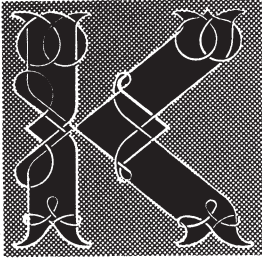
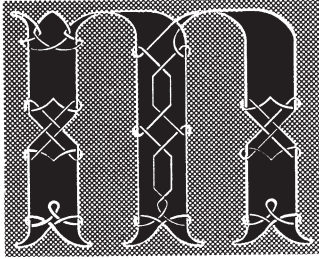


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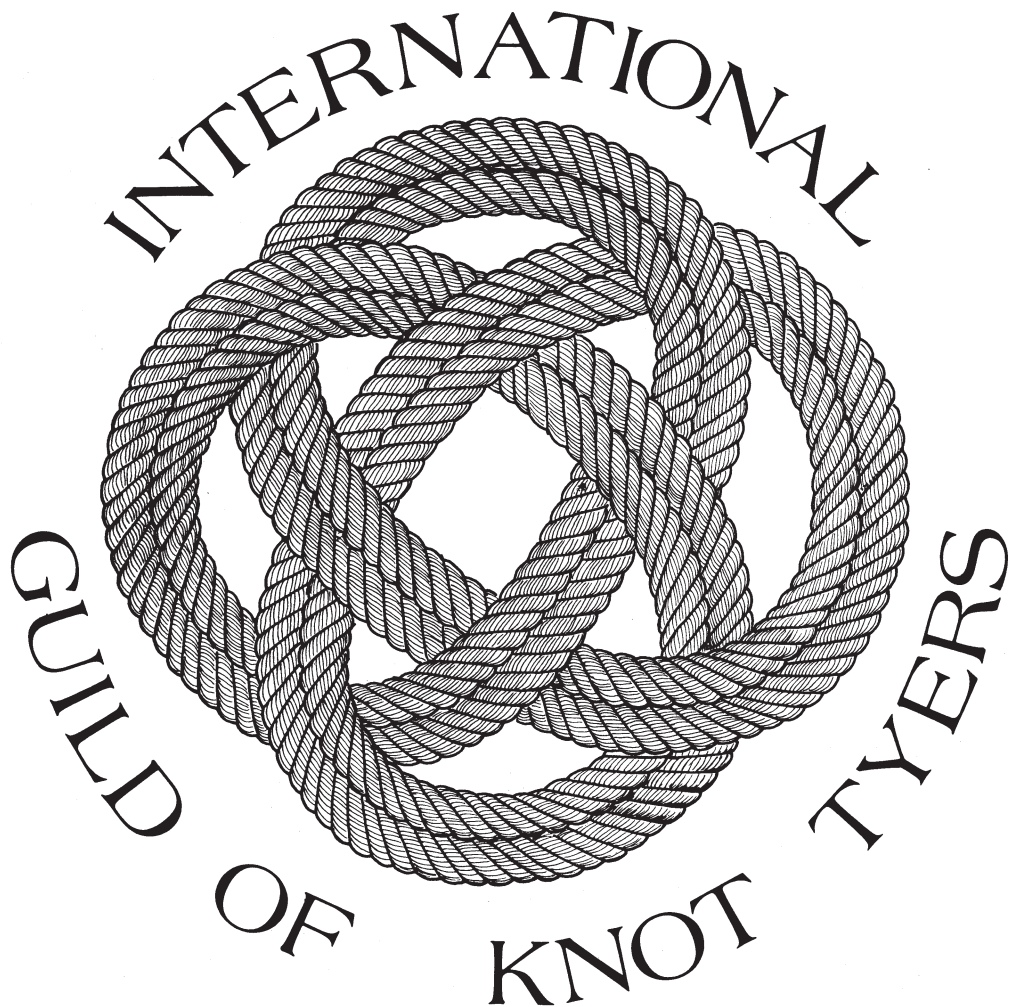


notting



matters

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE



"KNOTTING MATTERS"

Hon. Sec. & Editor
Geoffrey BUDWORTH

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
INTERNATIONAL GUILD OF KNOT TYERS

President: ERIC FRANKLIN

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Editorial

At the last count I.G.K.T. membership was 361, with 1 in 4 members outside Britain. We're truly an international lot. Whenever you travel, do first consult our membership list and, where possible, plan encounters. There's talk of stowing the 'Extravaganza' exhibits in a bus and visiting our Dutch friends on their home ground during 1987. Who wants to come?

In 1987 we complete our first 5 years. What next? Maybe we could actively market the Guild by means of commercial sponsorship. Certainly we should secure ourselves a respected place with other craftworkers. We must develop a programme of workshops and seminars, cultivating those members who can instruct. We might even publish a compilation of our various books and papers, so obtaining both revenue and ongoing publicity.

More than all this, however, we ought (it is my strong belief) to persuade the world WHY they should bother with knots today. Pretending big sailing ships still need ropework wins no converts. Posing as a rigger - when you are not remotely engaged in that line of work - convinces nobody. Doing stuff done in Nelson's time may actually repel people who could be won over to knot-tying by a more realistic approach.

Criminal investigators and trial lawyers now buy knot books because they are convinced that knowing knots helps them evaluate cordage clues from scenes of crime. What can YOU do to promote knots?

Surely the Women's Institute and Townswomen's Guild could be influenced to see practical uses for knotting? Could not some I.G.K.T. member obtain a grant to teach Third World countries ropemaking and what can be done with lashings and tackles? Why not persuade N.A.S.A. to equip astronauts with a repertoire of bends and hitches? Do knots perform differently weightless, I wonder? Someone send them a research project. By Jove, Star Knots take on a new dimension!

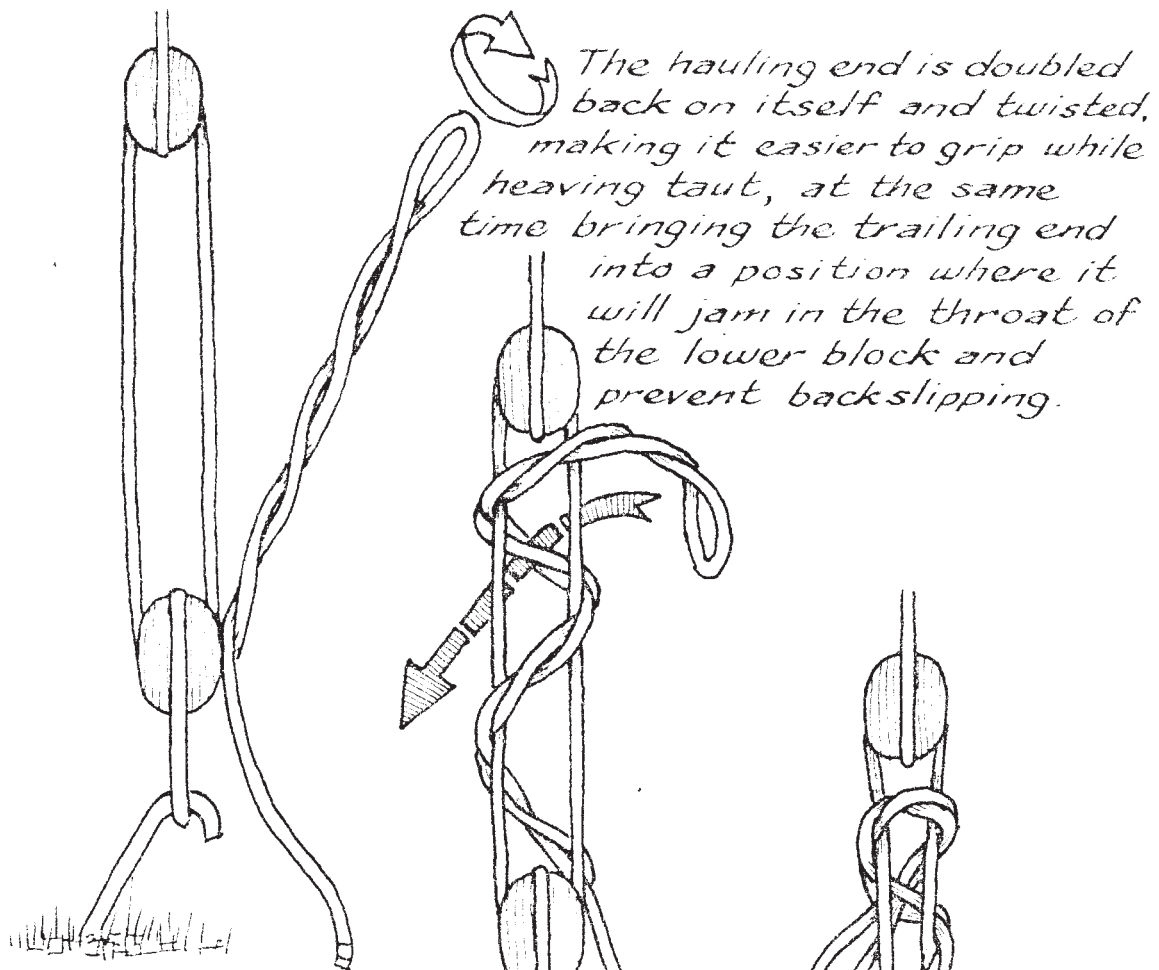
The Circus Belay

seen by
Stuart E. GRAINGER

You will find enclosed a page of drawings and description, which are, I hope, self explanatory. The story behind this is that, having been a circus fan from the age of four, when I was taken to see Bertram Mills' travelling circus, I recently took my wife to see Hoffman's two ring circus, which was touring the West Country with a traditional "big top" - very rare these days. I was intrigued to notice the way in which all the tackles holding up the big top had been belayed. I made a quick sketch of one of them, from which the enclosed drawings were produced. I have never before seen this method of belaying a tackle and initially was puzzled by it, however, subsequent thought shows it to be a highly ingenious technique, by which a number of problems, unique to the circus, are solved.

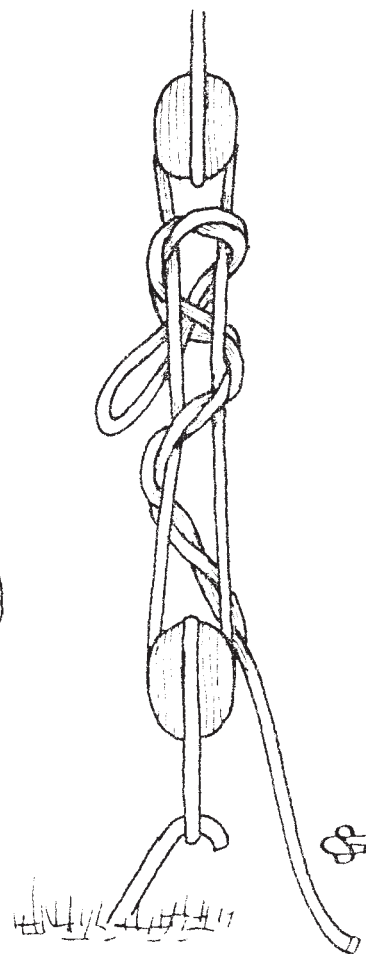
Unlike a ship, where cleats, bollards or belaying pins are designed to be readily available, an open field is bare of convenient points of attachment. The circus wallops great pegs into the ground where necessary, but these do not provide the whole answer. There is always a shortage of manpower when raising the big top, so often the tackles have to be hove taut and secured by one man, so there is nobody to take the strain while the tail of the tackle is tied off. The method shown solves these problems by jamming one part of the tail into the throat of the lower block by doubling and then twisting up the tail, then taking turns with it around the running parts of the tackle and finally tucking the doubled end between the two parts of the doubled tail. To a sailor the idea of deliberately jamming a block in this way appears unseamanlike in the extreme, but on reflection one realises that it is relatively easy for a circus to replace rope that will almost inevitable be damaged and worn by this method, whereas it may be less easy to find extra manpower and virtually impossible to provide convenient cleats, bollards or belaying pins in the middle of a field. This is a thoroughly pragmatic answer to several unique problems in fact. That it is a standard procedure in the circus was brought home to me when watching the French and Italian trapeze artistes setting up their apparatus. They used exactly the same method of securing their main tackles, which in turn held small lever-operated hand winches for precise tension control, although they were of different nationality from most of the other personnel in the circus.

I wonder whether any other members have come across this method of belaying in other professional fields, the theatre for instance, although there again cleats and belaying pins are usually readily available. I know that Ashley mentions a few knots that are peculiar to the circus, but he did not mention, so far as I can discover, this method of belaying. It is worth noting, by the way, that the rope used was right hand laid, the twist in the tail being made left handed and the frapping turns again right handed. Whether the direction of the final turns might be affected by the tackle having been rove so that the tail issued from the right or left sheave of the lower double block I am not sure. I think not, but I did not consider this point until it was too late to go back and check, and my sketch did not show this detail.



Two or three turns are taken around the tackle with the doubled tail and the whole is secured by tucking the doubled end once through between its two parts.

The Circus Belay.



Dutch Knot Guild

(founded 1924)

reports Pieter Van De GRIEND

ON THE ISLAND OF TERSCHELLING in the North of Holland there is a group of people who train themselves in the skills of what the Dutch call "schiemannen" (the profession of rigger/sailmaker in the days of the big sailing ships). They do this by giving courses to youngsters interested enough to follow them. I was confronted with that Guild's existence for the first time in 1972, but it wasn't until this year that I contacted them to find out more about the people who ignited my interest in knots. And how nice it was to come in touch with them. Besides a spontaneous letter explaining the working of their Guild, I was also presented with a big box of examples of their craftsmanship - personally delivered to my doorstep here in the Faroe Islands. The box contained splices, shroud knots, wire splices, star knots, grommets, bits of sailmaking, various plattings, Turks' heads, and several forms of tapering ends: and probably the nicest of all was to see that there was not a shred of artificial fibre in all of the over 100 samples. The knotting came out of its box with a strong smell of tarred manilla!

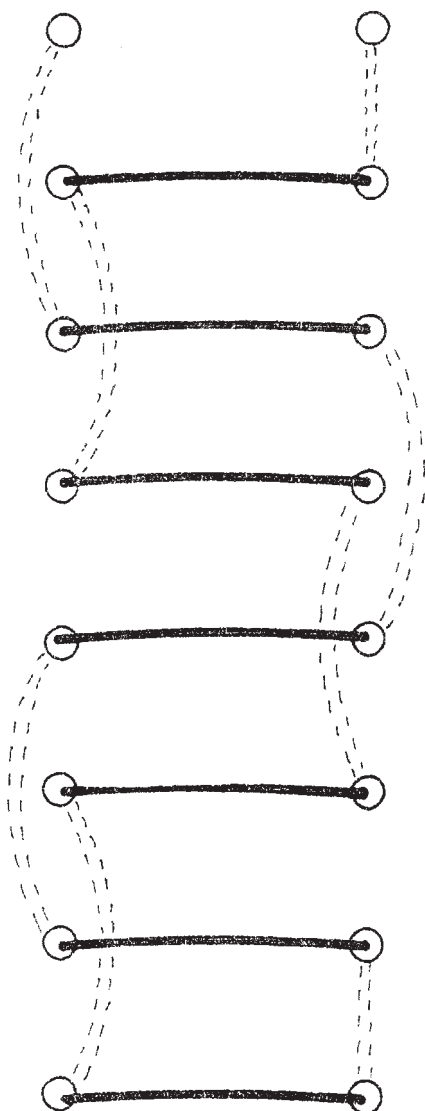
This Guild was started way back in 1924 by Mr. Klaas Knop and it is named Klaas Knop Fonds. He started giving courses in knotting and splicing. Having been a store-holder for the Royal Dutch Shipping Company, and before that a sailorman, he knew how to handle ropes. Interest in these courses has lasted, so that today about 70 youngsters (they can start at 12 years of age) and a dozen unpaid instructors keep up the tradition. Funding is by donations.

At the end of the course, when it is claimed there is hardly a knot or splice they cannot make, students undergo an examination on knotting, sailmaking and ropeworking. Most of this exam' is based upon the Dutch book 'Schiemanswerk' by Coolhaas (pub. by ANWB, Den Haag, Holland). Those who pass receive a diploma (designed by Mr. Oxenaar, who also designs banknotes, army certificates, etc.) decorated with the old 5-colour arms of Terschelling, enclosed in a grommet, with a surrounding rim of knots and splices.

The Klaas Knop Fonds is proud of its social impact, keeping young folk off the streets and out of trouble. It is also a cultural institution, trying to preserve a fading trade. Holland is a country with a strong seafaring tradition that has evolved to survive in modern times; and this Guild in Terschelling is a noteworthy attempt to keep alive some of the oldest facets of this tradition. Further details can be obtained from:-

Dhr C. Cupido,
8896 JD Hoorn,
Terschelling, The
Netherlands.

J25/52 is Charles H.S. THOMASON



This is the way we were taught to lace up our boots and shoes at the Royal Australian Naval College. If there were not enough lace holes to finish as illustrated, we finished on the 2nd top pair and then did a straight X-shaped crossover which was hidden under the bow (tied in an extra $\frac{1}{2}$ -hitch).

So all visible parts of the lace were horizontal.

J25/52

'L' for Leather

Knot tyers seeking a further challenge might consider leather as their next step. Guild member Bill BOGEL, a Texan living in Madrid, Spain, has sent the Editor a comprehensive free catalogue from 'The Leather Factory', at 3847E. Loop 820 South, P.O. Box 50429, Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A. The manager of this warehouse, Jon Thompson (tel: 817-496-4874) (or, toll-free outside Texas, 800-433-3201) apparently stocks everything for the beginner or most demanding expert worker in leather (and operates a mail order service, too).

From exotic hides and skins (e.g. cobra, with head attached!) to rawhide thongs and leather lacing; tools of every kind; patterns & dyes; hardware - buckles, snaphooks, rivets, etc; to books such as those reviewed in previous issues of this newsletter on braiding, whiplmaking, and so on; this catalogue features them all.

You could end up making a horse saddle and a pair of chaps, moccasins or a purse, a whip and a waistcoat-and, if Fort Worth in Texas just isn't convenient, there are 8 other Leather Factory warehouses in Arizona, California, Colorado, Iowa, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Washington State.

"Boondoggling"

This odd word is an intransitive verb (something you can do but can't have done to you) which today means engaging in more or less unprofitable forms of work provided as a palliative for chronic unemployment. There is a noun 'boondoggle' for any official scheme to provide work for unemployed, involving wasteful expenditure.

What's it got to do with knots? Well, the word boondoggle was coined - according to one report - in 1925 by R.H. Link, an American scoutmaster, for the plaited leather cord worn around the necks of American Boy Scouts...hence any insignificant handicraft.

Book News

A third revised edition of Guild member and journalist Quinton Winch's book 'NETS & KNOTS' will be on sale in the bookshops from March, '87. This good little book was previously reviewed and recommended in 'K.M.' No. 7, page 20.

'A NEW SYSTEM OF KNOTTING' by Harry Asher, is the latest specially commissioned I.G.K.T. publication and comes in two volumes. Dr. Asher, a retired research scientist, describes his original and methodical approach to tying traditional knots and discovering new ones. Volume 1 (47 pages) includes explanations of right and lefthandedness of knots, symmetry, linked overhand knots, and carricks. Volume 2 (36 pages) describes bends from loops, and vice versa, double & multiple loops, bottle knots, hitches & spiral plaits.

Scholarly, but fun sums up the text of these two volumes illustrated clearly by Eleanor Draper. Apt anecdotes, fresh insights and some new knot names all combine to expand the old accumulated knowledge.

Volume 1 (chapters 1-4)..... price £1.70p

Volume 2 (chapters 5-10)..... price £1.30p

COMPLETE £3.00p (excluding p. & p.)

Obtainable direct from Mrs. Ivy Blandford, 'Quinton House', Newbold-on-Stour, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 8UA, England.

Long Turks' Heads

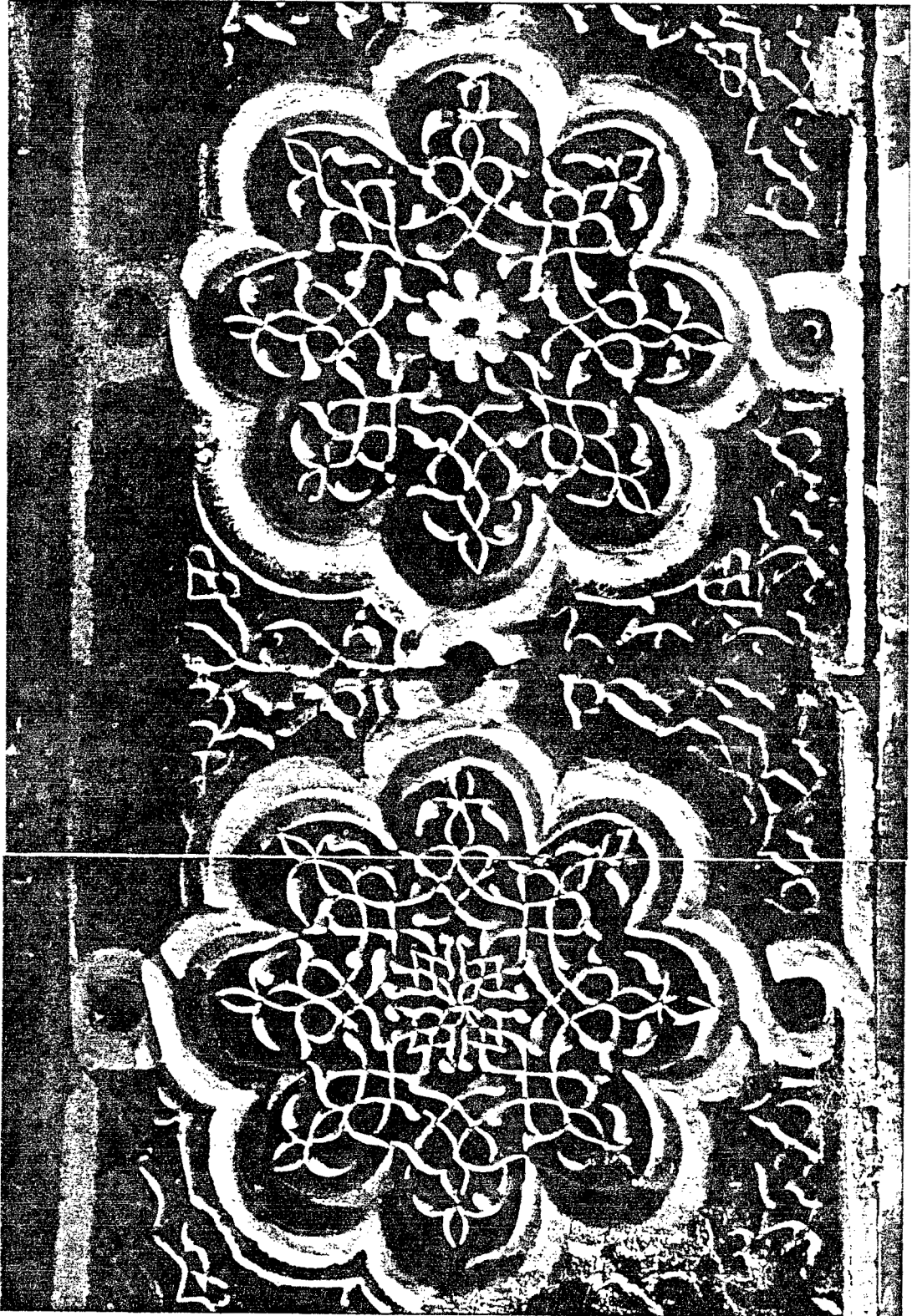
Simple ways to make
them & remember How

by Capt. C. Allan McDowall

No. 5 (concludes) <> Designing knots & mats

ومع تسببات الهواء الحار في النهار تنور
الأثرية النادرة في موجبات متتالية فوق الرمال
الخطيلة بالدينية وكأها تحكي القادسين الجدد،
فيهم ضيوف عابرون وليسوا غزاة مقيمين .

ان يغادر « ميثان لين » الذي تكثر فيه
شخالات بيع العصير الملحج ، ويدخل في متاهة
من الأروقة المعرجة . وما ان يصل المرء الى
قائده حتى يقف مشدوها مع صحبه ، يتأمل

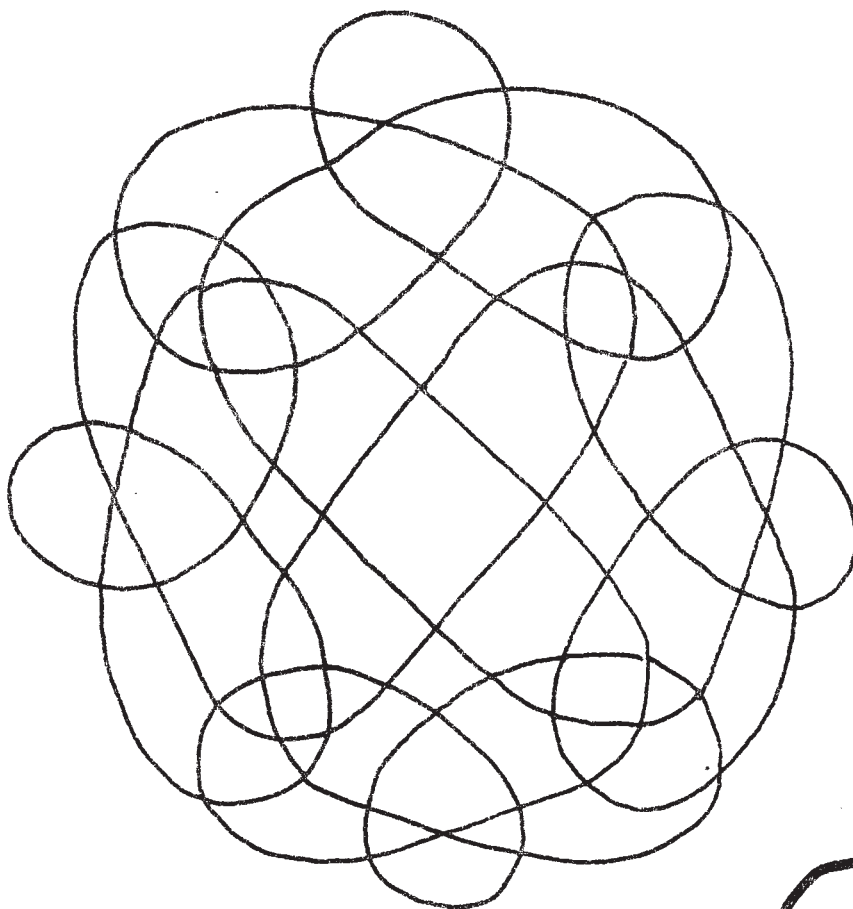


I was looking at the pictures in an Arab magazine the other day, try (without much success...but I live in hope) to work out some of the words, when I came across a photograph of glazed tiles (see the preceding photocopy) in the Bebi Khanem Mosque at Samarkand. This mosque dates from the year 1336, was built by Shah Zanda, and added to - or was it sacked? - by Tamlane. The whole thing looks as exotic and unreachable as it sounds; domes of mud bricks covered in a marvellous blue glaze, catching

the sun's rays in dazzling turquoise glitter. "The Hunter of the East bath caught the Sultan's Turret in a noose of Light," indeed.

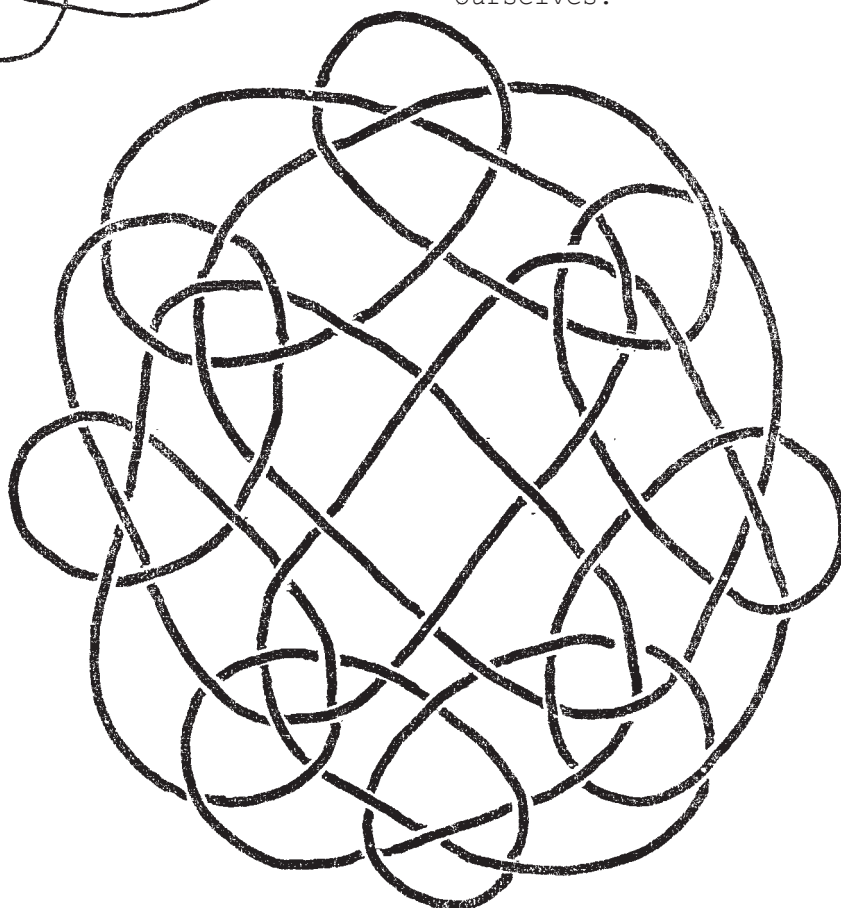
Anyway, the desire to make something came on very strong indeed...and here is the result.

In the 4th. article we used our 'Origami' method to find solutions to the Crucifix Turk's Head, useful for marking the centre on a modern yacht wheel. This method can also be used to satisfy the urge that some of us have from time to time to think up a knot for ourselves.



This knot design inspired by the glazed tiles of Samarkand, was only arrived at after much doodling. You do not need to consider which strands go over or under until after the layout is complete. Simply contrive to arrive at a pattern which satisfies.-

1. The cord should curve naturally and be evenly distributed;
2. The pattern is usually best symmetrical;



3. Holes or compartments with 6 or more sides do not look right, so contrive never to exceed 5 sides;
4. Vary the forms incorporated within the knot or mat to add interest for the eye.

This article and the preceding 4 all came from trying to find an easy way to accomplish that cruciform knot I admired so much at Greenwich. The 'origami' method resulted...the thoughts of one man isolated at sea, much as the old sailing ship men must have been.

Quotation

"One day I was on the forecandle with Mr. Chucks, the boatswain... he taught me a fisherman's bend (sic) which he pronounced to be the KING of all knots; "and Mr. Simple" continued he, "there is a moral in that knot. You observe that when the parts are drawn the right way, and together, the more you pull, the faster they hold, and the more impossible to untie them; but see, by hauling them apart, how a little difference, a pull the other way, immediately disunites them, and then they cast off in a moment. This points out the necessity of pulling together in this world, Mr. Simple, when we wish to hold on."

'PETER SIMPLE', Chapter XIV, by Capt. Frederick Marryat (1792-1848)

I.G.K.T. at Gilwell 1986

Scouts probably tie more knots than any other group, so it seems only right that our Guild should be seen at Gilwell Park, the International Scout Training Centre. In fact, 1986 was the third year we had a demonstration and teach-in base at the annual (60th.) Gilwell Reunion of Wood Badge Holders.

The organisers had invited our President, Eric Franklin, to organise and man a knotting base; he insisted that the I.G.K.T. be represented (reasoning that he doesn't need any publicity in the Scout movement - and that the Guild can always use some). That was accepted. Then difficulties began to arise. Geoffrey, our indefatigable Hon. Sec., who had been a tower of strength at previous Gilwells would just about be on his way home from holiday in America. Robert Jackson, who had volunteered to come, was suddenly shot off to Scotland by his firm; while Percy Blandford (with Ivy, of course) had so much on their plate that, when we knew about it, we just couldn't let them come. At the end, there was only Charlie Smith and Eric, who agreed to carry on. The Charlie brought young Robert Freake (or did Robert bring him?) and - to their surprise and delight - Frank Harris turned up, having come by bus and train, walking the final 1½ miles from the station.

Unlike other Gilwell weekends, the weather was not too kind. Mainly overcast, there were 3 or 4 short, sharp showers when willing volunteers had to whip the display tables out of the rain and under the heavy trees, putting them back again afterwards. Our display was not as elaborate this time because it proved impossible to get the stock from its present home in Woking, Surrey. Mainly it featured Eric's work, augmented by pieces extracted by Frank from the 'Extravaganza' stuff plus several excellent specimens of Celtic knotwork by Charlie.

Even before the official opening at 10 a.m. visitors crowded around the stand. Throughout the day there were never less than a couple of dozen - usually more - while the trio talked, explained, demonstrated and taught (and Frank broke off from displaying his unique Turk's Head chart ('K.M.' issue No. 12, pages 20-21) only to recruit like mad). Folk stayed through the luncheon break, so that our heroes had to stagger eating.

So, when the day ended, the I.G.K.T. had once again been shown to the Scouting world where - of course - we already have many valued members and where - through occasions like this one - we hope to find more.

Midlands Branch

The first (and formative) meeting of the Midlands Group of the I.G.K.T. took place on Saturday, 31st. May in the B.B.C. Club at Pebble Mill, Birmingham. 12 people attended (including one new Guild member) and there were apologies from 4 others.

Those present introduced themselves, telling us something about them and their interests. We all agreed to pay £1 a head to cover postage, etc. for the year and Robert Jackson was entrusted with the funds. Brian Stammers was bullied into agreeing to chair meetings in the immediate future and Penny Bodger offered to deal with any clerical work. However, it was felt that we should keep the business side of meetings to a minimum and concentrate on practical demonstrations, workshops and outings.

Finally, when the meeting was over officially, John Potter (who had very kindly arranged for us to use the room in the British Broadcasting Corporation Club) gave some of us a fascinating conducted tour of the Pebble Mill Studios.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, 15th. November (venue to be confirmed), again in the Birmingham region, and Colin. Jones will demonstrate rope splicing and grommet making. This report comes too late for other members to join us this time. You will be very welcome at future gatherings. For diary dates, contact Penny Bodger, at 33, Main Street, Osgathorpe, Loughborough, Leics LE12 9TA (or telephone 0530 222633).

On Tramble Territory

with Desmond MANDEVILLE

'TRAMBLES' are a much more serious and substantial field of study than I indicated - or even guessed myself - in my first article ('K.M.' issue No. 10, pages 5-9).

I hope you will appreciate, as you read this latest account (with a further instalment in the next issue), the immense scope of 'Trambling'

without feeling the need to master either the detailed moves or the mysteries of "handedness", unless you have that urge. Both are treated as merely appendices to satisfy the curious.

If fellow Guildsmen and women are provoked into some sort of comment or criticism, all to the good. Have a go for yourselves. Do not be put off. The set of symbols and the operations they stand for are an essential element, it is true, of whatever is novel in trampling. They are, however, merely clues (in most cases) and NOT explicit directions of what is to be done next. With some familiarity, the whole process is a lot less fretful than a crossword puzzle!

In an earlier article (K.M. No. 10, pages 5 to 9) I described a Tucker-Ramble, T-Ramble or TRAMBLE as a point to point progress from Bend to Bend, without untying and tying afresh - using instead a set of tuck-transformations, and returning at the end to one's original starting point. An example was worked out in detail - the Basic Tramble -which went from Reef to Reef, visiting eight other bends on the way. Five further Trambles have been displayed, since then, at meetings of the Guild.

In the same article it was suggested that Trambles might pave the way to a MAP OF THE BENDS - and a small step was taken in that direction, namely a Chart showing links between a dozen well-known bends. Indispensable to any such attempt is the use of a letter, or other simple symbol, to denote each bend. Otherwise one soon achieves the complexities of a medieval map ("here be fiery dragons"). Anyone can see the advantages, for map-making, of reducing "The Double Harness Bend with parallel Ends" to the single letter "P".

This is where the ALPHABEND came in. Originally just a light-hearted rhyming alphabet of knots and bends (K.M. No. 4, pages 2 to 5), it has since been thoroughly revised to serve the more serious purpose; the greater part of it, as revised, is set out below. Vowels are omitted, since they represented knots, not bends. Six additional structures are introduced, for the purposes of this article - four of them useful bends, and :two less useful. All but one of the bends listed here. Are symmetrical in structure - the exception being the Sheet Bend, which clearly could not be left out.

It will be noticed that the Alphabend (itself) still rhymes! Several less familiar names were explained in the earlier article and have since - to my surprise and delight - been adopted by Geoff Budworth for his books. It would be pointless to repeat an explanation here. Structure references in Column 3 are to Ashley's Book of Knots, and to the Guild's charts. Where neither of these can assist, the bend in question is illustrated by a figure at the foot of the Table (Figs. 1 to 5).

A last column, headed Category, denotes the "handedness" of each bend, a matter examined further in an Appendix.

I. THE 21 ALPHABEND BENDS

<u>Letter</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Category</u>
B	The Barrel Knot	A.1413	l (letter)
C	The Carrick	A.1439	l
D	The Double Deep End'	<u>Chart 65</u>	k
F	The Fisherman's	A.1414	l
G	The Granny	A.1405	l
H	Dr. Hunter's Bend	<u>Chart 56</u>	l

Note! D is the centre-tucked version of the Tumbling Thief T

J	The Jinx ²	A.1406	1
K	The Kilkenny	A.1422	1
L	The Least You Can Do ³	A.1445	m
M	The Matthew Walker	A.1426	1
N	The Neat 2c New (cf. A.1062)	<u>Fig. 1</u>	1

Note² J is Ashley's Whatnot, in the stable configuration

Note³ L is the Least Carrick (Single Carrick Bend)

P	The parallel Ends ⁴	A.1421	1
Q	The Quarry ⁵	<u>Fig. 2</u>	k
R	The Reef	A.1402	m
S	The sound Sheet Bend	A.1431	-
T	The Tumbling Thief	<u>Chart 65</u>	k

Note⁴ P is the Double Harness Bend with Parallel Ends

Note⁵ Q is, in effect, two Hondas (A.1024) worked up as a bend

V	The Grape Vine Knot	A.1415	1
W	The Water Knot	A.1412	1
X	The Hot-X-Bun Bend	<u>Fig. 3</u>	k
Y	Yessir! Yessir! ⁶	<u>Fig. 4</u>	k
Z	The Izzard ⁷	<u>Chart 55</u>	k

- is the end:

Note⁶ Y was described in K.M. No. 16, pages 19 & 20.

Of some theoretical interest, it is only marginally effective as a bend, as this short verse suggests :-

Gird me to grip, and I will grip,
A bonny bend I'll be -
But leave me loose, I'll see you slip
Like a Lead into the Sea.

Note⁷ Izzard is the Old English name for letter Z. The bend is the Zeppelin Knot (Rosendahl Bend, Poor Man's Pride)

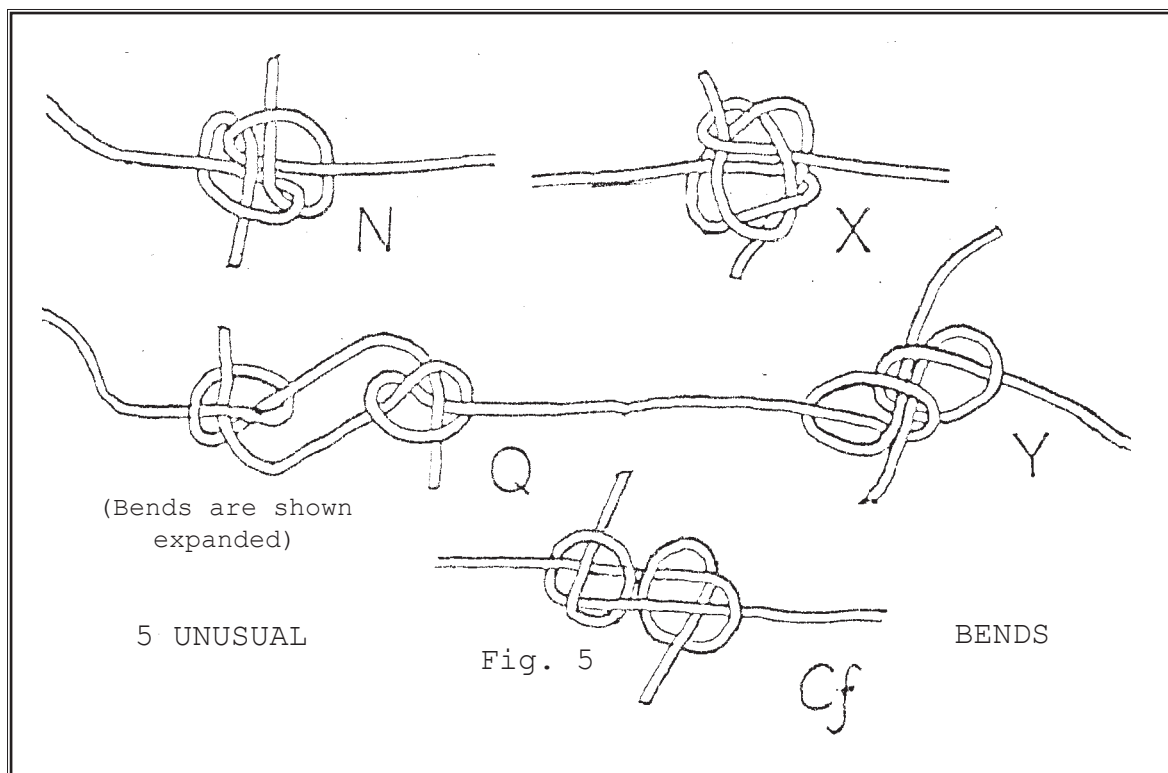
II. Six Additional Structures

Cf	The Counter-Fisherman's Knot ^{8'}	<u>Fig. 5</u>	k
Ck	Carrick Bend, working ends adjacent ⁹	A.1428	1
Fl	The Flemish Bend	A.1411	k
Kn	The Knobble Knot'°	A.1424	m
Th	The Thief Knot (unstable)	A.1207	k
Wh	The Whatnot (unstable)	A.1407	1

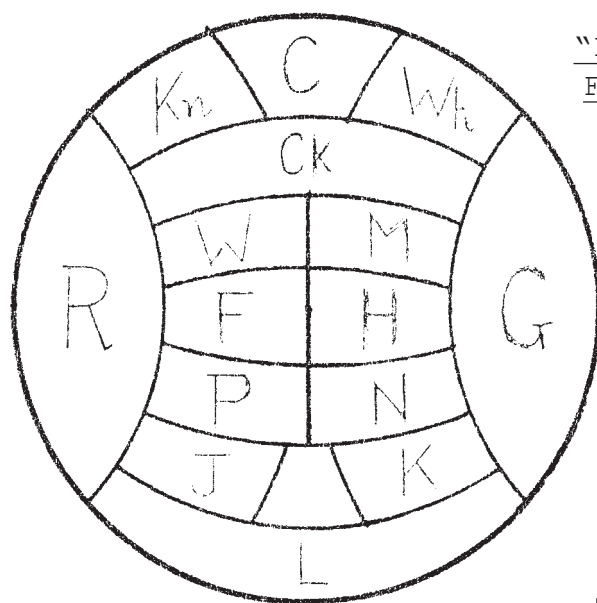
Note⁸ In Bend Cf each lead passes through the rival overhand in the opposite sense to what it does in Bend F; and through the "running" rather than the "central" bight.

Note⁹ By contrast, Carrick Bend C has working ends that emerge on opposite sides of the knot, when laid flat.

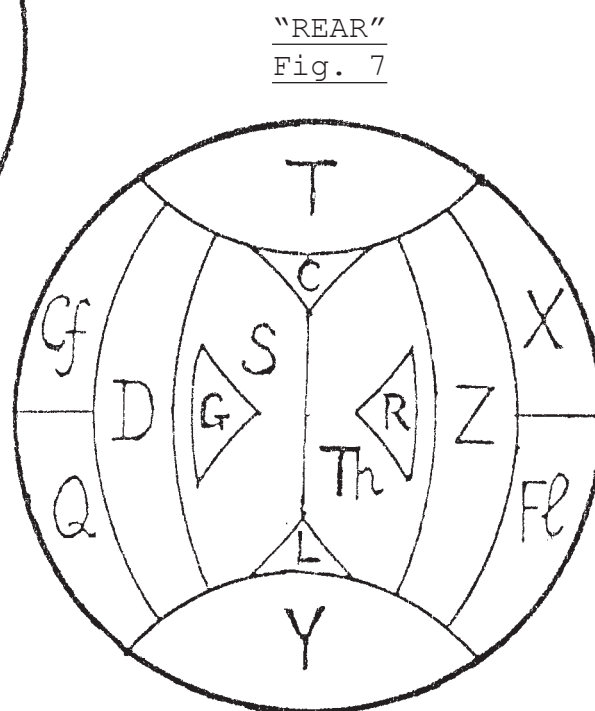
Note'° Kn derives from the Reef, just as K from the Granny.



TWO bends on this list will not concern us further. Bends B and V are composite bends - derived from Bends P and F merely by the addition of a half-turn to each lead. We are left accordingly with 24 simple symmetrical bends, together with the unsymmetrical Sheet Bend S.



"THE TRAMBLE
TALISMAN"



And now for the charts of Tramble Territory. There are TWO of these, and it is helpful perhaps to think of them as set out on the two sides of a coin or medal ('The Tramble Talisman'). On the FRONT there are 15 bends - fourteen good bends and the Whatnot. At the REAR we find just 10 bends, with four others 'peeping through'. There is limited scope for trampling from front to rear, or vice versa, and that for a very good reason: bends on the front are for the most part 'like-handed', and those at the rear 'unlike-handed'. The one category does not easily change into the other. Such a change (it seems) can be effected only via Bends C, G L or R: these are shown accordingly on the front, where they rightly belong, but also as penetrating through in places to the rear. (Figs. 6 & 7)

On these charts, BENDS WHICH OCCUPY ADJACENT AREAS - sharing a common frontier, or meeting in a point - WILL TRAMPLE, i.e. convert directly into one another, without untying and tying afresh. In general, this is NOT the case with bends whose areas on the charts do not touch - although one or two notable 'skips' have come to light.

It is not possible to set down here the detailed investigations on which these charts are based. Suffice it to say, we have here some 70 possible transitions; each has to work in both directions, making 140 tuck-transforms in all! The writer claims to have tested out every one of them, and feels he can proffer the two charts, i.e. the Tramble Talisman, with modest confidence.

3 TRAMBLES
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Basic Tramble</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">R -- J -- L -- G -- Ck -- C -- T -- S -- Th -- R</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>A Front-side Tramble</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">R -- F -- M -- H -- N -- W -- C -- Kn -- R</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>A Rear-side Tramble</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">T -- X -- Z -- Fl -- S -- D -- Y -- Q -- Cf -- T</p>

It is as a Trampling Map that the Talisman will of course be judged. Three typical Trambles are given here, on which readers are invited to try their skill. The first of these was set out in detail, with all the necessary tucks - but in one direction only - in K.M. No. 10. (That Tramble, it will be noted, progresses from front to rear, via the 'penetrating' Bend C)

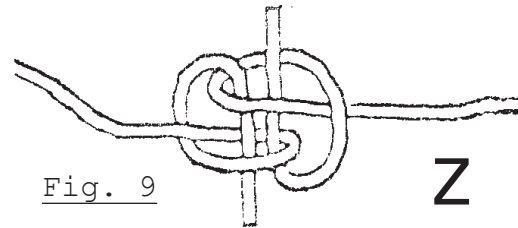
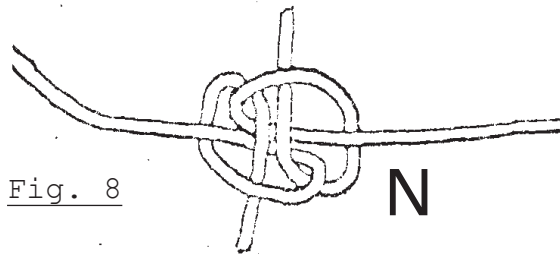
Readers may try their luck in making the Basic Tramble "go" in the opposite direction; and then see what sort of success they may have with the other two - the front-side and the rear-side Trambles.

In a further article, on the Technique of Trampling, the writer hopes to analyse the eighteen or so tucks and other manoeuvres needed by enterprising tremblers; to introduce a helpful shorthand for indicating which tucks to use in a particular case, and in what order; and to provide a full (shorthand) key to the three Trambles set out above - in case readers may have found themselves baffled!

Appendix

The Categories of "Handedness"

Compare Bends N and Z (Figs.8) Schematically, they are almost alike. However, N comprises a pair of like-handed, and Z of unlike-handed over-hand knots. They draw up into different shapes, and behave differently.



A moment's reflection will tell us that there must be two distinct Bends N - one composed of right-handed, the other of left-handed overhands.

These do in fact exist. They look and behave very much alike, but are not identical. On the other hand, when joining two similar cords, there can be only one Bend Z. In devising a Tramble, these distinctions have to be observed with care. Otherwise one ends up by proposing transitions that are impossible in practice, e.g. from an all-r.h. to an all-l.h. structure or (in general) from one of these to an unlikehanded one.

Almost all the bends shown on our first chart (Fig. 6) have what we may call straight symmetry. Their symmetry is such that any one of them, held up at eye level between two persons who are facing each other, (and if properly drawn up, and angled aright) will simultaneously present the identical appearance to either viewer. Each will see the "same" knot.

Bends on the second chart (Fig. 7) are also symmetrical, but theirs is a skew symmetry. Such a bend, in the case just envisaged, would have to be inverted, before viewer B could see the "same" knot, precisely, as viewer A had just seen. Alternatively, of course, viewer B might stand on his head. The two would then see the "same" knot simultaneously.

Bends of the first class are (with one or two exceptions) composed of like-handed elements, and fall into category "l". Those of the second class-fall without exception into category "k", the unlike-handed or counter-handed category.

There is a mixed category, too (category "m") consisting principally of Bends R and L. The half-knots of which the Reef is composed are unlike-handed; yet in this case there exist two Reef knots, not identical, depending on whether the first half-knot to be tied is right- or left-handed. Bend L comprises two unlike-handed loops.

Like/Unlike ("l"/"k") pairs of bends include N/Z, J/T, and Wh/Th.

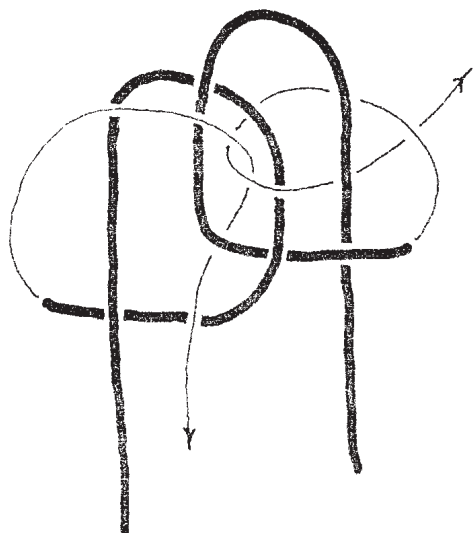
C/R, K/Kn on the other hand are "l"/"m" pairs. Further, each of the Bends B, C, F, P, Q, V and Y can exist in either of the two forms, viz. "l" or "k". Such pairs are rather like the two Bends N - not sufficiently distinct to be worth recording separately. The preferred form only of each is listed here.

(Bend X, a "k" bend, pairs with Harry Asher's 'Axolotl', an "l" bend, - fig.46b in his A New system of Knotting, Vol 1)

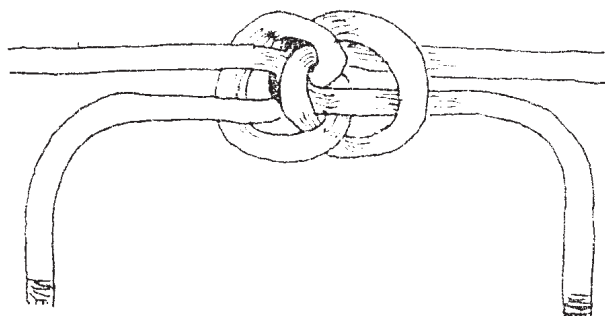
The Sheet Bend s is NOT a symmetrical bend. As commonly tied (A.1418 and A.1431), it consists of a right-handed loop in one cord engaging in a left-handed twist with the other, and is thus best described as neutral. (The same holds precisely for the so-called Left-Hand Sheet Bend A.1432. That bend is confusingly named; the writer prefers to call it the Off-Hand Sheet Bend, as the ends emerge on opposite sides)

Further New Twists

From
Owen K. NUTTALL

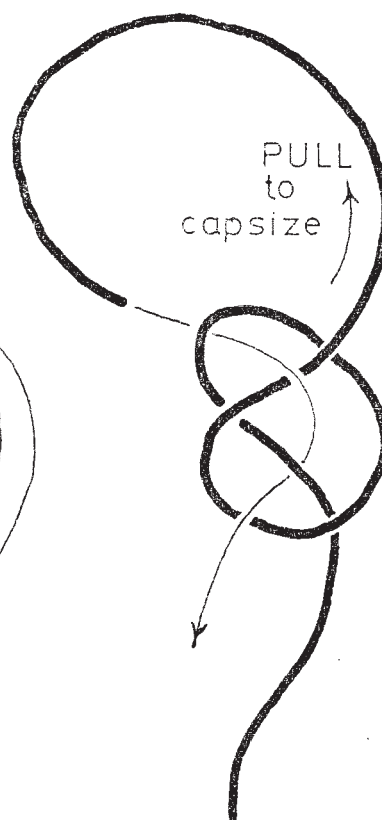
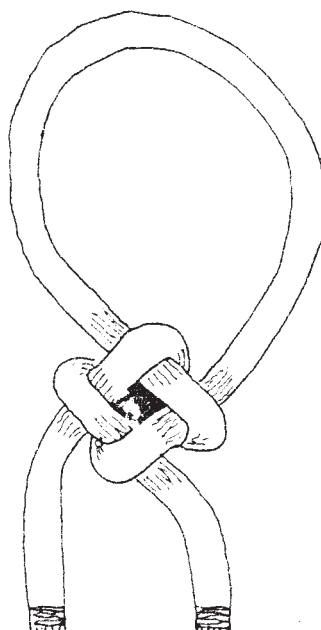
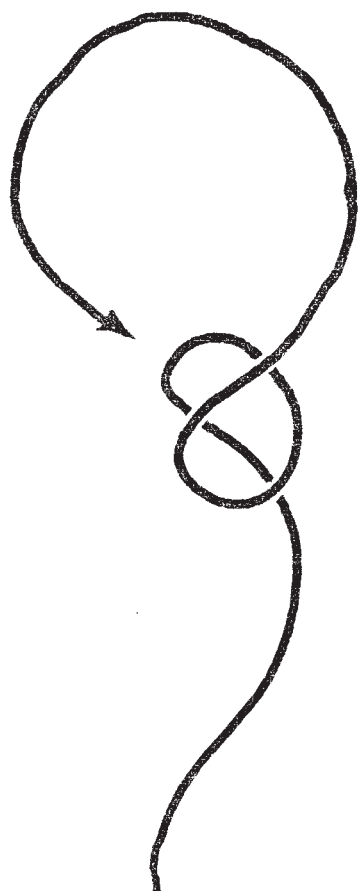


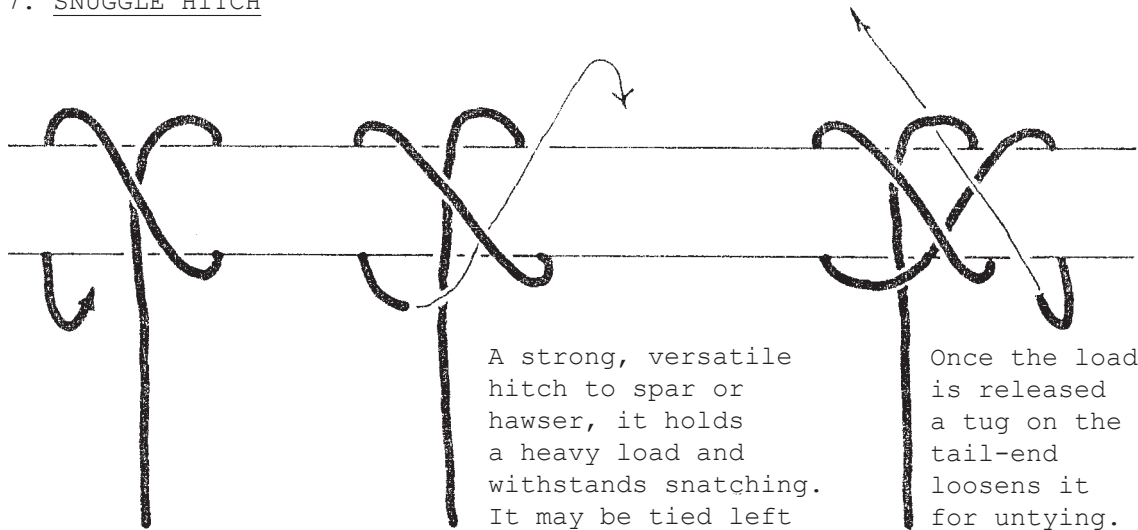
5. THREADED RINGS
This bend makes a good-looking rope belt buckle.



6. THE CHINESE CROWN

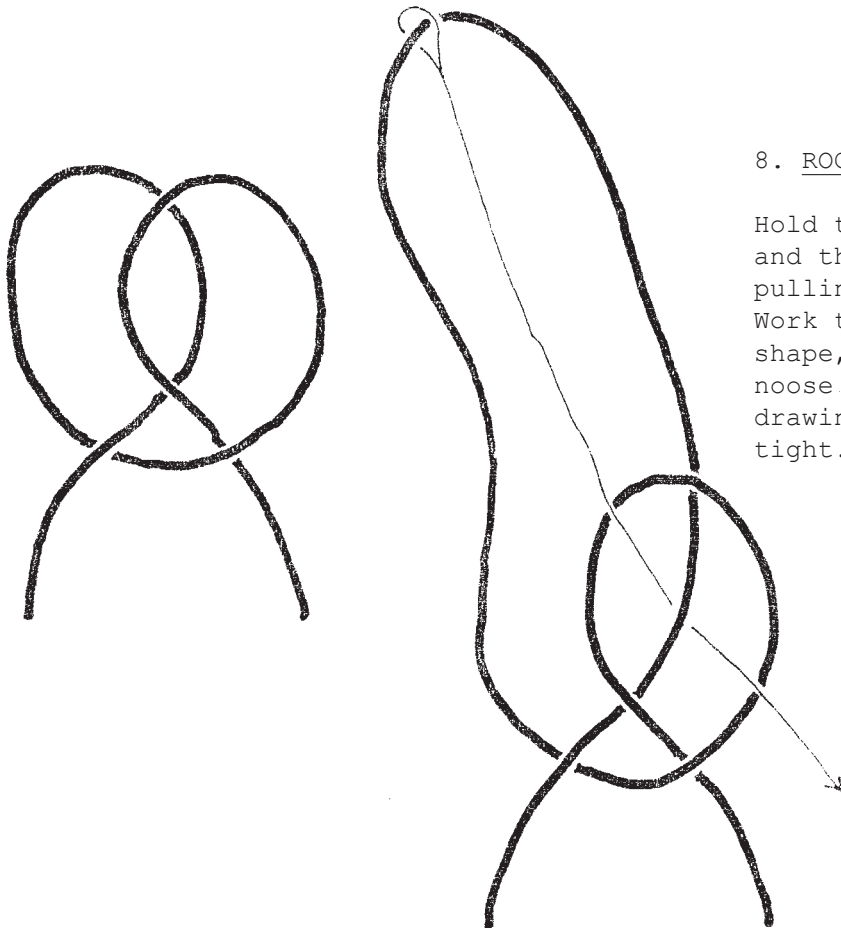
Some, especially children, may find it easier to tie this way.



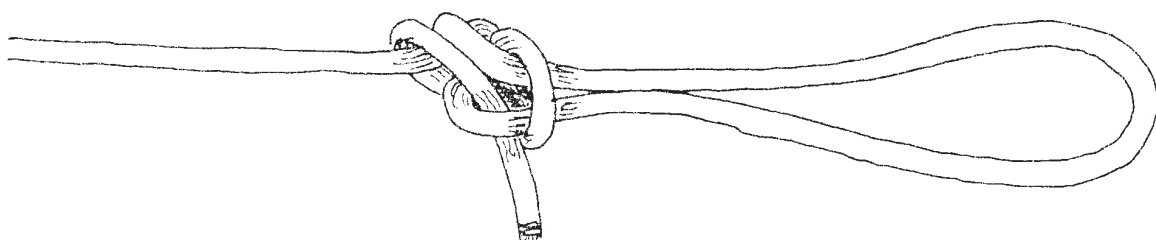
7. SNUGGLE HITCH

A strong, versatile hitch to spar or hawser, it holds a heavy load and withstands snatching. It may be tied left or right according to pull.

Once the load is released a tug on the tail-end loosens it for untying. Asher's law of hitch and bight applies.

8. ROCKING HORSE

Hold the standing part and the working end when pulling the loop through. Work this knot into shape, and adjust the noose for size, before drawing the knot up tight.



Letters

Dear Geoffrey,

Having recently joined the Guild, I'm fascinated at the amount of information contained in the Knotting Matters; to this end I'm asking for help.

I've just finished re-rigging a 60ft mast consisting of upper and lower mast, upper and lower yards, plus a 20ft gaff. The stays and lifts were in an awful state; the previous rigger had painted them white - pretty but dangerous.

The stays and lifts (yards and topping) were replaced with flexible steel wire, duly wormed, parcelled and served, then given a liberal coating of Stockholm tar.

My problem was serving the stays. When having to wait for a "helper" to turn up it got quite frustrating...and things got worse when they got bored, either going faster or slower than the server, or dropping the marline.

Have any of our members worked out a system of single-handed serving? If so, I'd like to hear from them.

Finally, I'm looking forward to Capt. McDowall's next installment on long Turks' Heads; spent many happy hours following his 'origami' method.

9 Sep 86

Best wishes to all,
Peter (Robson)

Flatholm Lighthouse,
c/o Trinity House Depot,
King's Dock,
SWANSEA SA1 8QT, Wales.

Dear Geoffrey,

I noticed on a rope maker's knot chart a Fisherman's Bend shown pulled up tight. I always thought it was made up slack and the ends seized. All natural fibres swell in water, and a 12" coir rope with a tight knot in it must have been impossible to untie; and it WAS untied every time the ship cleared land (the hawse pipe led directly in to the living space, so it had to be closed.

yours faithfully,

16 Aug 86

James GARSIDES

24, Station Road,
Airdrie ML6 7BZ,
Scotland.

Dear Geoff,

I was lucky enough to purchase the last copy of 'Knots & Crime' at the Knotting Extravaganza. I was so interested that I finished it in two days, and found knots I hadn't seen before. Your book now provides a superb source of reference. The system of classification using crossing points is very interesting and helpful. I am now using such a system to file knots on a computer database.

On the subject of tying shoelaces, it was suggested in a football magazine to tie HORIZONTAL on the upside - Ashley #2033. The reason for this was that the boot could be cut off easily if the foot or ankle was injured. If laces were crossed on the upside, then it is more difficult to use scissors.

If you can find the time please write more books.

5 Aug 86

Yours sincerely,
Paul STEMMAN

3, Regent Close, Fleet,
Hants. GU13 9NS.

Dear Mr. Budworth,

In the back of your 'Knot Book' is a note about the International Guild of Knot Tyers. I'd like to know more about this organisation and would welcome further information.

My own interest in knotting was aroused many years ago in the Scouts. My instructor in pioneering was a World War I army instructor in field engineering, and his approach was rather different from most in Scouting. For example, we built a square trestle bridge with a safe working load of 2 1/2 tons, and we tested it with invariable success. Others constructions were in proportion. Some years later, I took over the instructorship and added to the course some of the 'just for fun' constructions that John Sweet is so famous for. Since then, I have used knots in camping, climbing, caving, canoeing, sailing, fancy work and handyman activities.

I hope to hear from you soon about the Guild. Many thanks!

12 Sep 86

Charles WARNER

'Glenellen',
Hume Highway,
Yanderra 2574,
Australia.

Howdy,

Here is a hitch sent in by Mr. Bates of New York State. It's quite handy to tie and seems well-suited to synthetic line; anyone familiar with it?

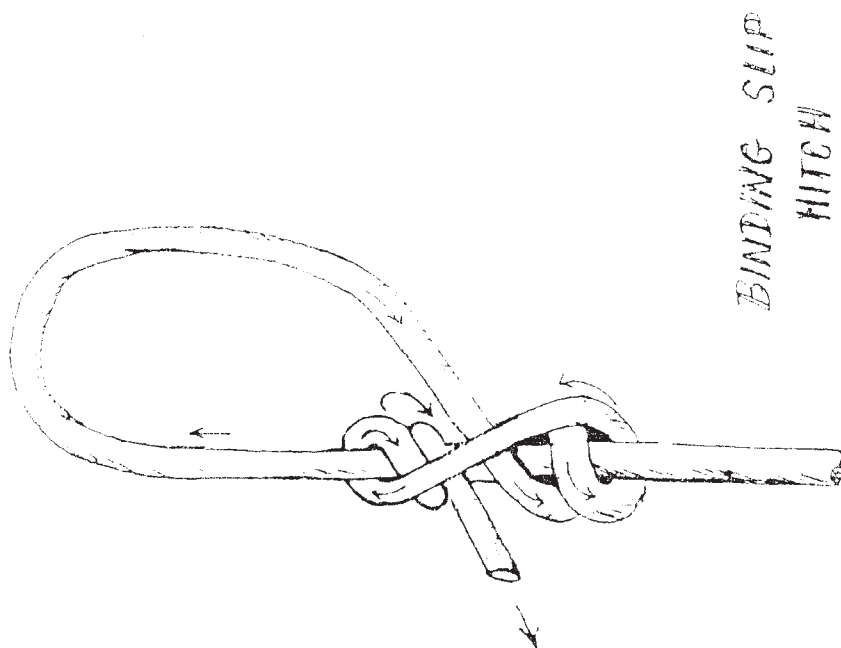
My back is working again, but I haven't forgotten the kindness and support (literal and figurative) that Guild members provided while I was over there, prone, and enjoying views of assorted English ceilings. Thanks again to all; I hope to see you again soon.

Fair leads,

23 Jul 86

Brion TOSS

(Ps - 'Sail' and 'Wooden Boat' magazines will be printing accounts of the 'Tie-a-thon'. I didn't get a piece done in time for the New Yorker, but have sent one to 'Sea History'. Will keep you posted.)



BINDING SLIP
HITCH

3/26 / 1986

KENNETH R. BATES
28 SCENIC DRIVE
POUGHKEEPSIE, N.Y. 12603

FLORIS HIN KERKSTRAAT 392 1017 JS AMSTERDAM tel: 020-210411
HOLLAND

- SCHEEPSTUIGER (oud-nederlands zellende blunewaarbedrijven)
- SCHIEMAN
- PUBLICIST

Dear Geoffrey,

In the Netherlands we started with our own local meetings. We keep them at one members home and we talk about, on, from and through knots and cordage; basic and decorative; amateuristic and professional; joymaking and technical; etc., etc.

This year we met each other twice and in future we want to try to have 3 or 4 meetings a year.

Next time I hope to write you more about these meetings.

*All the best
and a fare-ye-well,*

Floris HIN.

Amsterdam - 8th. October, 1986

Dear Geoffrey,

I do feel there is a slight lack of clarity of purpose among Guilds members, beyond the genuine interest in knots and knotting techniques which we all share. This is not in any sense a disparagement of what has been achieved to date; a great deal of progress has been made in a very short time, much of it thanks to you, but I wonder whether it is time to try and set a course for some clear objectives beyond the exchange of interest and views.

There is a dangerous stage which most organisations reach sooner or later, when most of the ground seems to have been covered, and nobody quite knows what to do next. The Extravaganza provided a grand objective, was a great success, but will be a hard act to follow. I would like to see Knot Tying generally accepted as a craft in its own right, able to hold up its head alongside pottery, weaving, embroidery, cabinet making and the like, but at the moment it ins not. Your average gallery and art college hardly know it exists beyond macramé, which means that the world is missing a great deal. How to improve the situation is the question

Regards,

Totnes, Devon

23 Sep 86

Stuart GRANGER

News- clips

'Daily Mirror' newspaper (right)

'This England' magazine (below)

both Autumn, 1986

KNOTS OF MAY

SIR: In the article "Good Friday Skipping" (Spring 1986) it appears that there is an old English dance called Knots of May. This may explain something that has puzzled me for a long time, namely the children's song "Here we come gathering nuts in May".

If Knots of May refers to bunches of May tied with knots of ribbon, these may have been the original words, and they may have been corrupted to nuts in May especially as young children would be much more interested in collecting nuts than in picking bunches of flowers.

This is conjecture, and confirmation is not likely, but the explanation may interest others who have also been puzzled by the absurdness of the idea of gathering nuts in May. — MRS. DOREEN M. WHITFIELD, HACKETT, A.C.T., AUSTRALIA.

LIVE Letters

Conducted by the Old Codgers

KNOT TO BE MISTAKEN

GRAHAM ROBERTSON, Cedar Court Road, Cheltenham, Glos, writes:

TRYING unsuccessfully to find the origin of the Staffordshire Knot, I feel sure you Old Pair will be able to untie this mystery.

I believe three men were hanged by this knot at one time.

A fourth criminal "got off" because he designed the knot and that was his reward.

★ Get knotted, Graham. That yarn about the thrifty hanging sheriff, who lost his government grant to buy more rope, and used the same knotted rope thrice, has been a long time dying.

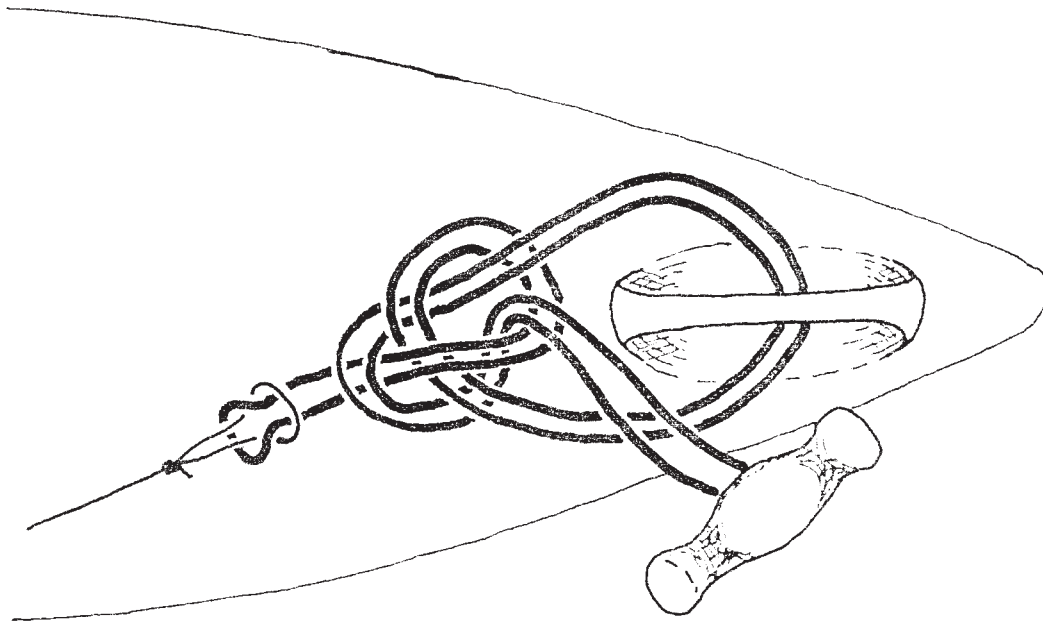
Just as the Dukes of York and Lancaster used white and red roses on their arms, and the Earls of Warwick a bear and staff, so the Earls of Stafford used the famous knot.

The British Library has a deed of Joan, daughter of Hugh, 2nd Earl of Stafford, bearing a wax impression of the knot dating from 1443 and that is probably not the earliest.

Other baronial families, bishops, churches, local councils, police forces, not to mention Staffordshire regiments, have all adopted the knot.

Triple Bowline *by* J. HARRISON

(SORT-OF-REVERSED)



Venturing upon the open sea in kayaks sometimes has canoeists at the very limit of control. Then security can fast turn into precariousness. A paddler sealed into a snug cockpit can rely only on stuff stowed within arms' reach. It is vital that gear is simple and reliable, and that remains true even if you end up "in the 'oggin". Kayaks no longer have rope loops fitted fore-&-aft as handholds. When a kayak spins about its long axis in surf, the loops could wind up like tourniquets and - in a second - trap you by the fingers. So, toggles have replaced them.

This variation of the Triple Bowline, proposed by J. HARRISON, is one way to do the conversion. The two large bights of the knot pass through a recessed hole in the nose of the kayak, while both ends are knotted into the toggle. The loop makes a handy attachment for a fitted lifeline, doubling as a painter or towrope.

(CAUTION - Whether or not this arrangement is trustworthy has yet to be proved. As John SMITH shrewdly observed in 'K.M.' issue No. 12, pages 16-17, it depends what line it's tied in)

Quotation

"Out on the exposed fore-deck two old sailors laboured, heads together, over a splice in a heavy mooring wire. Driving the steel marline-spike through the unyielding lay of the rope and hauling taut the springing strands was gruelling toil for such a day, and their thick grey shirts were dark with sweat."

'SEA TALES from 'Blackwood' - PERILS FOR TRIAL'
by James Harper (1953)

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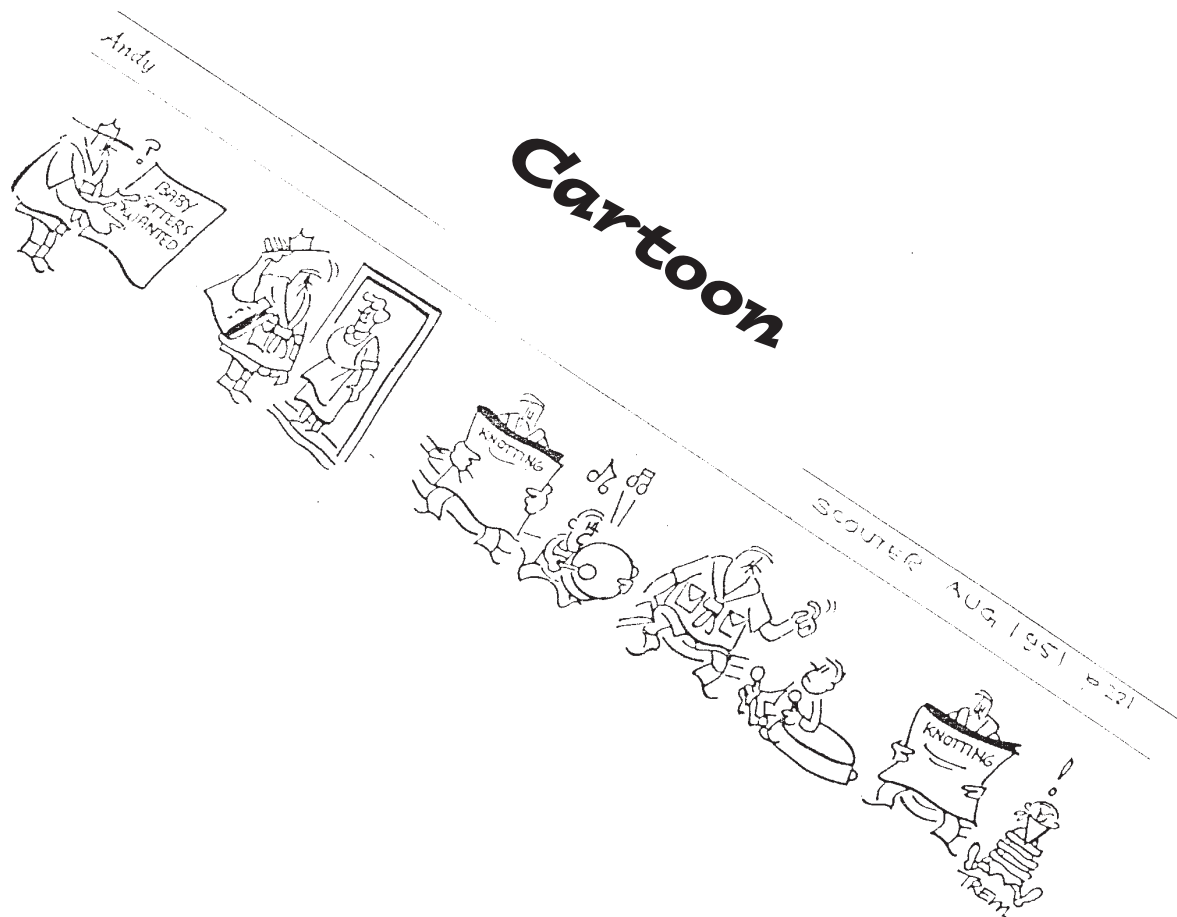
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

are payable each year on 1st. January, and now due for 1987. They are:- Juniors - ,£2.50p; Seniors - £10; Families - £15. Once 3 months has elapsed unpaid, membership ceases.

The Honorary Assistant Membership Secretary will, of course, send reminders to all concerned.

Only if you fail to respond, leave our letters unanswered, will you - eventually - be crossed off our list. That's only fair.

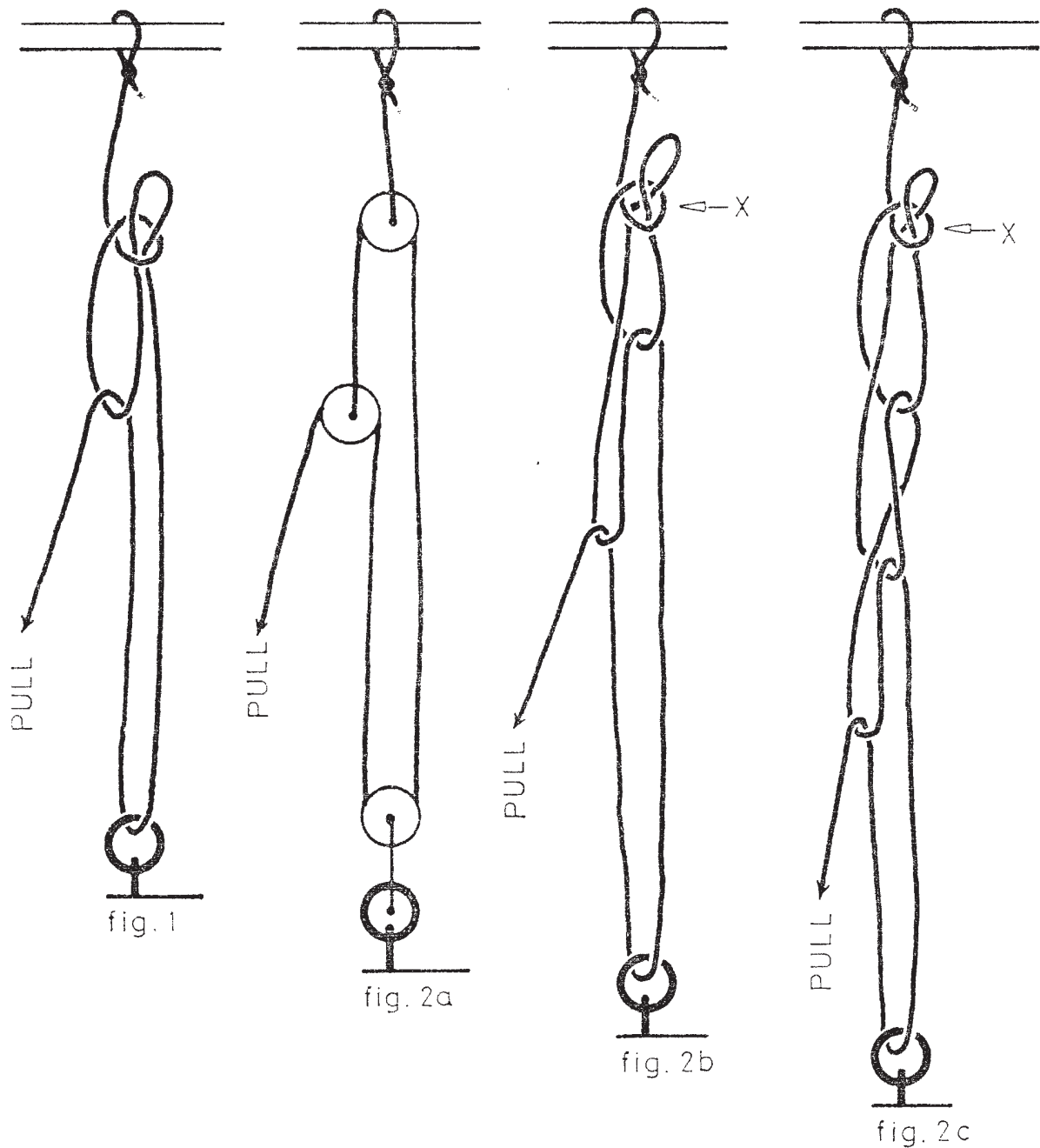
(See issue No. 14, page 18, for method of payment from abroad)



'Dutchman' *by Grover CROWE* of Nova Scotia Canada

The Waggoner or Trucker's Hitch (fig. 1) is much like a pulling hitch (fig. 2b) I use a lot and call the 'Dutchman'. It was shown me by an old tree climber I know, who said they used it to shift heavy limbs once cut. It might be interesting to see if its Mechanical Advantage (M.A.) outdoes the Waggoner's Hitch. I reckon fig. 1 gives a M.A. of 2. Fig. 2a should give a M.A. of 3, and fig. 2c might give a M.A. of 4.

Notice how you can add an extra tuck (fig. 2c), but too much power can pull the top hitch ('x') apart.



See the similarities of 2a & 2b.