Vice Versa Major



Vice Versa Minor



Simple Simon

Letters

Dear Geoffrey

How difficult it is to invent a new knot! - writes fellow-knotman Ettrick THOMSON (Newsletter 5, foot of page ii). Surely we ought all to agree with him. Indeed he proves his own point a little farther on (page 15), illustrating and describing a bend that he himself believes to be new. It is a good-looking bend, not I think described

elsewhere. But something vaguely familiar about it prompted me, on tying it, to give an extra hard pull on the ends, whereupon it folded over and became... Ashley's 1425, but with ends and leads reversed.

Desmond Mandeville 20 November, 1983
Blackheath, S.E.3

Dear Mr. Budworth,

Your telephone call was a pleasant surprise, my fault is that I can run anyone a heavy phone bill when chatting about funicology....Today the delightful tie arrived and I shall wear it with pride, many thanks. Over the coming months/years it would be valuable if we can encourage knotsmen to record the lore of knots with anecdotes and experiences to further our acquisition of a definitive body of knowledge.

Best wishes and thanks again,

Tom Solly
South Shields 15 Nov 83

Dear Geoffrey,

Many thanks indeed for the superb news-letters. The obvious expertise of the contributors makes me feel very amateurish.

Anyway, I'm a 46 year old Production Engineer with 'Alcan' (the aluminium people) but more of interest I'm a Leader Trainer in S.E. Wales with the Scout Association and like many others my interest in ropework started as a Cub Scout but was enhanced during my apprenticeship on S. Wales Docks working with riggers, one of whom (Charlie Friday) had sailed in square riggers as a boy.

I feel a bit isolated from the obvious knotting activity in the home counties, although the author of "The Shell Book of Knots & Decorative Ropework" lives just round the corner from me.

Obviously in introducing new leaders in Scouting to knotting and ropework one has to generate that spark of interest and certainly, if you can excite their enthusiasm by showing them examples of fancy work or "magical" ways of making 'clove hitches, for example, then you're on to a winner - well, that's my excuse anyway.

I'm also associated with a Royal Navy Recognised Sea Scout Group so my modest skills in ropework and canvas work are useful there as well.

I've made my own serving mallet and some fids, but are any ropeworking tools still made commercially? - as far as I can see S. Wales is rather bereft of old style chandleries.

Anyway, many many thanks and I'm sure we'll meet. I'm thirsting for information and help.

Sincerely,

John Richings
Barry, S. Glam. 9 November, 1983

Dear Geoffrey,

My wife and I had a very pleasing day at the AGM on board R.N.V.R. ship President. What a delightful place to hold a knotting seminar. It reminded me of my youth, and the many enjoyable times I had with the Sea Scouts, oh dear!

However, I am sending you the outline of the hitches I discussed with you, and their origin, and their remarkable likeness to Julie's Hitch.

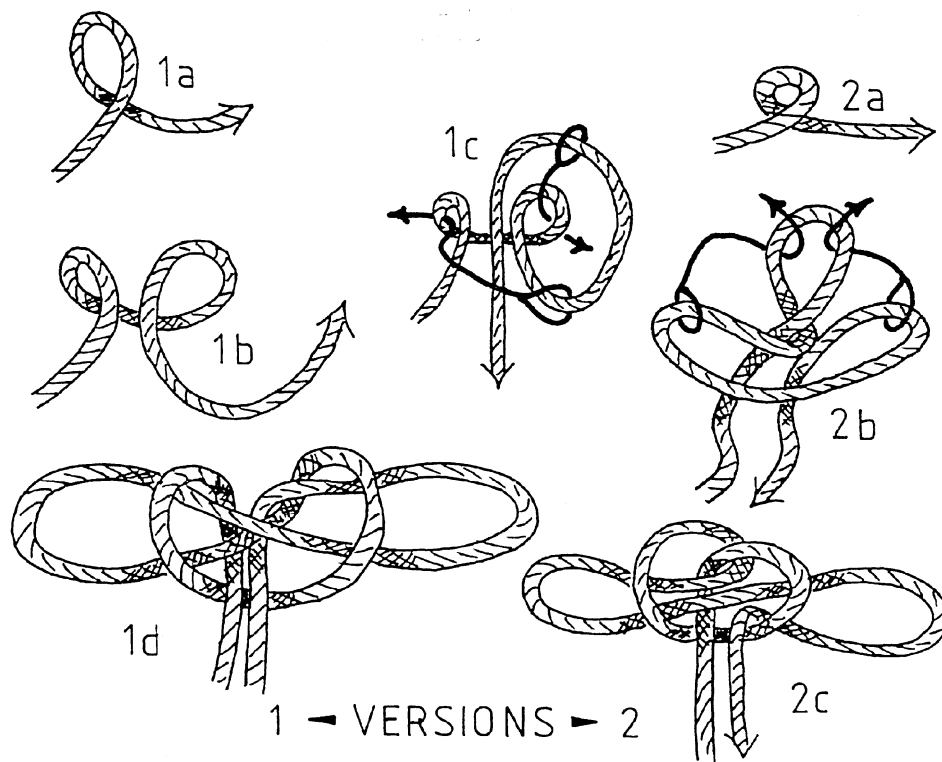
I was shown these hitches back in 1951, while serving with the Royal Engineers by a sergeant instructing me in watermanship on the Moray Firth, at Lossiemouth, Scotland. I have never forgotten it; and I don't think it would have survived had I not bought your Knot Book. I wouldn't have given it another thought.

You will see that version No. 1 was called the Mickey Mouse hitch because while forming it, it takes on the shape of his ears. The hitches were used to anchor pontoons together temporarily; you will notice the beauty of the hitches is the way they collapse when finished or no longer required.

Well, thanks for your interest, and once more thanks for a pleasing day. It gave my wife and I a chance to see those parts of London that I haven't seen for years, and meeting so many nice people. We are looking forward to the next one.

Yours sincerely,

Ted Upton 9-10-83
Watton-at-Stone, Herts



Dear Sir,

Congratulations on your authorship of that excellent paperback "The Knot Book" (Paperfronts), purchase of which led to me becoming aware of the existence of the guild. I'm a very keen knot type myself, having first become interested in the subject about 1974, my interest at that time being strictly that of a fledgling yachtsman interested out of practical necessity. Since then my interest has broadened, and knotting has become one of my major hobbies.

I would like to draw your attention to a couple of items of interest appearing in part of my knotting library;
Graumont & Hensel's Encyclopedia - Plate 250, Fig. 128, p.462 of 1972 reprint - Package Tie. This is a superb tie, especially with modern synthetic postal twine. If you yank at it a bit it is self-tightening in all directions. It is secure by itself, although one is usually tempted into adding a half-hitch for absolute security.

Bigon & Regazzoni's Century Guide - p.118 - Poldo Tackle. It is truly ingenious, amazing in fact. I also note in this publication on .127 they've got the thief (bag, bread bag) knot illustrated under the heading "reef or square knot" - a serious error in an otherwise excellent publication.

I've been doing some experimenting myself lately. I'm in the habit of carrying my keys on a loop in a 2.5mm dia. braided nylon cord which I place in my pocket (the standing end being tied to my belt). At first I used a bowline, but found that, with constant rubbing in my pocket, it came undone quite rapidly. Then I tried a double (round turn) bowline, which has the cuckold's neck doubled, and found that although it was a lot more secure than an ordinary bowline, it too eventually came undone. Lately I've tried a triple bowline, with the cuckold's neck tripled, and it won't come undone. It's not much harder to tie or undo intentionally than the double bowline, the final lead of the working end is better, and although it is slightly more difficult to work and tighten than the double bowline, it's worth considering for permanent applications. All the bowlines were correctly worked and tightened, so that wasn't a source of error in the experiment.....

...I've recently found out that the term "triple bowline" is already in use (Plate 278, Fig. 364, p.512, Graumont & Hensel) to describe an extension of the water bowline. The "triple bowline" I was experimenting with is an extension of the round turn bowline, the cuckold's neck being tripled instead of doubled. This latter "triple bowline" isn't described in any of my references, and I recommend the name "TREBLE BOWLINE" for the concoction, to avoid confusion.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Ross

26 October 1983

Auckland, New Zealand

NOTE - Some items due to be published in this issue are held over to April due to a healthy stock of original and interesting material arriving from members. Thank you all...don't stop now.

Bygones

Those of us who haunt antique markets at dawn, bankrupting our businesses and starving our families to acquire yet another old fid, can now all mourn the passing of prices such as those below. .which appeared in the catalogue of 'Coubro & Scrutton' (Ship Store and Export Merchants, and Steamship Furnishers) of 11, West India Dock Road, Limehouse, London, England, published by The Avenue Press Ltd. in 1912.

Dead eyes of elm 15/0 per doz.
" " " lignum vitae 2/6 ea.

Servingboards, elm 1/0 ea.
1 .v. 1/4 ea.

Driving fids (brass bound), lignum vitae;
Dia. 3 3 1/2 4 4 1/2 5 6 inches at head
Height 26 28 30 30 32 32 in inches
Price 12/0 13/0 14/8 15/0 18/6 20/0 each

Splicing fids, lignum vitae;
16 18 20 22 24 inches in length
36/0 36/0 48/0 56/0 72/0 per doz.

Sewing and Roping Palms;
Ordinary 9/0 per doz.
Mounted, large 20/0 per doz.
Best sailmakers 38/0 per doz.

Marline Spikes;
Weight, each 1/2 3/4 1 1 1/4 2 1/4 2 3/4 lbs.
l.o.a. 8 9 10 12 14 15 ins.
Prices, all 7/0 8/0 9/0 10/0 13/6 18/0
Bright, steel pointed- - 14/6 20/6

flat pointed 18" long, all bright - 1/8 ea.
pocket, with sheath 14/0 per doz.

Spunyarn winches;
3 pinion, with hooks & handles and 14" strong wheel - 28/9 ea.
4 pinion 31/3 ea.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscriptions for 1984, at the new and increased rates (Jnr. - 1.50p; Snr. - 7.50p; Family - 10.00p.), were due on 1st. January, 1984.

Remittances - as soon as possible, please, ladies and gentlemen - to the Hon. Secretary (cheques payable to 'The International Guild of Knot Tyers').

Book Reviews

This issue considers three expensive books, which are all value for money if you desire the information they contain. Avid accumulators of knotting and ropework lore will covet them anyway.

'LIFTING TACKLE MANUAL', compiled by D. E. Dickie, P.Eng., pub. by Butterworth & Co. Ltd. (1981)(orig. 1975, Ontario)Price: £19(plus a thumping great £6 extra for p. & p.)

This is a professional's handbook telling all you need to know about wire rope, fibre rope, chain and slings. It's handsomely bound, clearly printed, fully illustrated and also has over 70 tables of useful data. Other chapters cover the reeving of blocks, operating procedures and precautions, and equipment such as drums, sheaves, hooks, rings, links, swivels, shackles, eye-bolts, turnbuckles, blocks, spreaders and equaliser beams. If too pricey for your pocket, persuade your organisation to buy it for a group.

(A companion volume 'Crane Handbook' deals with; mobile and tower cranes and is outside our immediate sphere of interest)

'CHINESE KNOTTING', by Lydia Chen, pub. by Echo Publishing Co. Ltd. (1982)(orig. 1981, China)
Price: £15.95p.

Authentically researched traditional Chinese decorative knotting beautifully illustrated, this is a gorgeous book which men and women craftworkers alike will love. All those tricky interlacings resembling dragons and butterflies are depicted clearly, stage by stage, so that anyone can learn to tie them. Early chapters feature the implements, materials and tying techniques needed to get started. Basic knots lead to compound knots. Finally, ambitious creative applications are suggested. The best new book for beginner and expert alike for many years in my view.

'GLOSSARY of United Kingdom Fishing Gear Terms', by Bridger, Foster, Margetts and Strange, pub. by Fishing News Books Ltd. (1981)
Price: £15

This is a wholly esoteric work of limited appeal, unless you are engrossed in the fishing industry or, alternatively, fascinated by the living English language. Over 1,500 terms used for bits of fishing gear which are immersed in water are defined: and, what's more, we are also told what different names they're called in Hull, Fleetwood, Grimsby, Devon, Cornwall, S.E. England and various parts of Scotland. Bellies, bosoms and bottoms, boomerangs and Dan Lenos, gables, gatlings and goosefoots, roofs, shoes, wings and winkies, will never be the same. From 'ammel' to 'yook', these odd terms are listed and explained. (Fishing News Books Ltd. specializes in books on a wide range of subjects connected with worldwide commercial fishing and a detailed catalogue is available free from Long Garden Walk, Farnham Surrey, England)

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1982 and 1983 combined

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"Observe," I said. I then took the two dangling cords and began to tie what must have seemed to her an incredible knot. "Actually," I informed her as I continued to weave the cords together in an ever larger and more complex fashion, "this is only a fifty-seven turn knot. It is, however, my own invention, though I never thought I'd need it. This trick was taught to me by Andreas of Tor, years ago, of the Caste of Singers, for doors in the city of Tor are commonly of this variety. His own knot was a sixty-two turn knot, his father's was seventy-one; one of his brothers used a hundred-and-four turn knot which, as I recall, Andreas thought a bit pretentious."

"It is always the same knot though," said Elizabeth.

"Yes," I said, "each man has his own knot, as distinctive as a signature, and each knot is his own secret."

Thus Tarl Cabot introduces his lover Elizabeth to the idea of 'complex signature knots' in John Norman's medieval science fiction novel 'THE ASSASSIN OF GOR', published by the Paperback Division of W.H. Allen & Co. Ltd. (1973).

This is one novel which every keen knots man and woman will want to buy.

The text lingers beautifully on the fanciful knots of Mr. Norman's feudal creation...the basket hitch, used to fasten baskets to tarn saddles; the Karian anchor knot; the Pin Hitch; the Builders Bend; and the knot which Warriors learn to tie in less than three Ihns. We are told how Tan carefully splits Boskhide leather sandal thongs to make cords for knotting.

The plot actually depends upon a knot for its outcome. For Elizabeth masters her own signature knot. When she is cruelly snatched and put into bondage, Tarl's only chance to spot where she is held comes when he is confronted by a knot he thinks he knows.

"I touched it, and, trembling, scarcely breathing, carefully began to untie the knot, counting each bend and turn, each delicate twist and motion of the cords. I had untied only a bit of the knot when I leaped to my feet with a cry and turned, running as though demented, crying out, down the corridors once more to the court of the Ubar."

Highly recommended...well done, Mr. Norman!