



# FORGE

Dedicated to the revival of the King of Crafts

Vancouver Island Blacksmith Association  
www.viblacksmiths.com



Tutankhamun's golden mask. (Photo: Carsten Frenzi/CC BY 2.0)



Hieroglyphic term that translates literally into "iron from the sky"

Sunday, June 26, 2016

VIBA June Meeting

## 2016 Executive

*President: Neil*

*Gustafson*

*VP: John Archer*

*Secretary: Charlie Low*

*Treasurer: Norm Norby*

*Editor: Brody Smith*

**Publishing Info:** "Forge" is published monthly by and for members of the Vancouver Island Blacksmith Assoc. General Correspondence for VIBA: 1040 Marwood Ave, Victoria, BC, V9C3C4 (or directly to appropriate executive member). Permission granted for reproduction of any part of "Forge" provided credit is given to the original source, and the item is not marked 'copyright' or specifically stated to be for the sole purpose of "Forge". Unless otherwise stated, the editors are the authors of all material. Disclaimer Notice: "forge" makes every effort to ensure accuracy of the information contained therein, but the executive officers & general membership of the Vancouver Island Blacksmith Association including the editors, specifically disclaim any responsibility or liability for damages or injuries as a result of any construction design, use, or application of information contained in this newsletter. The use of any information is solely at the user's own risk.



Secretary's Report

By: Charlie Low

MAY, 2016

### Show and Tell:

Dan brought a couple of holders for sprinkler heads made from rebar, and a nice new table to show them on. He also had a lawn mower blade made into a machete, suitable for slaying zombies and werewolves. In the meeting, he brought out a bunch of jewelery- celtic trikeras (SP?) and a coptic baptismal cross. He would dearly love to have a jig for making them- John suggested holding them between 2 pieces of wood drilled in the appropriate pattern to file them without having to chase them around- any other ideas? Charlie L brought in a shoehorn and a piece of steel, both made from some half inch stainless round stock he picked up at a garage sale. The piece of steel had been quenched, one end from yellow and the other from orange, and bent cold- I suspect it is not high carbon steel. John brought in his highland dirk, now the property of the highland games people, modeled after the style popular about 1740. It is indeed a thing of beauty.

### Financial:

we are still nicely solvent. We really made a killing at the Luxton Spring Fair this weekend. Our sales amounted to \$70.50. The fair was a bit quiet at our end.

Mika brought a nice chipping hammer made from an old chisel, Aaron brought in quite a selection of tools: hammer eye tongs, diagonal peen hammer, camp axe, poz tongs, shingler's axe, another pair of tongs, a former big bolt which someday will be a flatter, dies for offsetting tong blanks, and pieces for another pair of tongs. Neil brought in some catalogues from [WWW.blacksmithsdepot.com](http://WWW.blacksmithsdepot.com) for a selection of blacksmithing tools.

### New Members:

Jesse Pearson, Ross Camenzind, Nora Fish, Dave Paul, Chris Wilson, and Steven Norton.

### Old business:

Neil talked to Cory Takanak, the manager of Teck Coal in Line Cr, near Sparwood. We can get truckloads of coal at the mine- we estimate it would cost about \$2000.00 to get a truckload delivered from there. We can get coal at Robert's Bank, provided we are equipped to take it by the bargeload. Quinsam Mine are not talking to us, so we are working on it. Other suggestions- make charcoal, even wood can be used in the appropriate forge, and there is always propane to fall back on. Neil was talking to Roger on Gabriola Is and exploring the used stuff store- got a big box that will do for storing tools in the flying forge.

### New Business:



Have something you would like added to the newsletter Email it.

[Arcingbrody@gmail.com](mailto:Arcingbrody@gmail.com)

Jake James will be giving a workshop this coming weekend, Saturday June 4 and Sunday June 5. There will be camping on site for those coming from away, admision is free for members, John won't be cooking- he is planning on having surgery, so someone else will be doing the hamburgs.

The fair the MFI were talking about for late June has been cancelled.

Fair dates: Pinic, July 30, Coombs, Aug 13 & 14, VIX Aug 19, 20 & 21, Cobble Hill, Aug 27, Saanich Sept 3, and 5, and somewhere in there there should be a blackmith's picnic- stay tuned for details.

There are a couple of jobs needing hands. Aaron volunteered to go through the first aid kit and see what needs work. The hydraulic ram on the pres needs some work. It is bleeding hydraulic fluid all over whenever anyone tries to use it.

Brenden's boss gave him a nice little fridge, which is now in the shop convenient to hand should something need to be cold.

## **What coming up this summer**

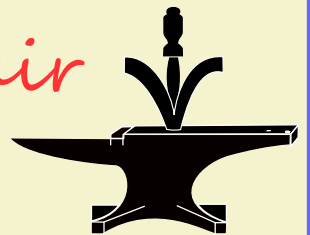
**Sunday, June 26, 2016 VIBA June Meeting**  
**July 31, 2016 VIBA July Meeting**  
**August 13 & 14, 2016 Coombs Fair**  
**August 19, 20 & 21, 2016 Vancouver Island Exhibition Naniamo**  
**August 27, 2016 Cobble Hill Fair**  
**Sept. 3, 4, & 5, 2016 Saanich Fair**  
**September 16, 17 & 16, 2016 Luxton Fall Fair**  
**Sunday, September 25, 2016 VIBA September Meeting**  
**Sunday, October 30, 2016 VIBA October Meeting**  
**Sunday, November 27, 2016 VIBA November Meeting**  
**No December meeting Seasons Greetings**  
**2016 Annual General Meeting January 29, 2017 at 11:00 am**

Vancouver Island Blacksmith Association



**ONLY YOU  
CAN START  
COAL FIRES**

*Sign up to volunteer at fair  
today!*

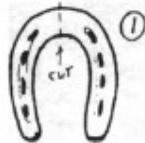


## "NO, BUT I DO RECYCLE THEM."

by Mike Persson

This can be your answer the next time somebody asks you, "Do you make horseshoes?" These quick and easy projects are not only crowd pleasers at demonstrations but will be appreciated by any of your friends who are farriers, horse owners, or wearers of western boots.

1) Take one worn-smooth horseshoe and cut in half. FIG. 1.



2) Over the anvil edge, fuller each half at about the level of the nail hole nearest the cut end. FIG. 2.



3) FOR A SET OF BOOTSTRAP HOOKS: Draw out the fullered portion to about a 6 inch long, round, tapered point and bend to the shape of FIG. 3



4) FOR A PAIR OF HOOFPICKS: Draw out the fullered portion to about a 3 1/2 inch taper. Keep the edges square and bend to the shape of FIG. 4



5) Wire brush and give your favorite finish.

### PROPER USE OF HORSESHOES Pete Brandenburg

For good luck, or to keep the Devil out, find a horseshoe and mount it over the doorway. Finding one is important—just getting one from the back of your truck won't work.<sup>4</sup>

Most people say you must hang a horseshoe outside a door with its prongs up so the luck doesn't drain out of the ends.<sup>1,2,3</sup> Not everyone agrees, though. Some claim that a horseshoe mounted with the prongs up will suck in and destroy the Devil if he comes close, and one mounted with prongs down will pour out magic and prevent the Devil from coming in.<sup>4</sup> Take your pick, but attach the horseshoe well or its magic will send you to the hospital.<sup>4</sup>

How does it work? The iron in the horseshoe wards off witches, evil spirits, fairies, and other bad things,<sup>3</sup> and people have long associated the crescent shape of the moon and animal horns with good.

Some think the significance of the horseshoe shape came from the rite of Passover, where blood sprinkled on door posts and lintel forms a crescent shape of sorts.<sup>3</sup> Hungarians have a tradition of marking a horseshoe shape with black chalk on stable doors.<sup>3</sup> Pre-Columbian Mexicans used horseshoe-shaped figures as fertility symbols.<sup>3</sup> Seeing a horseshoe in a dream means you will have a happy journey.<sup>2</sup>

Legend has it<sup>4</sup> that a cloaked man came to Saint Dunstan, an English blacksmith who later worked his way up to become Archbishop of Canterbury, and wanted the blacksmith to shoe him, not his horse. Dunstan knew that Satan had cloven hoofs, so he nailed Satan to the wall of the shop, and worked him over with a red-hot poker until he agreed never to enter a house that had an inverted horseshoe protecting the door.

If you need protection from evil while you're on the go, but want something that works with today's casual fashions, wear a ring made from a horseshoe nail. A horseshoe nail ring provides the same magic as a horseshoe<sup>4</sup>--make one today. Don't leave home without it.

<sup>1</sup> Leonard Ashley, The Wonderful World of Superstition, Prophecy and Luck, Dembner Books, New York, 1984.

<sup>2</sup> Gertrude Jobes, Dictionary of Mythology Folklore and Symbols, The Scarecrow Press, New York, 1962.

<sup>3</sup> Maria Leach (ed.), Standard Dictionary of Folklore Mythology and Legend, Funk & Wagnalls, New York, 1949.

Carole Potter, Knock on Wood: An Encyclopedia of Talismans, Charms, Superstitions & Symbols, Beaufort Books, New York, 1983.



Author: [Diane Johnson](#)

Post Doctoral Research Associate, Department of Physical Sciences, The Open University

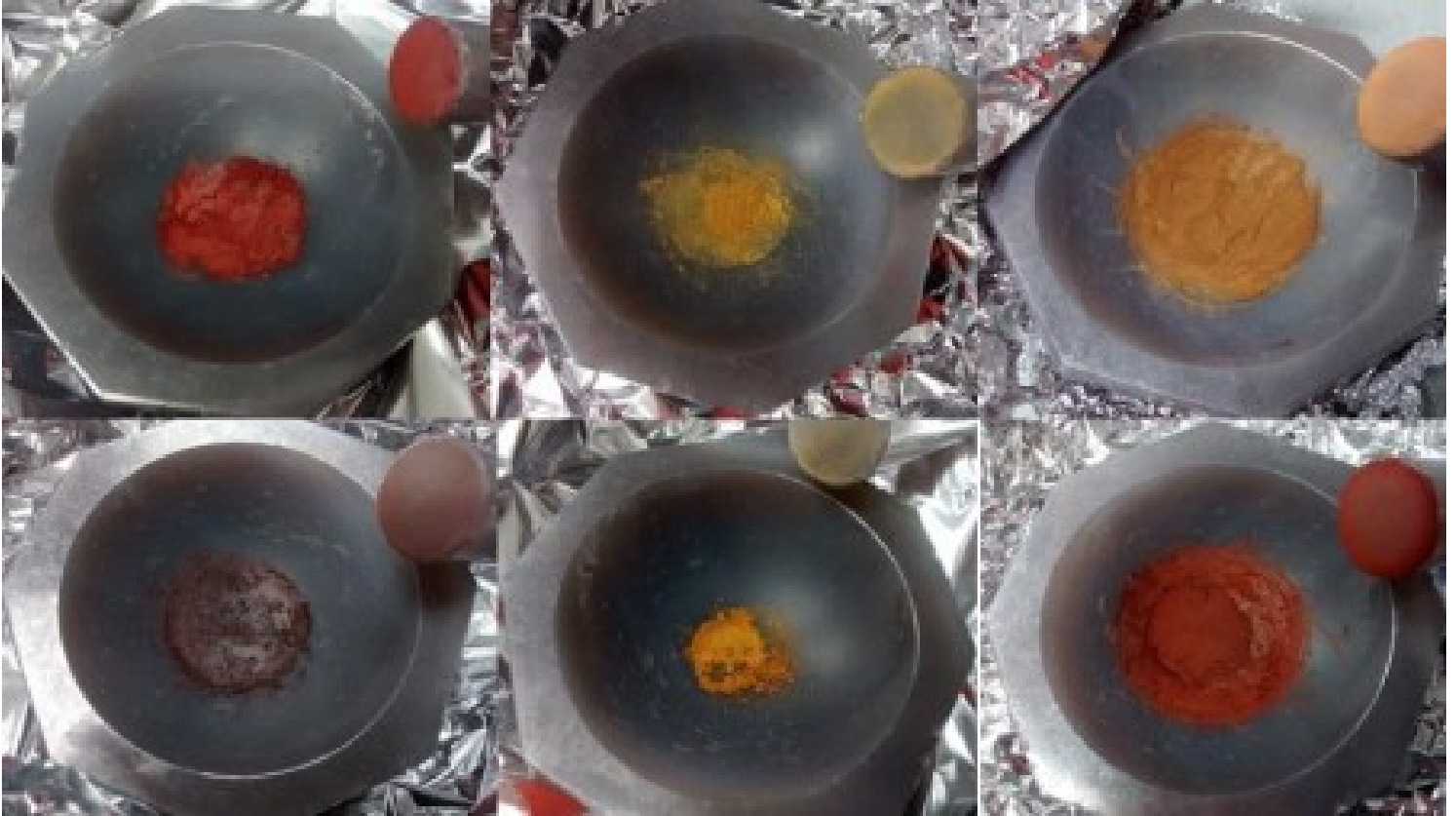
Scientists have long speculated that the ancient Egyptians used metal from meteorites to make iron objects. Now an [analysis of a dagger](#) found in Tutankhamun's tomb has given us [strong evidence](#) that this was the case – and that the Egyptians knew the iron had come from the sky. But why did they use such an unusual source for the metal when there's plenty of iron here on Earth?

Until recently, we didn't think that the ancient Egyptians were particularly good at producing iron objects until late in their history, around [500 BC](#). There's no archaeological evidence for significant iron working anywhere in the Nile Valley. Even the large amounts of iron-rich smelting waste products found in the Delta region could actually have been produced by attempts to make copper. When Tutankhamun died – 800 years earlier – iron was a rarer material than gold.

The most common natural source of metal iron on Earth is iron ores – rocks that contain iron chemically bonded to other elements.

These [need to be processed](#) by heating them with other materials (smelting) to extract a low-quality form of iron, which is then beaten with hammers to remove impurities. This requires considerable know-how, effort and tools that we have no evidence for in ancient Egypt.

There were **abundant supplies** of iron ore in both Egypt and the Sinai peninsula and textual sources indicate that Egyptians were aware of the metal from early in their history. But the ore was mostly used to create pigments for art and make up. One explanation for this may be that the readily accessible iron ores were of poor quality so couldn't be worked into more useful metal.



Egyptian iron ores, crushed ready for analysis showing the range of colours produced by ores (image: D.Johnson Open University)

- **Interstellar source**

But iron doesn't just come from iron ore. We have evidence that numerous prehistoric societies worldwide which did not have access to ores or knowledge of smelting made use of metallic iron found in **occasional meteorites**. This precious gift from nature still required shaping into a useful form, often resulting in very basic iron objects, such as small thin metal pieces that could be used as blades or bent into shapes.

If ancient Egyptians knew that iron could be found in meteorites that came from the sky – the place of the gods – it may have been symbolically important to them. As a result, they could have seen all iron as a divine material that wasn't appropriate to work into a practical, everyday form and that should be reserved only for high-status people.



The earliest known ancient Egypt iron object: a meteorite iron bead from a prehistoric cemetery Diane Johnson/The Manchester Museum, Author provided.

The ancient language also offers clues as to how iron was perceived by Egyptians – and that they knew meteorites were a source of the metal. The earliest hieroglyphic word for iron was greatly debated by translators, who frequently confused the words for copper and iron. The word “bi-A” was eventually translated as “iron”, but could easily have referred a range of hard, dense, **iron-like materials**.

The word was used in many texts including the funerary Pyramid Texts, early religious writings dating from approximately 2375 BC but likely to have been composed far earlier, carved on the internal walls of **some pyramids**. These textual references to iron connect it with aspects of the sky and with the bones of the dead king who will live for ever as an undying star in the sky.

From the beginning of the 19th Dynasty (approximately 1295 BC) a new hieroglyphic word for iron appeared: “bi-A-n-pt”, which literally translates as “**iron from the sky**”. Why this new word appears in this exact form at this time is unknown but it was later applied to all metallic iron. .



An obvious explanation for the sudden emergence of the word would be a major impact event or large shower of meteorites. This would have been witnessed by much of the ancient Egyptian population, leaving little uncertainty as to where exactly the mysterious iron came from. One possible candidate event is the Gebel Kamil meteorite impact in southern Egypt. Although its exact date remains unknown, based upon nearby archaeology we know it occurred within the past **5000 years**.



Replica iron meteorite beads displayed here with original prehistoric Gerzeh cemetery beads held at the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, UCL. But did the ancient Egyptians in 3300BC know this iron came from a meteorite? (Image: D. Johnson Open University, Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, UCL)



- **Ritual significance**

Iron is also connected to ritual artefacts such as those used in the **Opening of the Mouth ceremony**, a ritual performed at the entrance of a tomb designed to transform the mummy into a latent being with the potential for life. Later texts, including temple inventories, that reference the equipment used in this ceremony refer to the iron blades used as “**the two stars**”. It may be that iron was allowed an important role in this ceremony because of the association of iron with meteorites, powerful natural phenomena whose own inherent power might increase the potency of the ritual.

We also know that iron dagger blades were important enough to be mentioned in diplomatic correspondence. The **best-known example** is a letter from King Tushratta of Mitanni (today in northern Iraq and Syria) detailing a dowry of his daughter who was to be sent as a bride to Tutankhamun’s grandfather, king Amenhotep III. This letter intriguingly refers to a dagger blade of “habalkinu”, a poorly documented word derived from the ancient Hittite language which some linguists have translated as “steel”.

Only further detailed analysis of the chemistry and microstructure of other artefacts will tell us if meteorites were a common source of the iron that the ancient Egyptians produced. We also need to determine when where and how the smelting of terrestrial iron ores started in Egypt to further guide us in our knowledge on the origins, evolution and specific techniques of ancient Egyptian metalworking technology. By combining this with our knowledge of the cultural importance of iron, we can start to develop a realistic understanding of the true value of this metal in ancient Egypt.

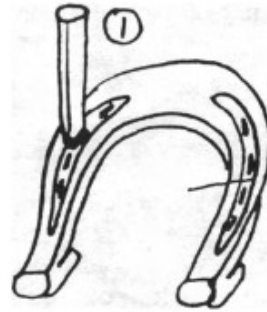
Reprinted from the March, 1990, issue of *The Rivet*,  
newsletter of the Western Canadian Blacksmith Association

## HORSESHOE BOOT SCRAPER

by Charles Arbuckle and Alan W. Brown  
(From The Traditionalist)

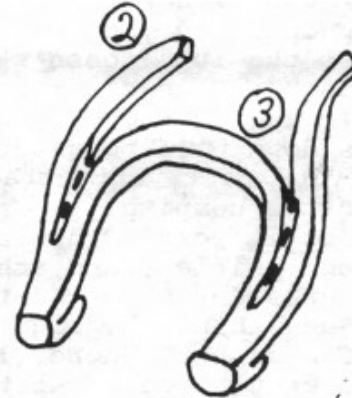
**STOCK:** One thrown horseshoe, 3/8" x 7/8" crosssection above the caulks.

1) Heat and hot cut the shoe, following the nail crease. Start at the third nail hole from the caulk on one side of the shoe and cut around to the corresponding hole on the other side.



2) Hot cut top separated section at the center, and fold back.

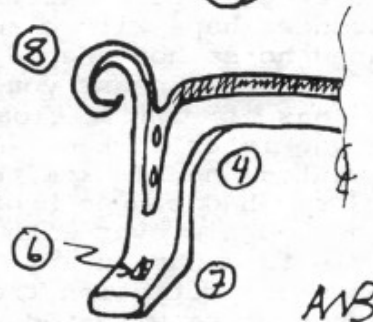
3) Heat center section and draw out to form the scraper section.



4) Make a 90 degree flat bend at the end of the scraper section.

5) Straighten out caulks or draw out if they were welded.

6) Punch hole in the ends to fasten boot scraper onto porch floor or log, etc.



7) Make a 90 degree bend in the feet.

8) Draw out split off section and form into a scroll.



SALT LAKE CITY

CONFERENCE



**2016 ABANA  
CONFERENCE**

**JULY 13-16**

*education*



[abana.org/2016SLC](http://abana.org/2016SLC)

## Vancouver Island Blacksmith Association Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Post/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Regular Membership.....\$50/year

Members are required to sign a liability waiver. Make cheques and money orders payable to:

Vancouver Island Blacksmith Assoc.  
1040 Marwood Avenue  
Victoria, BC, Canada.

## Artist Blacksmith Assoc. of North America Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Post/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Youth 18 and under..... \$20/year

Full Time Student.....\$45/year

Regular Membership.....\$55/year

Senior Citizen (Age 65+) ...\$50/year

Overseas Surface Mail .....\$60/year

Overseas Air Mail .....\$80/year

Contributory Membership....\$150/year

Educational Institution membership  
\$250/year

### Credit Card Payment.

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Visa  Mastercard

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

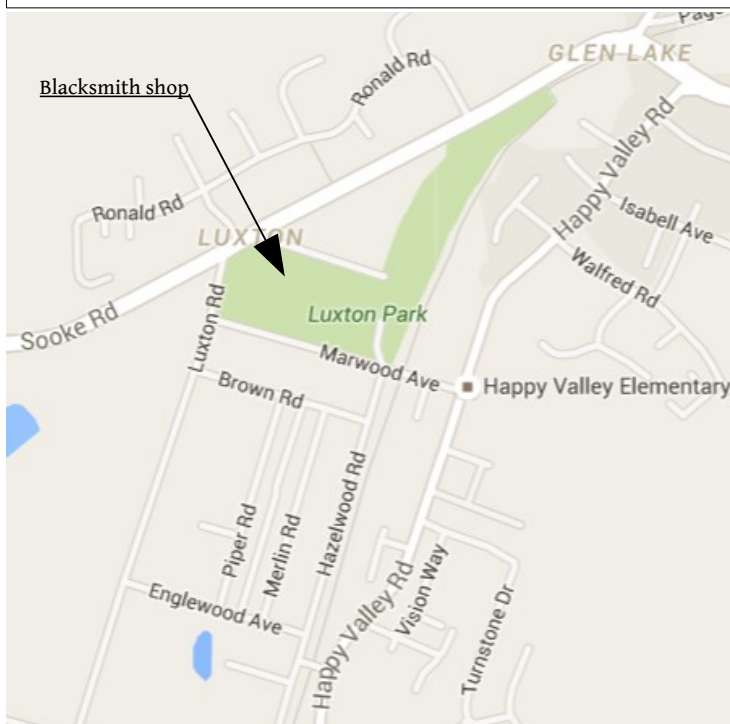
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

ABANA Central Office  
259 Muddy Fork Road  
Jonesborough, TN 37659

Phone: (423) 913-1022

Fax: (423) 913-1023

Email: [centraloffice@abana.org](mailto:centraloffice@abana.org)



Have you seen something that you want to share or have something you would like to write. We are always accepting freelancers send in photos, upcoming events shoot me an Email:

[Arcingbrody@gmail.com](mailto:Arcingbrody@gmail.com)