

# Knotting Matters

Newsletter of the

INTERNATIONAL  
GUILD OF KNOT  
TYERS

# "KNOTTING MATTERS"

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL GUILD OF KNOT TYERS

President: GEOFFREY BUDWORTH

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\*\*\* NOTE your editor has changed his  
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## *Editorial*

When our Guild started in 1982 it was vital we 27 founder-members made it widely known ... and quickly. So we told the world we were good and competent ("the world's ropeworking folk"; "the greatest stimulus to knotting since Ashley wrote his book") and the world quickly accepted us, convinced we were a strong and effective institution here to stay, an established part of the scene.

And that is the image we must surely continue to promote but - lest a few I.G.K.T. members also inadvertently take it for granted - let us be clear that our permanence is not yet assured. Just 450 members scattered thinly around the planet, kept in touch through our letters and publications, is a tenuous hold on immortality. We occupy no building and have no full-time secretariat (not even a photocopy machine or typewriter). What we achieve is done by a handful of individuals at home after work and on their days off. Any member who may have been disappointed - even hurt - when the Guild's response to them has been less than they expected should be aware of our very limited resources so far.

We grow and develop all the time and one day, we trust, the I.G.K. will be so firmly rooted, and so enterprising, that its life will not depend upon any one of us. We must all do what we can to ensure the Guild goes on into the next millennium. Meantime, remember the British Navy cook's response when criticised for poor fare while doing his best with what he had;

"If you want a 'duff' (a rich and filling pudding), make the beggar!

- - - oOo - - -

# An Overlooked Hitch

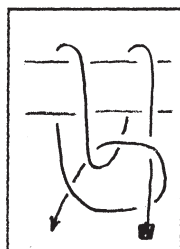
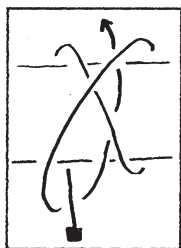
not by John Smith

There is nothing new at all about this Hitch: it is Ashley's No. 1688. Being one of so many, though, it is easily overlooked. That seems a shame, because it has some excellent qualities.

So often it's not what you do but the way that do it. Try these methods of tying- you might find this nameless hitch worth including in your everyday repertoire.

1 ) Ashley's illustrated way. As in other methods, it draws up secure all by itself (provided you leave a long end).

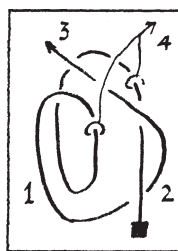
It may nip at any point around the object, but always securely. This hitch won't jam and readily unties when you want it to.



2) Here's another approach, perhaps quicker if like me 40U prefer to make the first pass over the front of the object rather than from behind.

3) If there is access to a free end of the object, for example a post or the end of a bar, the Hitch may be formed "in hand" and dropped over. The actions are: Make a round

turn. Reach behind the standing part and grasp the end. Split the pair. Pick up the pair. The hitch is then formed and may safely be dropped over the object and the standing part pulled. This is particularly useful where it is desirable to "have your knot ready".



4) The flashier may make this a FLYING hitch. Hold the line where shown, palms up. Throw the end to make it follow the dotted line. Keeping your palms up, bring your fingernails together. That's it! Ready to drop over your post or whatever. Tip: leave a very long end, The loops will probably be quite slack. Don't worry, if the end is long enough, you can pull on the standing part and the hitch will draw up securely



Finally, If you pull the end down to lay parallel with the standing part, a half hitch is readily added to form a more permanent arrangement if wanted.

This hitch shouldn't stay hidden on page 293 - I am sure there are other knots which ought to see daylight; shouldn't they be unearthed and aired? ?'

## Quotation

"Watch the nets ..... is every hole netted carefully? ..... Like a ball from a cannon the rabbit is up and the net is about him like an old woman's string-bag."

'THE POACHER'S HANDBOOK, by Ian Niall, Pub. Wm. Heinemann ,Ltd. (1950)



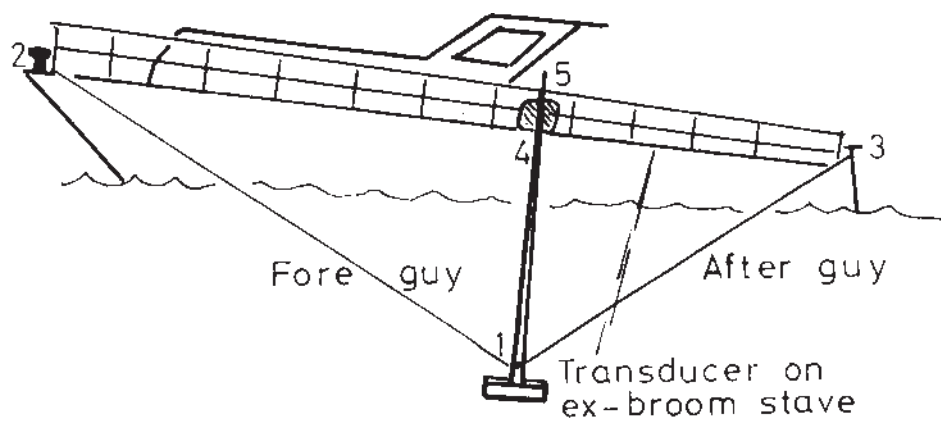
reported by  
Ken YALDEN

In October 1987, instead of attending the Guild's general meeting at Gilwell, I travelled North to Scotland and the waters of Loch Ness for what the media had announced as "the Great Nessie Hunt". In fact monsters were only in the imagination and the event was a high-tech project for a broad sonar scan of the Loch with worldwide coverage by T.V. and the newspapers. I have for you a behind-the-scenes report of how knot tying played a part in this operation.

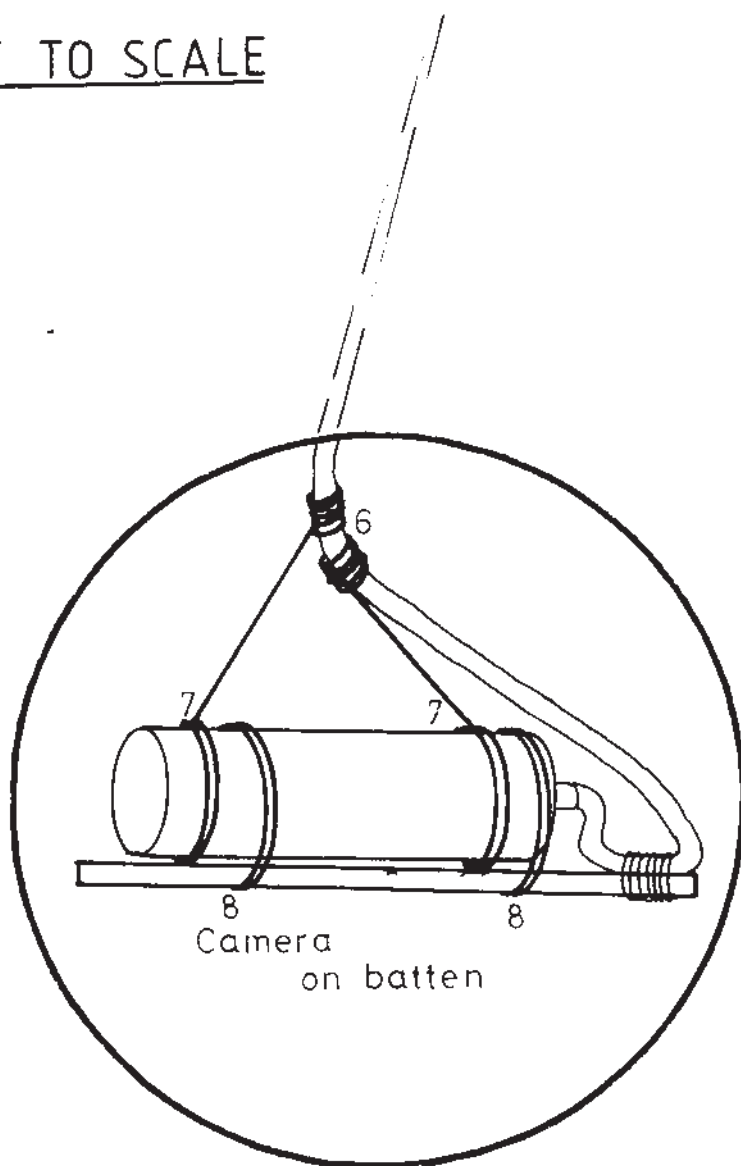
On arrival at the Cally boatyard in Inverness it was found that each craft of a 24-boat flotilla of identical leisure craft had already been fitted out with Lawrance X16 sonar ... fitted, that is, with black sticky tape, 5mm blue polypropylene line, and a long broom handle. As the boats were essentially leisure craft, and not designed for any hull-fitted equipment, the sonar rig was a transducer mounted on the bottom of the broom handle and placed over the port side of the boat. The poly-propylene line was secured with a constrictor (1) just above the transducer; the 2 ends of the line were led fore and aft as guys, the forward line coming inboard via the port forward fairlead and being secured to the cleat with a bowline (2), leaving the horns free for working. The after guy was secured onto the port sternsheet cleat, again with a bowline (3). The ex-broom handle stave was fended off by a spare lifejacket (4) and then lashed to the guardrail station (5) adjacent to the wheelhouse. This rig was common to all the boats. A glance with a seaman's eye proved all knots to be well tied and held tight with tape. The balance between stave and guys in each case was perfect, the rig a credit to Swiftech Ltd. (the U.K. agent for Lawrance). For shallow water work, and for going alongside, the lashing and lifejacket were removed and the rig lifted inboard with the guys still fitted.

Our boat had in addition a 'Cyclops' underwater T.V. surface control unit and video recorder with a main (black-&-white) camera and a still-frame camera both in a watertight cylinder designed to be carried by a diver,. The power cable and the video link was 12mm yellow P.V.C. connected to the rear of the cylinder. As much of our film work was to be carried out at depths too great for comfortable diving, the camera was lowered over the side on its cable. To keep a flat plane and avoid strain on the connectors, it was slung from its own cable with slings like braces. The ubiquitous blue polypropylene was used for these slings, but, because the P.V.C. was shiny and without any grip and the polypropylene was hard-laid, a common rolling hitch would not hold fast. So a rolling hitch of 6 turns (6) was used to hitch the line onto the cable and constrictor knots (7) to secure the lines onto the camera case.

Having left my small heaving mallet at home I had to resort to a simple but trusted method of hauling taut the knots. I had with me my knife and spike ("...if only to cut the corned beef sandwiches and open the tinned milk", as my 'sea-daddy' had drilled into me years



NOT TO SCALE

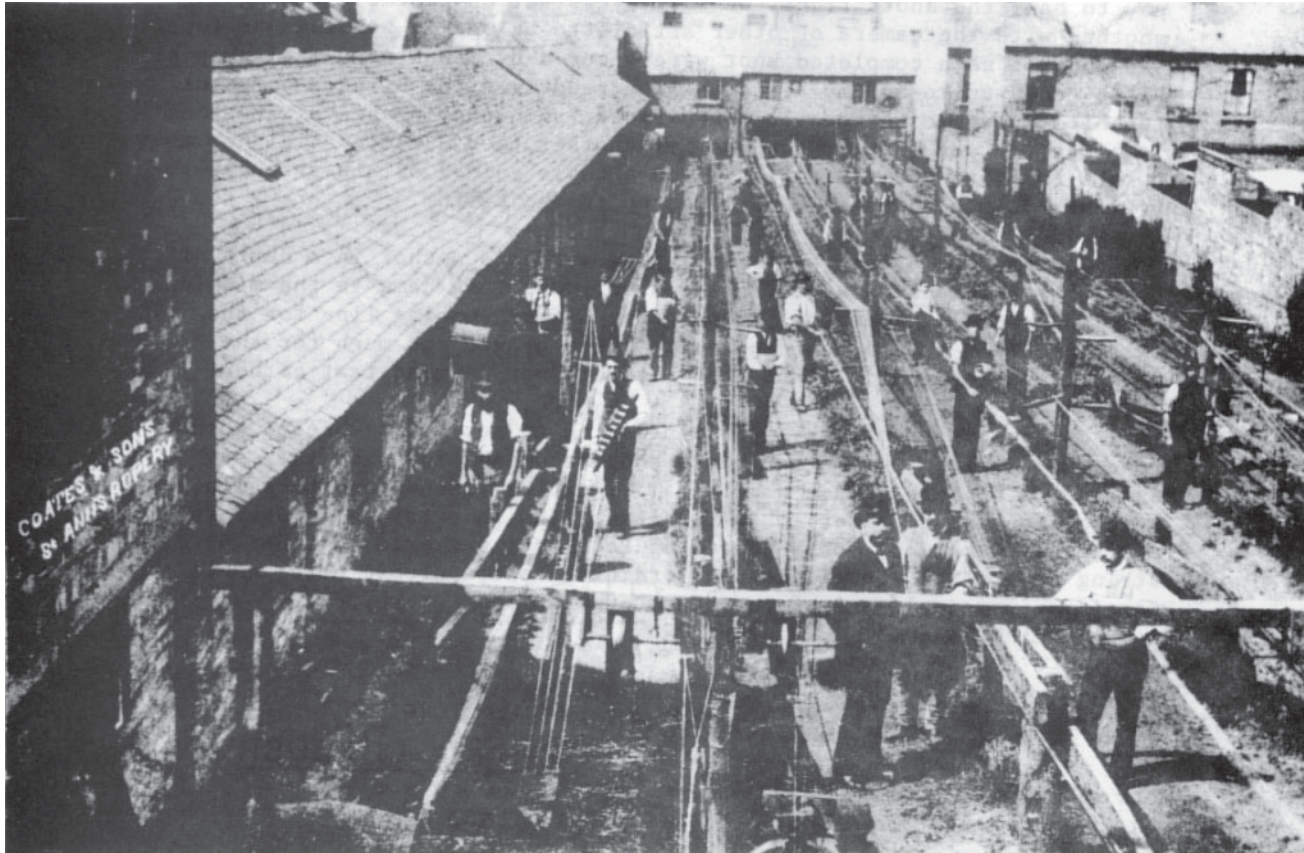




before) so, to haul the knots tight, we knot tyers sat on the deck facing one another with the camera or other article to be worked between our feet. The ends of each completed knot were secured by means of a marlinespike hitch to my spike and my assistant's screwdriver (he being a computer technician) while we gave it a red-faced, vein-popping heave. Further lashings (8) were applied one way or another to add battens, either as a tail for fore-&-aft stability (and a cable guide) or athwartships to prevent rolling when the camera rested on the bottom.

Camera work aside, we tried laying a boat's anchor in a depth of 600'. We were scheduled for one run only and this came in the middle of a Loch squall. Cutting 'stops' from a fast running line for the first time was a daunting experience which proved too much for the otherwise enthusiastic team ... the recovery was no mean feat either!

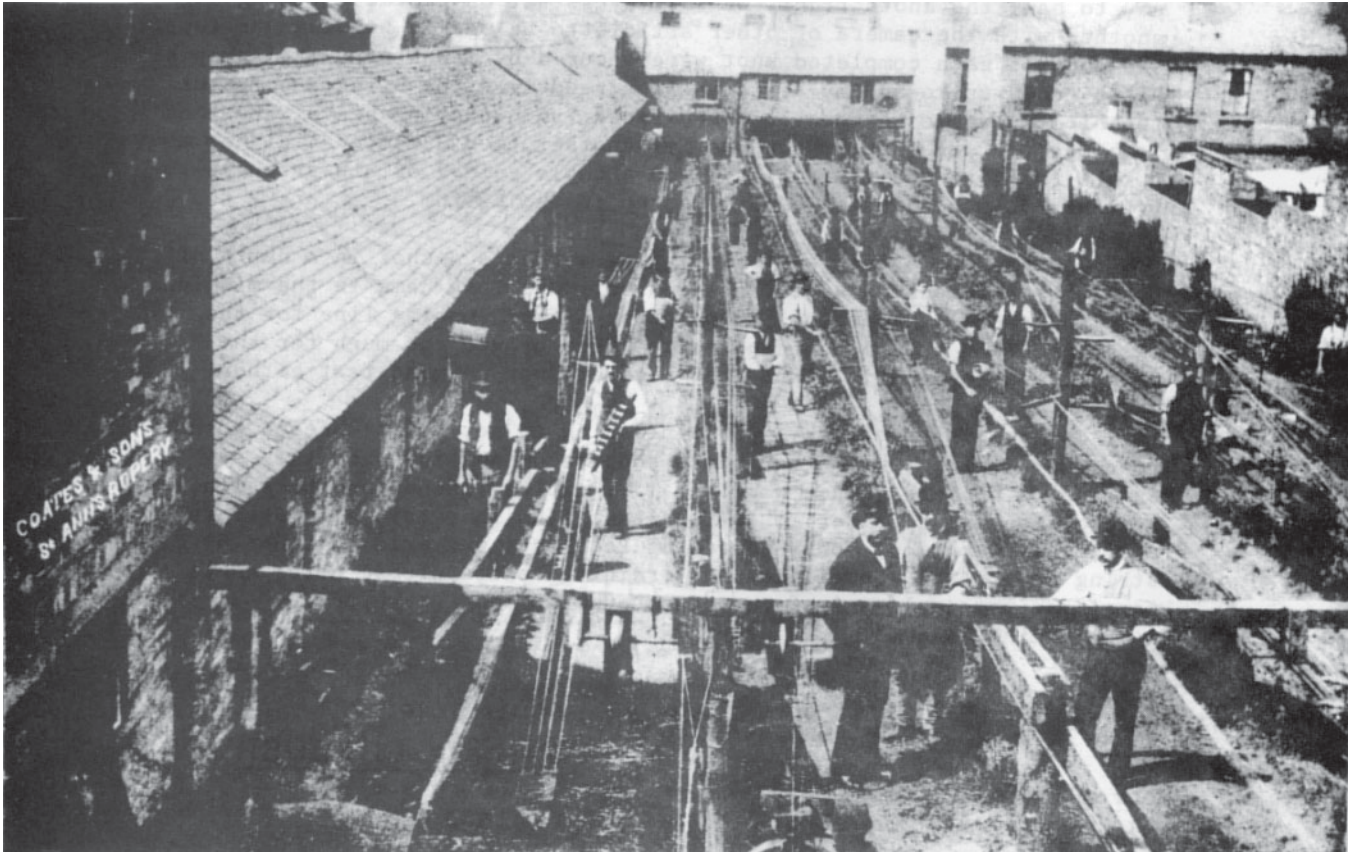
For general boatwork, it was pleasing to note that cheesed down ropes were infectious, other boats soon becoming tidy when they saw what could be done. Once working, T.V. cables, anchor and buoy lines were coiled. I consider it an important find that this sophisticated and highly technical sonar search of Loch Ness was held together by string and knots. Committees and training bodies please note, knots remain an integral part of our past, present and future.



***W. Coates & Sons***

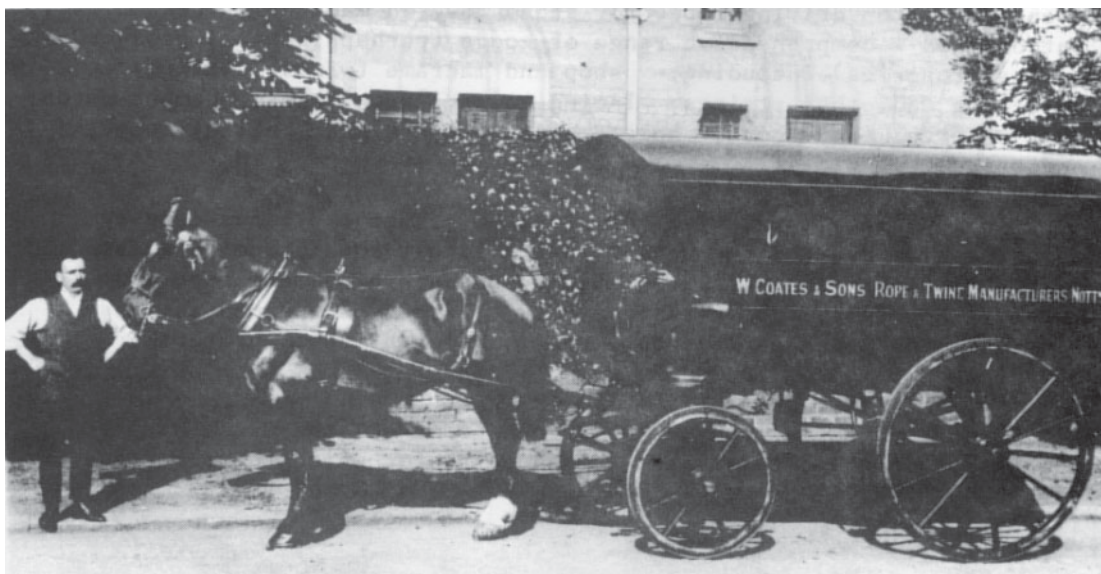
contributed by  
Bernard CUTBUSH

(from an original article in  
The Lenton Listener, No. 24, May/June 1983)



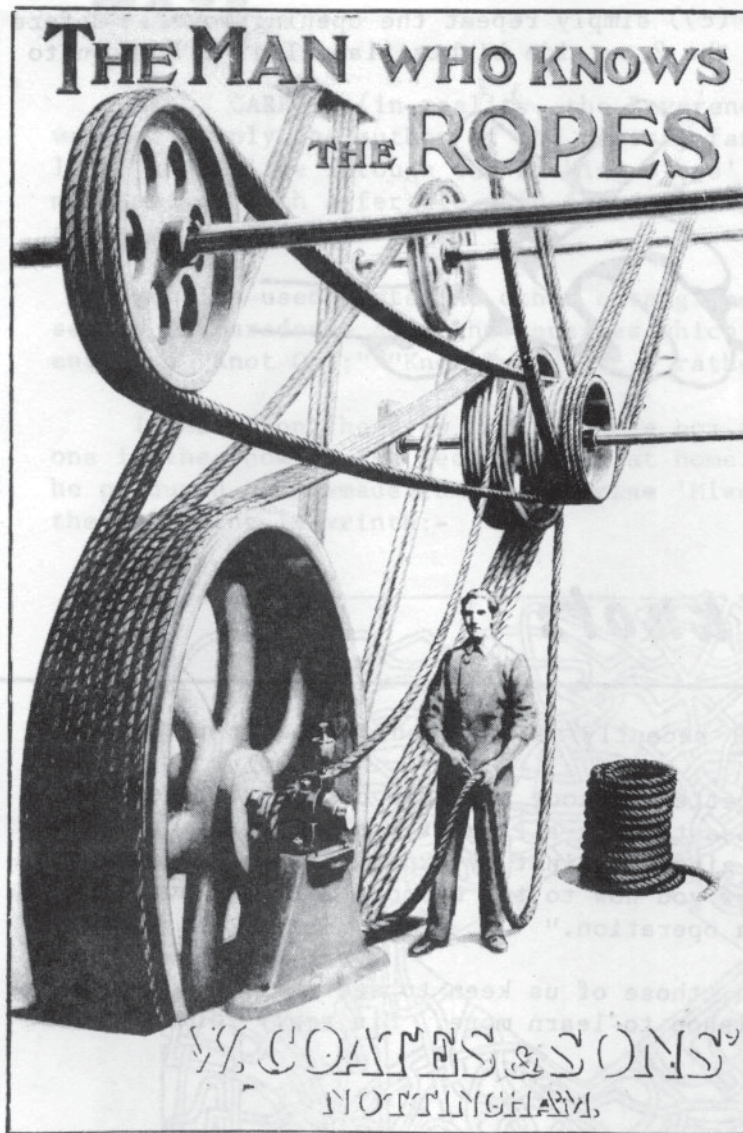
W. COATES & SONS' ST. ANN'S ROPERY IN THE 1870's - THE FOUNDER WILLIAM COATES IS STANDING CENTRE FRONT WITH HIS TWO SONS - GEORGE & WILLIAM TO HIS RIGHT

its own catgut: and this sporting commitment also led to increased production of netting. Further diversification took place but, for one reason or another, the company was forced into liquidation in 1935. Debts cleared, Coates resumed business in a smaller way (tarpaulins, sacks and bags...but NO rope, twine or sporting goods).



NOT THE 'COATES' MOTORIZED VAN - BUT ONE OF THEIR HORSE DRAWN DELIVERY VANS. PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN IN THE EARLY 1900s.





After William Coates senior died in 1894, Herbert ran the family firm until 1949, after which it passed through several hands, all the shares returning to great-grandson Stewart in 1961. Today he and his son Barry can be found continuing the family tradition from premises which include a small shop at 10 Montpelier Road in the Dunkirk district of Nottingham. There you can still buy a ball of household string or a clothes-line and there remain some small machines to braid cord or rope for a special order.

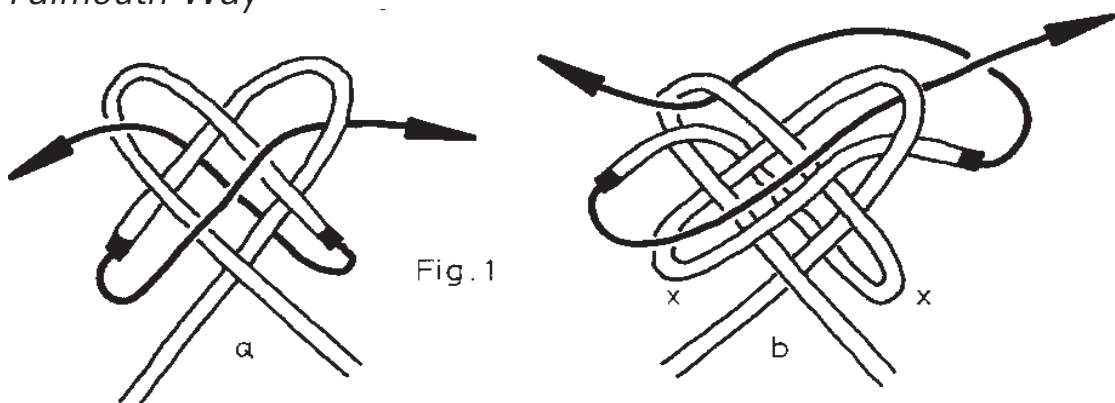
You will find them in 'Yellow Pages' and the old brass plaque on the door still reads 'W. Coates & Sons - Rope and Twine Manufacturers'.

AN ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE FIRM USED IN PUBLICITY DURING THE 1920s

## Excursion

*Falmouth Way*

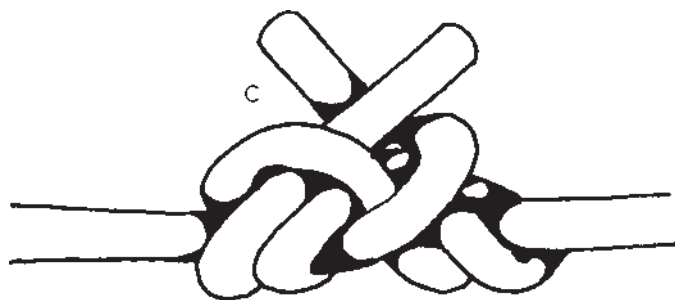
by Owen K. NUTTALL



I have been trying variations of my Falmouth Way (described in K.M. No. 23 on page 18) since March, 1985. To produce a Double Falmouth



mouth Way (Fig. 1(a), (b) & (c)) simply repeat the opening moves. Before tightening completely, ease the 2 outside bights (labelled 'x') up on to the top of the knot.



## Lord of the knots

THE BISHOP OF EDINBURGH recently sent a fashion note to his priests.

"Modern cassock-albs look better without a girdle or rope....wearing a cincture...is a visual disaster for all but the slimmest figures.....If you insist on wearing a girdle against my expert advice, please come to see me so that I can show you how tie a knot that does not look like a badly botched hernia operation."

As we are a rare bunch, those of us keen to see that rope works well, I wrote to My Lord Bishop to learn more. His reply follows:

-



### THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH      DIOCESE OF EDINBURGH

The Diocesan Centre, Walpole Hall, Chester Street, Edinburgh EH3 7EN

Telephone 031-226 3359

The Bishop of Edinburgh

6 June 1988

Dear Mr Budworth

Thank you very much for your entertaining letter of June 1. The knot that I commend to priests who insist on varying girdles is, in fact, the simple 'hitch'. Of course, if the girdle is extremely long the simple hitch lets it drag on the floor. The answer is to have girdles that are the right length, though even long girdles can be made to look neat if the simple hitch is adapted by pushing the long bit of the doubled rope through the hitch and pulling it tight so that there is a loop at the top and the rest of the rope hangs down. I imagine it is the simplicity of the hitch that defeats the subtlety of the average clergyman.

With all good wishes

Yours sincerely

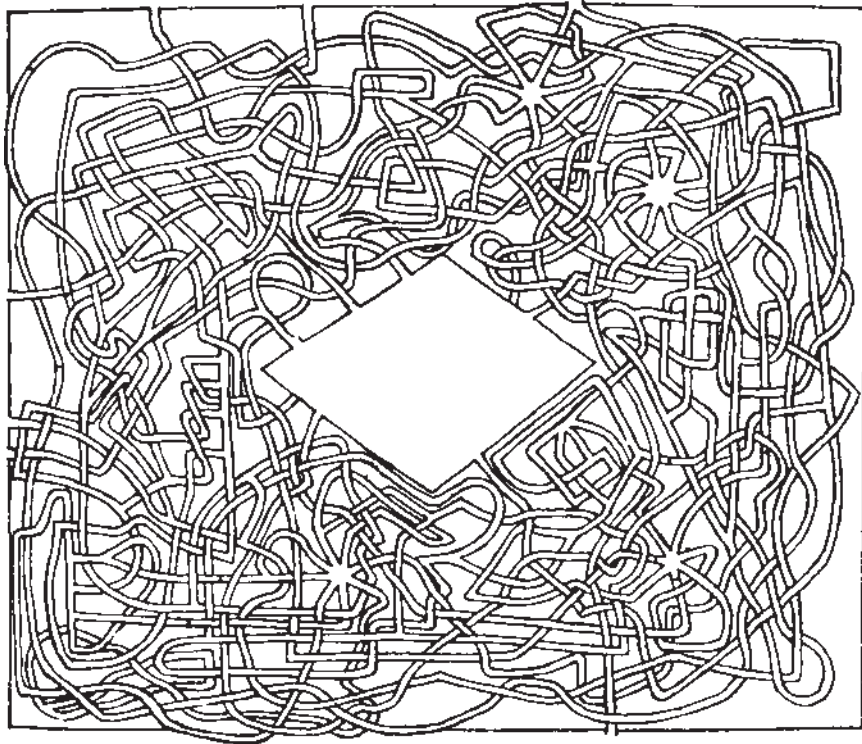
The Rt Rev Richard Holloway  
Bishop of Edinburgh

## **Maze,**

LEWIS CARROLL (in reality, the Reverend Dodgson, a shy Oxford don) was not simply the author of the classic fantasy tales 'Alice in Wonderland' and 'Alice Through the Looking Glass'. He was a lecturer in mathematics with a fertile mind for devising puzzles and games, as well as being a conjuror.

He also used knots and other entanglements, in 1885 publishing a series of paradoxes and other puzzles which he divided into sections entitled "Knot One;" "Knot Two;" etc., rather than chapters.

In addition, he drew mazes. As a boy in the 1840s he had drawn one in the snow on the rectory lawn at home. Then, in his twenties, he produced a homemade family magazine 'Mischmasch, which contained the following labyrinth:-



The object is to leave the central diamond space, via the Interlaced pathways, for the outside ... but you must NOT go further along those routes you find barred by a single line across them.

## **Overheard**

by I.G.K.T. member Maurice SMITH's wife Pam, a child pleading NOT to visit Robert JACKSON's Guild stand at the Birmingham (England) Boat Show recently:-

"Mommy ... PLEASE don't stop here ... I hate doing this at Scouts!!!

## ***Obituary***

### George E. ELEY, Capt. U.S. Navy (rtd.)

I.G.K.T. member  
George ELY died in the  
Autumn/Fall of 1987  
aged 90. He was born  
July 30, 1897, in  
Delaware, U.S.A., but  
lived for over 50  
years in Wilmington  
California (and  
recently in Lynnwood,  
Washington State).

George was truly  
an old salt who  
retired from the U.S.  
Navy as a commended  
and bemedalled Captain  
and then served 30  
years in the Merchant  
Marine as shipmaster  
and pilot. He took  
part in WWI and WWII.



(drawing by Geoffrey W. Krueger)

He was a Master Mason who served 68 years with various  
lodges; also active in several retired and reserve officers  
organisations; and aged 85 plus, he supported this Guild.

His memorial service was a dockside one at the U.S. Navy  
base in Long Beach, Ca. He sails off leaving us richer in  
spirit for having known him.

G.B.

## ***Fact***

The patron saint of ropemakers is St. Catherine of Alexandria  
(after whom firework Catherine wheels are named) and her day is 25  
November.

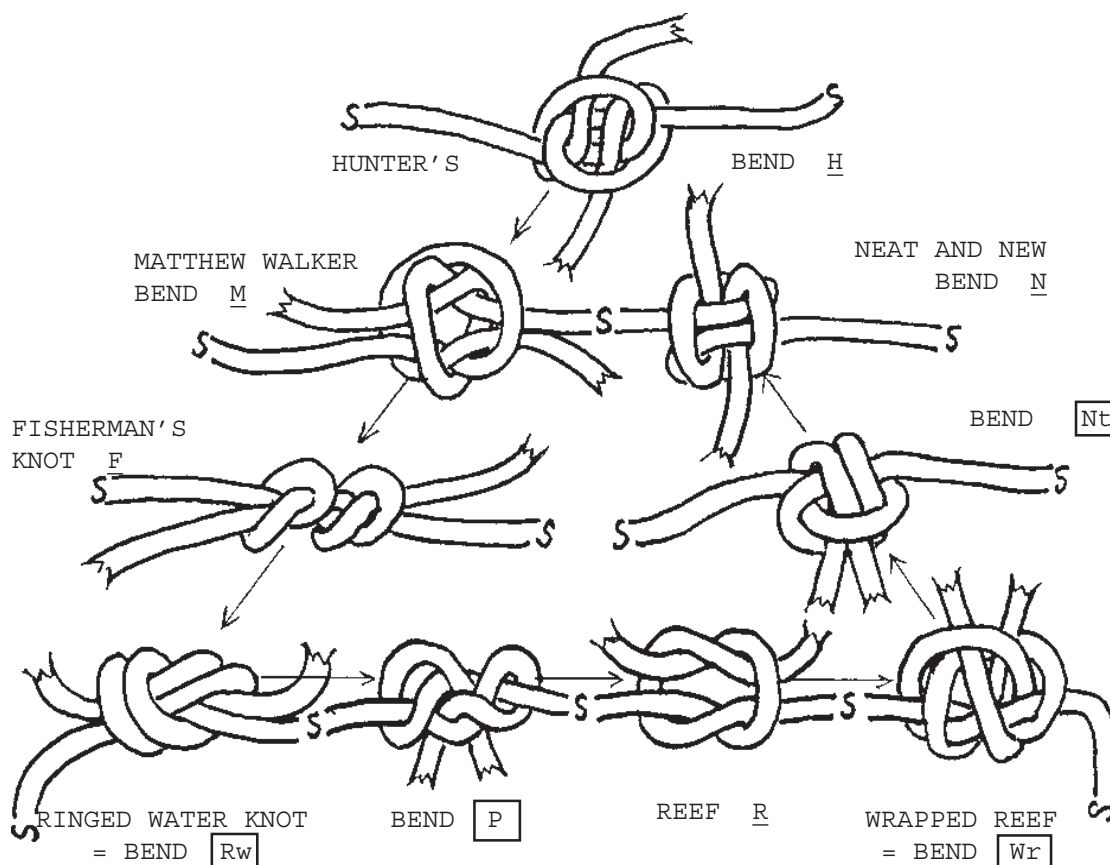


# Hunters Shunts

## A Triangular Tramble

by Desmond MANDEVILLE

### PART 1



A FULL TRAMBLE is one that starts and finishes with the same bends and visits 8 other distinct bends en route. This must be done without at any point having to untie and start afresh. HUNTERS SHUNTS is just such a full Tramble. It makes sense to set this out as the triangle shown above: then the 3 moves depicted on the left consist essentially of "shunts" done with the working ends (W'ends), those on the right are shunts done with the standing ends (Stan'd's). The process of shunting has been described earlier - see K.M. No. 19 - and is explained in further detail in an Annex to this article.

Guildsmen and women will be impatient to identify the bends that are used here. The Fisherman's Knot (F), Hunter's Bend (H) and Reef Knot (R) are well known. So too is bend (P); the Double Harness Bend with Parallel Ends, Ashley #1421.

When news of Dr. Hunter's Bend broke in The Times in 1978, its close similarity to Ashley's #1425 and #1426 was quickly noted. #1425, unnamed by Ashley, perhaps for this reason deserves a nickname of The Near Thing (Nt). #1426 is best described as the Matthew Walker Bend (M), its structure being identical with that of the 2-strand knot of that name.

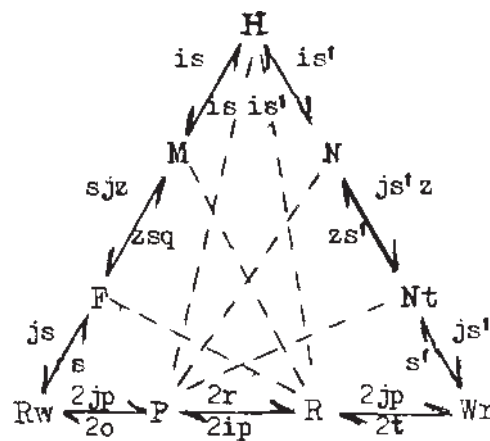
The Neat-&-New Bend (N) is not shown as a bend in Ashley but occurs as a loop knot # 1062. The Ring or Water Knot # 1412 is usually drawn with the w'ends emerging to the inside of the somewhat L-shaped bend. This writer is convinced that the bend is more secure when the wends emerge to the OUTSIDE (rather similar to the case of the Figure of Eight Bend tested by Alan Walbridge - see K.M. No. 7, page 3). To save breath, let us describe this format as the Ringed Water Knot, Bend (Rw). The Wrapped Reef Knot, Bend (Wr) is likewise a particularly secure derivative of the Reef. (It should be noted, however, that Bend (Nt), with one less tuck, appears to be equally secure.)

The discerning reader will observe that the triangular Tramble, as illustrated, does not quite link up. There is a small snag. A single complete circuit, going counter-clockwise from H, would bring one back - indeed - to a Hunter's Bend ... but a Hunter's Bend of the opposite handedness to that from which one set out. So in fact it is necessary to go TWICE round the course to get back to the true starting point.

One may study and enjoy a Tramble, however, without giving much thought to the abstruse matter of handedness! The diagram on the right lists the trambling moves used when making the circuit, in either direction.

The symbols used in cyphering these moves have been defined in an earlier article - K.M. No. 19, on page 16. But the moves will, it is hoped, become clear in the diagrams set out on the next page spell out 6 Tramble moves clock-wise, and 6 anti-clockwise starting, from

Hunter's Bend (the remaining moves readers will quite easily puzzle out for themselves).



NOTE: (a) For those interested, the change of handedness occurs as one passes through Bend Wr, the Wrapped Reef, in the course of the circuit.

(b) Dotted lines, uncyphered, indicate significant "skips" that have emerged as practicable Trambling moves. To give details of these would (alas!) prolong the article unduly.

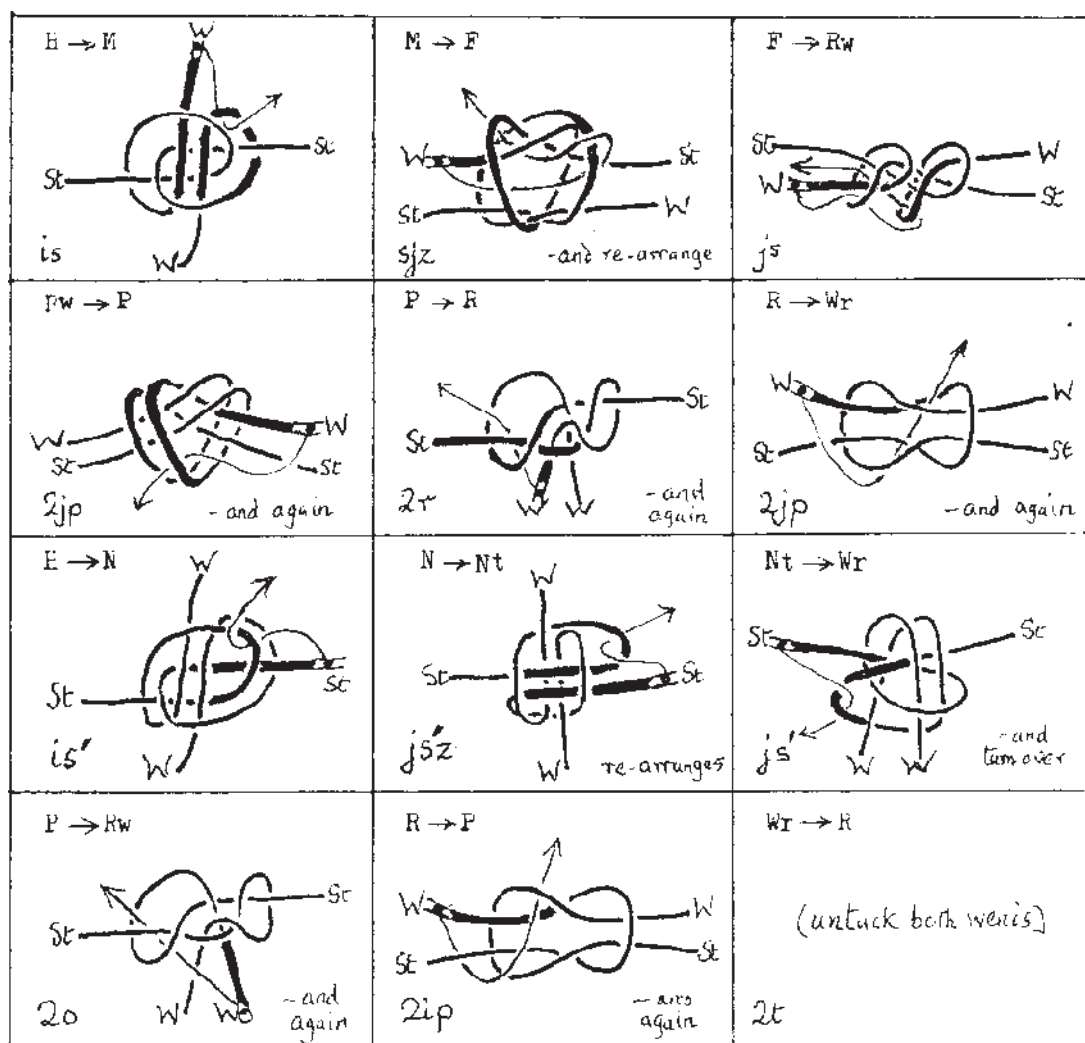
## Quotation

"What about tying knots?"

"There are no knots. The noose is already there ..... Hang on, I've got one here ..... My host ..... had produced a length of rope from a drawer. Pointing to a metal loop at the end he passed the rope through this, forming a noose, the inside of it bound in leather.

from 'TEA WITH THE HANGMAN' by Byron Rogers

(The Daily Telegraph, Saturday, April 2, 1988)



TO BE CONCLUDED

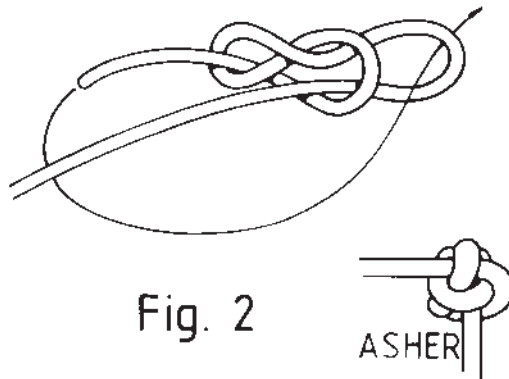
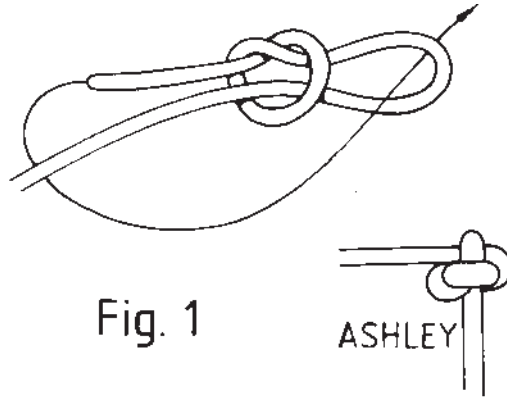
## Figure of Eight Oysterman

by Harry ASHER

The tale is often told of how the great Clifford Ashley tried to repeat a knot he thought he had seen (but hadn't), and so came to invent the famous Oysterman's Stopper Knot. It had a special charm for him, and probably has for any of his readers who have tried it. An attractive feature is the way the standing part emerges from the centre of 3 symmetrically placed segments at the base of the knot.

It is tied by making a slipped Overhand Knot in which a bight of the standing part is taken through the initial turn. A single tuck with the running end completes the knot (Fig. 1). The corresponding form based on the Figure-of-Eight Knot is shown in Fig. 2. It is more robust than the original form, and the attractive shape at the base is maintained.





**Umm!**

INVALUABLE  
AID, OR  
NEEDLESS  
EXPENSE?

## Get that load off your mind

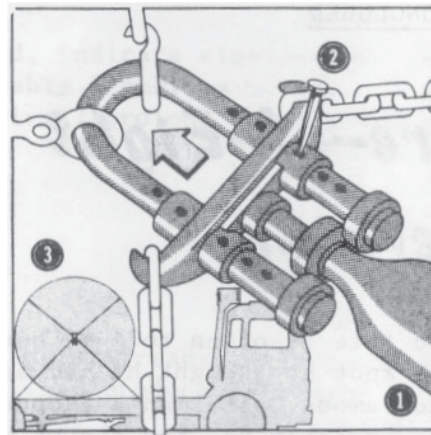
"A LORRY shed its load on the M1 today and blocked the southbound carriageway for four hours" - a familiar tale, especially with so many drivers failing to lash down their loads properly.

A new and standardised method of lashing down should prevent that expensive shedding.

Called the Gunnar System, after its Swedish inventor, Gunnar Holmqvist, a former merchant seaman, it is a remarkably simple invention. At its heart is a special locking device, to which the lashing is attached.

The locking device is pumped up by a hand held hydraulic pump until the lashing is taught. Two pins are inserted through special holes to hold it in position, so securing the cargo, and the pump is withdrawn. A lorry driver would simply go round his trailer, pumping up the locking devices one by one until the load was secured.

The system would have remained a good idea and no



1. Hydraulic pump tightens four chains simultaneously

2. Pins hold four chains in even tension

3. Gunnar system simpler and safer than rope lashing

more but for the persistence of Holmqvist's father-in-law, Robbie Robinson, a wealthy Yorkshire bookmaker.

Robinson saw an article in The Sunday Times Innovation page last year about William Johnson, a professional inventor who runs his own company, Scientific Applied Research (SAR). Robinson bombarded Johnson with calls about the Gunnar System.

Finally last winter Johnson relented and went to Sweden to see a mock-up of the system. Johnson saw it was a winner and SAR went in, 50-50, with Holmqvist.

An American company is now preparing to manufacture the system. It aims to equip a lorry for £150. And in the cut-throat haulage business, time means money.

Philip Beresford

## Story Time

Canadian founder member Rob CHISNALL let us have this fragment from "An Unsuitable Job for a Woman", by P.D. James, published by Faber & Faber (in London, England)

'The Sergeant opened the file in front of him and pushed it across the desk.

"Look at that," he said. "That's a picture of the knot."

The police photograph, stark in black and white, showed the knot with admirable clarity. It was a bowline on the end of a low loop and it hung about a foot from the hook.

Sergeant Maskell said: "I doubt whether he would be able to tie that knot with his hands above his head, no one could. So he must have made the noose first just as you did and then tied the bowline. But that can't be right either. There were only a few inches of strap between the buckle and the knot. If held done it that way, he wouldn't have had sufficient play on the strap to get his neck through the noose. There's only one way he could have done it. He made the noose first, pulled it until the strap fitted his neck like a collar and then tied the bowline .....

Then from American rigger Brion TOSS, came this extract gleaned from some loose pages of an abandoned an unidentifiable "sword & sorcery" pulp paperback.

"He had never seen a living dragon before, but recognized the general form from the literature of legend. Yet this was an unusual variant. The creature, like the castle, seemed to be made of thickened lines. Its legs were formed of loops, its body of closely interlocked convolutions, and its tail was like knitwork. It was as if it had been shaped meticulously from a single line, phenomenally Intricate. Yet it was solid, as a knit sweater is solid .....

This dragon, of course, was three-dimensional. Its lines did touch, did cross, for it was tied together by loops and knots at key places. But the principle remained: the line, though knotted, never terminated, never divided. The whole dragon, as far as Stile could tell, was a construct of a single line.....

Now Stile stood before the dragon, drawing his rapier .....

Would the point be effective, or was it better to have a cutting edge so he could sever a line? Would the dragon unravel like knitwork if he did cut its line? ..... He acted with apparent confidence, advancing on the dragon with his rapier point orienting on the creature's black knot-nose ..... It was a beast, not a man, and could not reason well, and it had its orders. In fact anything constructed from loops of cord might have trouble reasoning well; what kind of brain could, be fashioned from knotted string? ..... Stile stared. The creature was disintegrating! First its hurting nose tightened into a close knot, then popped into nonexistence. Then its muzzle and teeth went, the latter becoming tangles of string that disappeared as the string went taut. Then the eyes and ears. Headless, the thing still faced Stile, backing away. The neck went, and the front legs, the pace of unravelling speeding up as it continued. Very soon there was nothing but a line - and this snapped back into the wall like a rubber band ..... The whole thing string ....."

## ***WANTED - Apt Caption***

This anonymous sketch has me puzzled.  
What are they up to? What is their  
Scouter saying to cause such obvious  
consternation?





## Letters

Dear Mr. Harris.

..... I am a construction labourer by trade and I was amazed by the amount of material that was raised and lowered by rope and pulley considering the availability of electrical and hydraulic hoists. I was equally amazed by the lack of knot-tying knowledge on the part of those raising and lowering the material. My union brother, who is a veteran of the United States Navy, taught me how to back splice and I bought a small simple book on knots and expanded my library to 10 or 15 volumes. At one time I was able to tie about 200 knots. I am now a general labourer at a small marine in Burlington.....

..... I must say my most unusual experience with knots and ropes occurred away from the job. I was injured seriously enough in a construction accident several years ago to require treatment at the local hospital emergency room. I recalled reading in Ashley's book about his observations of a surgeon closing the patient's incision and so I asked him what kind of knot he intended to use to close my wound. He said he preferred the square knot but told me the subject of the best knot for the purpose had been the subject of scholarly research while he was a student at the University of Iowa College of Medicine. He said the study concluded that the granny knot and the square knot were equally effective in surgical procedures.

I also want to pass on a description of a small book I bought recently that I thought was novel in its approach. It is 'The Klutz Book of Knots' (available for about \$10.00 from The Klutz Press, Post Office Box 2992, Stanford, CA 94305, U.S.A.). The book shows, according to the cover, "how to tie the world's 25 most useful hitches, ties, wraps and knots". Its novelty is in this approach; "Each of the board pages is especially die-cut so that the knots can be practised directly next to their illustrations."

Yours very truly,

January 1, 1988

Joseph F. Gehringer

P.O. Box 722,  
Burlington,  
Iowa 52601, U.S.A

(J.F.G. Go to Glastonbury, Somersetshire, reputedly the Isle of Avalon of the Arthurian legend. G.B.)

Dear Geoffrey,

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

"International Guild of Knot Tyers"

Is a title that hardly lights fires.

I sadly suspect that instead of respect

A giggle is what it inspires.

"International Guild of Knot Craft"

Is not frivolous, pompous or daft,

With a meaning so wide, when spoken with pride,

Even buffoons haven't laughed.

I do feel - as I am sure other members do - that our present title does not do us true justice outside our own circle, and I think that the problem really lies in that last word "Tyers" which the average person associates with shoes or parcels and not a serious hobby or preoccupation. Alternatives like "Makers", "Workers", "Craftsmen", and others, all have possibilities and objection; but THE INTERNATIONAL GUILD OF KNOT CRAFTS... I must say I like it. It offers scope for

Dear Geoffrey,

I thank you for No. 22 of 'K.M.' It is getting more interesting every time it is issued. In addition to the bibliography of the topological literature on page 9 I enclose a list on the subject:-

Listing, J.B.	VORSTUDIEN ZUR TOPOLOGIE	(1847)
Thomson, W.	VORTEX STATICS (ABSTRACT)	(1875)
Tait P.G.	ON KNOTS, Proceedings of the Royal Society of Edinburgh	(1876-7)
Tait, P.G.	ON KNOTS, Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh	(1877)
Alexander, J.W.	TOPOLOGICAL INVARIANTS OF KNOTS AND LINKS	(1927)
Artin E.	THE THEORY OF BRAIDS	(1950)
Alexandroff P.	ELEMENTARY CONCEPTS OF TOPOLOGY	(1961)
Chowell R.H. & Fox, R.H.	INTRODUCTION TO KNOT THEORY	(1963)
Conway, J.H.	AN ENUMERATION OF KNOTS AND LINKS AND SOME OF THEIR ALGEBRAIC PROPERTIES	(1967)
Hausman, J.C.	KNOT THEORY	(1977)

As a reply to M. 'King' de Koning's letter on page 15, I like to inform members that there are two most excellent books that cover different mat patterns. Both are in Danish but very good illustrated. One is written by Jens Kusk Jensen and the title is HANDBOG I PRAKTISK SOMANOSKAB (Handbook in Practical Seamanship). It was first published in 1901 but the 4th. edition was reprinted in 1974 by Hest & Sons Forlag, Bredgade 35, DK 1260 Copenhagen, Denmark, and might still be for sale.

The other book is written by Kaj Lund and is MATTER OG ROSETTER (Mats and Rosettes). The address to Kaj Lund is Holbersgade 14, DK 1057 Copenhagen, Denmark. He has written a lot of books and they are all very well illustrated with photos and drawings:-

KNOB OG SPLEJS (Knot and Splice)  
BAELTER AV GARN OG TOV (Belts made of yarn and rope)  
KNYTTE OPSKRIFTER (Knotting Particulars)  
KNYTTE MODELLER OG KNYTTELDEER (Knotting Models and Knotting ideas)  
KNYTTEVE TASKER (Knotted Bags)  
KNYTTE SOG FOR BEGYNDERE (Knotting Book for Beginners)  
TOVVAERKSKUD (The Art of Roping)

He has also written 9 small booklets about knotting in different subjects:- ROUND, WIDE, COLOUR COMBINATIONS, CHRISTMAS THINGS, CURVES, STARS, HALF-HITCHING, PURSES.

(Also THE BOOK OF ORNAMENTAL KNOTS by John Hensel, pub. 1973, has 55 pages of mat patterns.)

My best wishes for Many Happy Knottings  
From a Swedish Knottologist

March 10th. 1988

Sten JOHANSSON

Skebokvarnsvägen 123  
S-124 35 Bandhagen  
Sweden.

Dear Sir,

..... My interests are primarily in braid and semits. I have been trying to find sources for Japanese and Argentinian books on braiding and knotting but have not had a lot of success. I have also been trying to find information on sabre knots, the ornamentation that

excursion into areas where we rarely venture, such as knitting and crochet, carpet making and tatting.

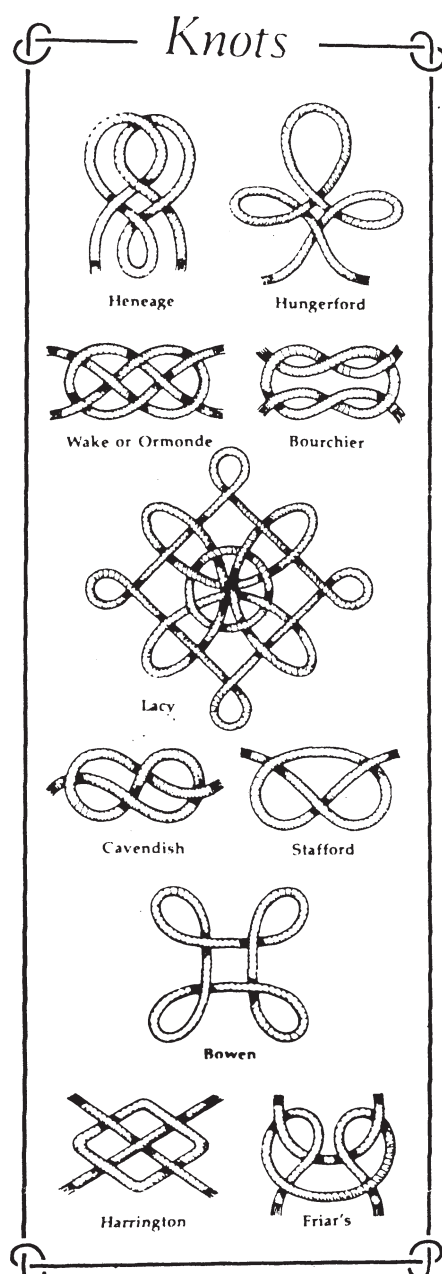
Yours sincerely,  
Stuart GRAINGER

10 January 88

Corner Cottage,  
Main Street,  
Merton, Bicester,  
Oxon OX6 0NF,  
England.

Dear Geoffrey,

I subscribe to a magazine called 'Local History' and on page 25 of the current issue - No. 16, January 1988 - I came across the enclosed column.



**Knot** Intertwined cords in the form of slackened symmetrical knots are widely used in armory, and are particularly effective as badges. Clearly, the origins of many knots are practical, though others may be traced to the interlaced patterns of celtic art and decoration. Knots are generally named after the families who adopted them, and are often used in conjunction with badges acquired through marriage or inheritance, the badge of the lords Hastings, for example, in which the sickle of Hungerford is united by a knot with the garb of the Peverils. Regrettably, several well-known household badges have assumed spurious territorial designations as the result of their use as charges in the civic heraldry of a particular locality. The best known example is that of the so-called 'Staffordshire Knot', originally the badge of the earls of Stafford, but now ubiquitous as a charge in the heraldry of that county.

The translation of mariners' knots and Celtic interlacing to amorial representations is a fertile field for those amorists who enjoy devising charges. Two excellent and inexpensive books for this purpose are *The Harrison Book of Knots* by P P O Harrison, Glasgow, 1964, and *Celtic Art: The Methods of Construction* by G Bain, London, 1986.

Reproduced from **A New Dictionary of Heraldry**. Edited by Stephen Friar.

I shall be retiring from teaching and moving from Wigan to Lincolnshire later this year. I will advise my new address when known.

Best wishes,

Brian LAMB

9th. Feb., '88

34 Holme Avenue,  
Wigan,  
WN1 2EW,  
England.



officers used to have on their swords. Again I have drawn a blank. Finally, I am in hope that some of your members might know where I could find a book, pictures, drawings, or anything on braiding machines old or new.

I hope that I have not asked too much. If I can help from this side of the Atlantic in little old Louisiana, please feel free to ask. I will do what I can.

Sincerely,  
William E. NORTON, M.D.

1022 W. Port Arthur Blvd.,  
Leesville,  
LA 71446, U.S.A.

Dear Mr. President,

In Knotting Matters I have two poles of interest - knots with the new fibres made of polyaramids (Kevlar and alike), and French linguistics on ropes and knots, where equivalent of the English terminology is wanting on given subjects.

I would like to ask you as the Hon. Editor of the K.M. for the hospitality of the newsletter. I really hope that one page, written in French, will not antagonise the English readers.

Sincerely yours,  
Claude E. Dreyfus

Rue du Mt-Blanc 7,  
1201 Geneve,  
Suisse.

8 Avril 1988

(I have a similar request from the Dutch members. Where could it end? Well, the International Police organisation 'Interpol' communicates around the world in just 4 languages - 'English, French, Spanish and Arabic.)

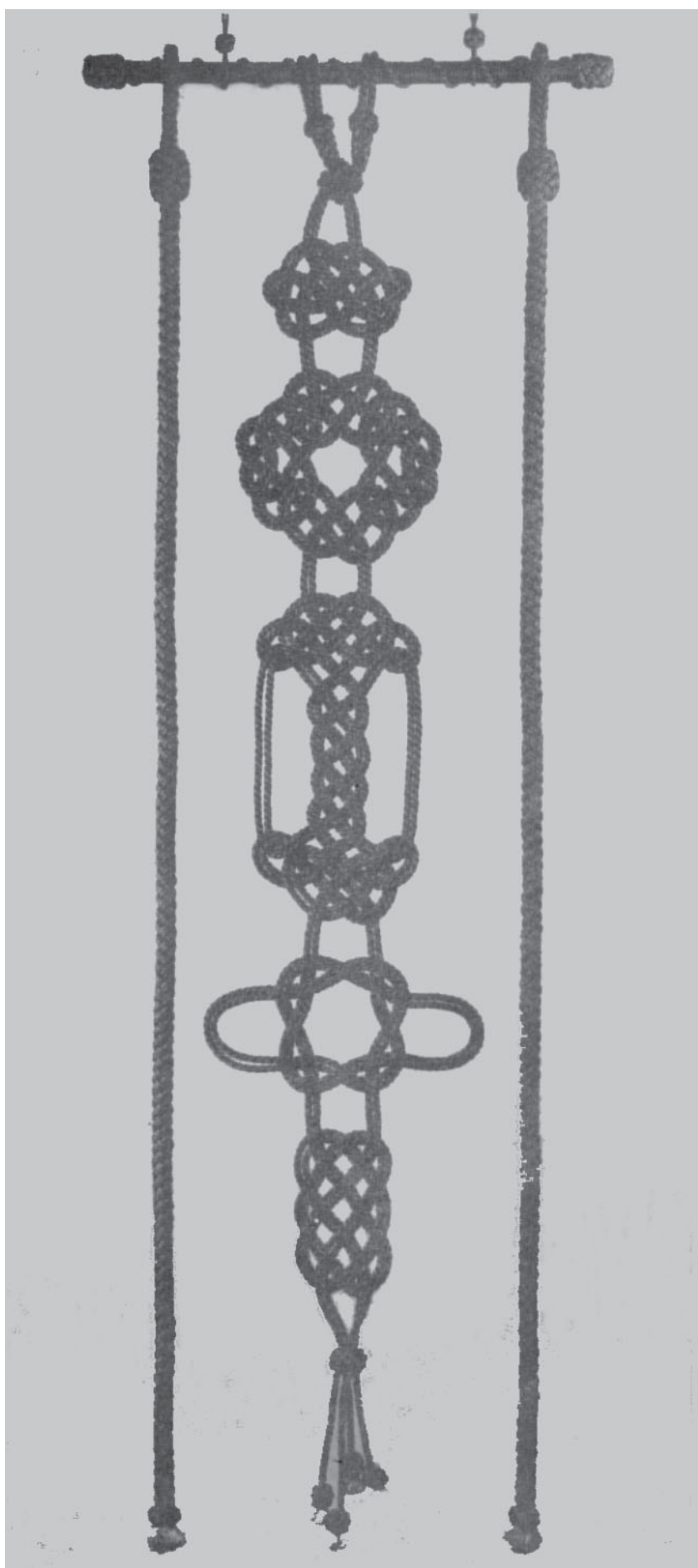
## ***Fancy Photos***

The fancywork is mainly flat knotting this time.

The late Jim NICOLL, who was a Scot born and bred in Largo, Fifeshire (home of Alexander Selkirk, the real-life "Robinson Crusoe"), created the ingenious mayoral chain of office.

The dramatic hanging is one of a handful of photographs which I, a most unmethodical man, failed to label when they first arrived. Now I am unsure whose work it is ... but I will hazard a guess that it comes from Eric DAHLIN in Santa Barbara, California, U.S.A. Do tell me if I am mistaken and the credit goes elsewhere.





## Poem

Originally published in 'TANDEM'  
Greater London North-West 'Venture Scouts' magazine

(from 'SCOUTING' (P.L. supplement, p.29), August, 1975)

### THE AUSTRALIAN PYJAMA KNOT

If you're at camp and feeling blue,  
Then here is something you can do.  
For your most hated enemy  
Here's a little tip from me!  
His pyjama trousers you must take  
And in one leg a knot you make,  
Then turn the trouser inside out,  
So the knot is not without.  
Then under and over and over and round  
Until the join cannot be found,  
Then tighten it up and you have got  
The infamous Australian pyjama knot!

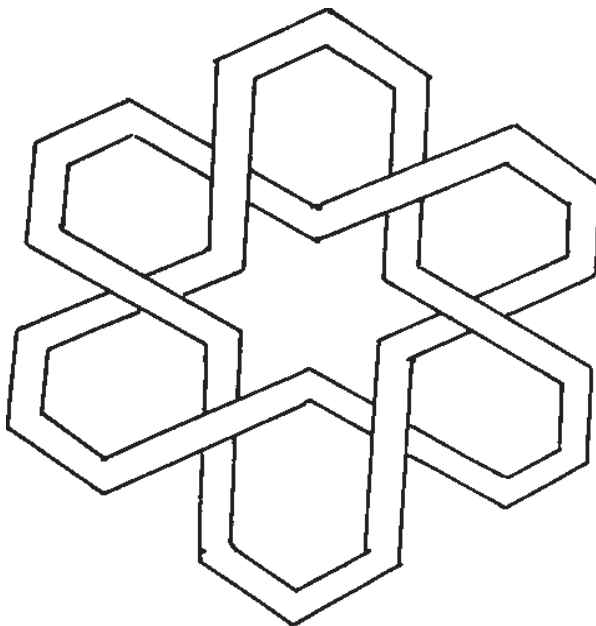
## Swap

Guild member Barry DARKINS, of 60 Vale Road, Chesham, Buckinghamshire HP5 3HH, England, wants a copy of 'ENCYCLOPEDIA OF KNOTS AND FANCY WORK' by Raoul Graumont and John Hensel, for which he will swap a JAW 11T G4 pyrographic set (with several bits), almost new; if not the book, then the first reasonable cash offer secures the goods.

(It would go well with the craft booklet on pyrography- which is also known as "pokerwork", the art of producing a design on wood by burning it with a heated metal point- which I have seen on sale, written by our own Stuart Grainger.)

## Avalon Motif

I spotted this design on a cowhide rug in a basket-&-sheepskin shop at Glastonbury 10 years ago. Given the town's association with King Arthur's Camelot, there is a trade in all things symbolic or occult.





## **Book Reviews** by the editor

'CELTIC KNOTWORK' by Iain BAIN, published by Constable & Go. Ltd.  
(1986) in London, England - price: £10.95p.

The author, a retired civil engineer and grandfather, is the son of George Bain whose book 'Celtic Arts: The Methods of Construction' (pub. 1951) was reviewed in 'K.M.' issue No. 4 (Summer, 1983), page 8.

As many readers found parts of his father's book confusing, Iain Bain has devised simpler and clearer principles for constructing Celtic designs and his book contains hundreds of straightforward and unambiguous diagrams linked to a concise text, making it an indispensable manual of this unique ancient British art-form. There are also eight (nine, if you include the dust jacket) gorgeous colour plates.

The book is highly recommended for all knot-tyers who need to design and draw knotwork of any kind - especially this traditional way - while serious students will find it a splendid addition to our literature.

ISBN 0-09-466060-3

G.B.

### 50 PRACTICAL AND DECORATIVE KNOTS YOU SHOULD KNOW'

by Percy W. BLANDFORD, pub. Tab Books Inc.

(1988) in the U.S.A. - price: \$8.95.

n.b. A few copies only are available in the U.K. from the author at £5.00p. each, including p. & p.

The contents are a masterly distillation by prolific craft-writer P.W.B. (now on his 96th. book!) who was the Guild's first President. His comprehensive selection of knots, bends, hitches, lashings and loops, shortenings and tightenings and tackles, including an eye splice, a bit of macrame and some netmaking, gives something for everyone. It is not aimed at us enthusiasts although it might help us simplify our thinking.

I found the 128 pages (including index and glossary) and 59 illustrations straightforward, practical, and helpful; while I was impressed by Percy Blandford's words (I could hear his voice) putting it all in perspective with pithy statements:-

"... in many cases it is all you need." (The overhand knot)

"... many are now obsolete." (Knots associated with square-riggers)

"... which may not matter much, except for your prestige as a knot tier." (Granny v. reef bows)

It is an excellent and reasonably priced buy for anyone coming new to knots, and for collectors, by a master of his subject.

G.B.

## **Quotation**

"Something of an artist with a marline spike, Peter Mortensen liked nothing better than an intricate job with rope or wire."  
'SCHOONERMAN' by Captain Richard England (no other particulars available)

