

Artisans Quarterly Review

H A N D C R A F T E D C U S T O M W O O D W O R K I N G

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B A B B L I N G E D I T O R I A L

What to babble about, what to babble about ... Well this is our first issue of 2010, we're a bit late with the release but it's out. As far as 2009 is concerned, it is over, and honestly we can't say we're sad to see it go.

Anyway we're pushing ahead with our project for the Philly furniture show, we've already received some great publicity, and we're going full steam with our [Facebook pages](#).

Eric he got himself a new Cannon D50 digital SLR! If you keep tabs on us we'll hopefully increase the quality and quantity of our photo documentaries, restoration details, and commission profiles.

Starting with this issue we're putting the camera to use, challenging Eric's photography skills, and upping the photo density in all our mediums.



H O P E W E L L E X P R E S S F E A T U R E S A R T I S A N S O F T H E V A L L E Y !

"Hopewell Express" provided some front page exposure for Artisans of the Valley this February. The article by Diccon Hyatt describes Eric & Stanley and a bit about our family business.



For the full article visit the following link:

http://www.artisansofthevalley.com/docs/Hopewell_Express_Article_02-2010.pdf



Article Photos by Suzette J. Lucas

KEEPING TABS ON PHILLY 2010 PREP WORK



Artisans of the Valley is attending this year's Philadelphia Fine Furniture Show at the Philly Cruise Terminal featuring 100 of the area's top artists and furniture makers.

Getting ready for the Philly show is a series of projects, we're taking along one of our gothic tables, an oak server, several carvings, and a few other pieces. Shown in this update are the ram carvings from the EBRU-TV shoot getting their makeup and touchups for their first in person debut in March!



[LINK TO PHILADELPHIA FURNITURE SHOW 2010—HALF PRICE TICKET FORM!](http://www.artisansofthevalley.com/docs/pifs_2010_artisans_ticketform.pdf)
http://www.artisansofthevalley.com/docs/pifs_2010_artisans_ticketform.pdf

CUSTOM HAND MADE CHIPPENDALE CURIO UNIT

This one-of-a-kind solid mahogany Chippendale curio unit is entirely hand made. The moldings are hand carved, providing a unique flow of fine tooling marks over the surface. Each commissioned piece is an individual signed work of art. Hardware featured on this piece is by Horton Brasses. (www.horton-brasses.com)



MAGNIFIED HANDLES

What does one do with an antique umbrella handle when the umbrella is beyond repair? This is a simple, but unique project. The basic premise is out in the world there are some rather ornate and valuable umbrella handles that are short their umbrella. This gold engraved handle is just far too beautiful waste away in a drawer somewhere without a purpose.



THIS IS NOT YODA!

The likeness of this little green figure really only makes him, well ... a little green guy that is perched atop a diamond willow staff. Another great example of one of Stanley's creative and functional walking sticks.

CIVIL WAR STAFFS

Another personalized walking stick, a civil war theme obviously, illustrates details of an individuals life, hobbies, and commemorates American history.



STANLEY'S CROSSING

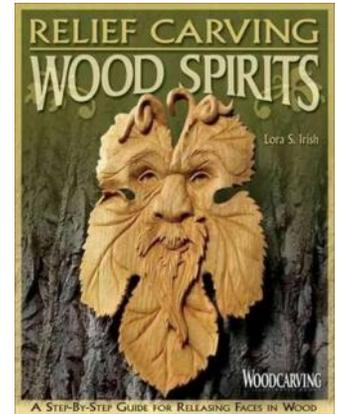
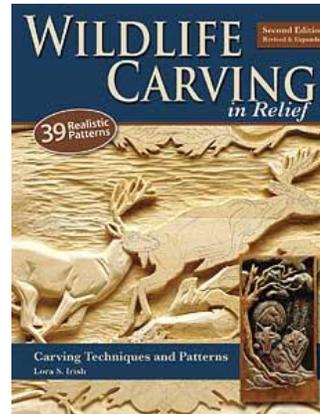
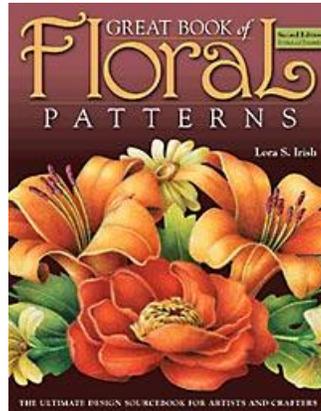
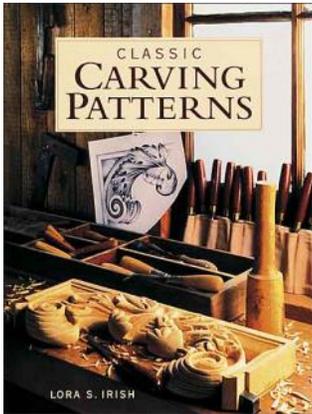
Every year Master Craftsman Stanley D. Saperstein (Left) dons his Timothy Murphy gear and joins the Christmas day reenactment of George Washington's famous crossing of the Delaware River. This year Channel 12 News even interviewed Stan for his views of the crossing.

Rip Derringer (Right) portrays a Revolutionary War rifleman. The pair is standing in front of the Nelson House, along the NJ side of the Delaware in Washington Crossing State Park. This historic home features period furnishings as well as old photographs of the railroad and canal transportation.



THE BOOKS OF LORA S. IRISH

We've mentioned pattern artist Lora S. Irish a few times in our newsletter before ([See Page 10 of Vol. 2 Issue 4](#)) as one of our favorite sources for amazingly detailed carving patterns. Well it just so happens that Lora's publisher, Fox Chapel Publishing, has offered Artisans the opportunity to distribute her books at the Philly Furniture Show this spring. We're happily extending this offer to our clients and affiliates as well. If anyone is interested in learning woodcarving, has some woodcarvers in the family they need some great gifts for, etc ... let us know and we'll hook you up!



<http://www.foxchapelpublishing.com/search.aspx?SearchTerm=irish>

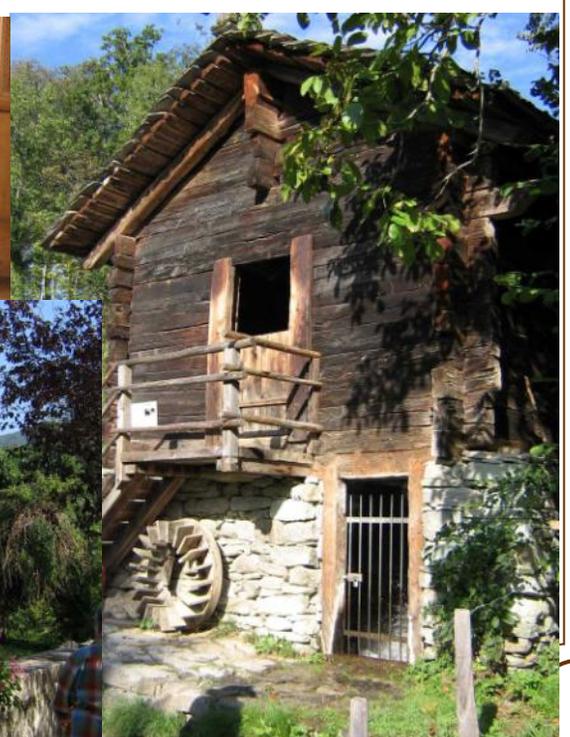
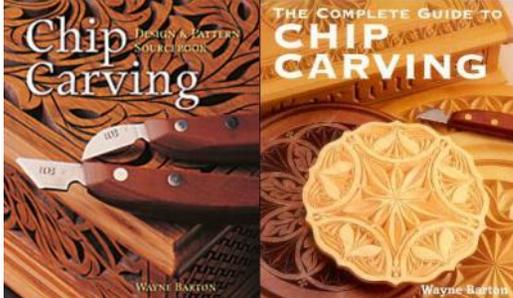
Click the link above for a complete listing of books by Lora S. Irish

WAYNE BARTON'S WOODCARVINGS & TOURS



While we're featuring artists and offering books, we should discuss chip carver and author Wayne Barton. Back in 2005 Stanley and Cindy took a [15 day tour of Switzerland](#) designed for those who enjoy historical antiquity, breathtaking scenery, and a sense of adventure and discovery. The trip was offered through [Chestnut Tours](#), which is operated by Wayne who just happens to be a world renowned woodcarver himself and [Director of The Alpine School of Woodcarving](#).

We'll also be promoting Wayne's books, featuring an array of chip carving patterns and techniques. (Photo feature below!) Guide Wayne Barton blends unusual points of interest with breathtaking scenery and pleasant discoveries at every turn, all at a leisurely pace.



Swiss Photography by Becky Bumgarner

BAKER END TABLE RESTORATIONS



New finish, new leather, new life! The main feature of this restoration is replacement leather by Heath's Restoration of Pomfret Center, Ct. Russell Heath provides Artisans with a variety of options for leatherwork, embossing, and gold leaf work.

We'll send out templates using the old leather, receive the newly cut pieces, and install them as required. The net result can be a restored as close to original as possible or a whole new look!

FURNITURE SHOW SPECIAL GUEST—DAVID HEALY

Our Philly Furniture Show offers some unique opportunities to introduce some of our friends and affiliates. Among those joining us for this event will be renowned furniture expert and historian David Healy. Below is a short introductory Auto-Bio.

"After 30 years of dabbling at woodworking I became acquainted with using only hand tools when I volunteered at Pennsbury Manor in 1996 at the Joyner Shop.

*Palmer Sharpless and George Lott provided me a wonderful set of skills. In 2002, Palmer died and George moved. I was asked to coordinate the Joyner Shop operation. I was very fortunate to have Adam Cherubini and Paul Dzioba join the shop. Adam spearheaded the effort to turn the shop into a working model of a late 17th century Joyner's Shop. He and Paul made and modified tools to look like the drawing from Moxon's 1685 book *Mechanicks Exercises* including saws, chisels, planes brace and spoon bits etc. The addition of Warren Mickley three year's ago has enhanced the shop with his skills as a turner as well as a cabinetmaker. A Great Wheel lathe and a treadle lathe allow for popular demonstrations.*

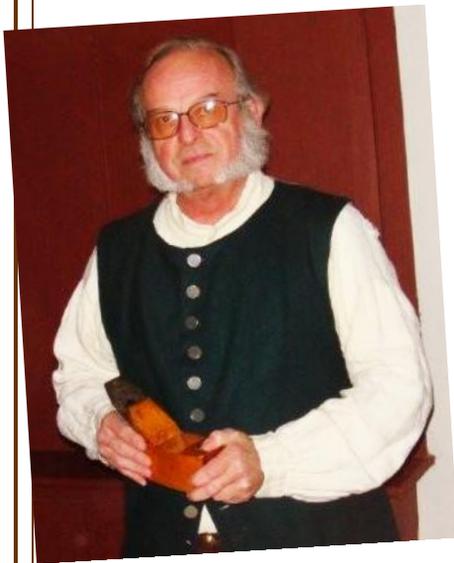
In the shop we have made a William and Mary High Chest as well as two forms (benches) which are housed in the Manor house.

In addition to demonstrating 17th century techniques, I demonstrate at the Readington Museum in NJ and the Moland House museum in Warwick Pa. Both these sites are 18th century and I am able to note the changes in tools and techniques as well as the construction and style changes in furniture that occurred in the Mannerist, William and Mary, Queen Anne, Chippendale/Rococo, and Federal periods.

My interest in the history of this time period also involves the development and usage of woodworking tools. My goal is to present the period as accurately as possible by using the tools, methods and materials that would have been used.

My woodworking education started with a course in 1975 with Stan Saperstein at Trenton State College. I have since attended nearly all the Colonial Williamsburg annual symposia on Woodworking In the 18th Century as well as a number of courses taught at Bucks Community College's Fine Woodworking program."

- David Healy



FOR A BLOW OUT? - BLOW IN! - FORGE BELLOWS



This Blacksmith's forge bellows is one of the original functional pieces from the Blacksmiths of Lakewood, NJ. The piece has been on display at the Lakewood Heritage Museum and now funds have been raised to restore this it back to its original state.

The piece will be broken down to its component sections, which will be reglued and reassembled as required. The working hinges and leather will be repaired and replaced as needed. The internal ribs will be replaced, the originals are too far deteriorated to restore the piece to a functional condition.

New leather is from Heath's Restoration Shop; Russ Heath provided the sewing and pattern cutting to provide a close fit for our installation. Artisans will be gluing and tacking the new leather in place.

The project seemed perfect for a few pages of photos illustrating the process from start to finish. A bellows is a simple machine, but the restoration is time consuming especially when there's oh maybe 1,000 upholstery tacks holding the leather in place!

This piece will soon be on display at the Lakewood Heritage Museum!



FORGE BELLOWS CON'T







CANNONS & COAL MINES

Hotchkiss, in short, is a French arms manufacturer which provided a variety of weapons ranging from small artillery to machine guns around the turn of the century. This particular piece, an 1880 1.65" light artillery gun, was designed to be packed by mule to accompany cavalry troops when engaged in rough country maneuvers. Broken down, the extremely portable 362lb piece was designed to be transported by two mules. In addition to the cannon and carriage, each mule load included 72 rounds.

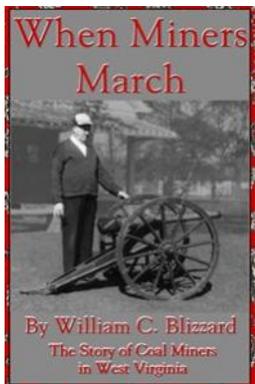
The U.S. Military obtained the first of their Hotchkiss guns in 1876, introducing it in combat against the Nez Perce Indians in 1877. Early models were configured with a friction fire mechanism, which was later updated to support center fire smokeless powder shells for the Philippine American War.

These mountain guns fired to a range of two miles, a 2.62lb common shell, either base fused or nose fused. The common shell would explode on contact showering the enemy with jagged fragments. Close range encounters employed a 3.47lb canister cartridge, which would rip open at the muzzle spraying the enemy in a fan shaped pattern of hardened lead ½ inch balls. The early cartridge case did not have a primer. Instead there was a hole in the center covered internally with a diaphragm. The gun was fired by a friction primer inserted into the back of the breech housing.

Only fifty-six of these small cannons were imported into the US, thus not many remain in circulation. One of these rare guns appeared in Artisans' shop for a much needed restoration. Most of you couldn't care less about the military stats, so let's get into some more interesting facts about this particular gun, which ended up being used in the West Virginia coal mine riots!



"The Battle of Blair Mountain was one of the largest armed uprisings in American history. From August to September 1921, in Logan County, West Virginia, more than 10,000 coal miners confronted state and federal troops in an effort to unionize the West Virginia mines. It was the final act in a series of violent clashes that have been termed the Red Neck War, from the colour of neckscarves worn by the miners." - historypodcast.blogspot.com



A little known piece of history, this clash engaged miners, private security agencies, local mine owners, guard units, police, and even federal troops. Implements of destruction ranged from small arms to fully operational machine guns, planes, vehicles, and this very gun was manned by Kentucky National Guard. The cannon was captured by the miners when the guard unit hesitated when executing the order to fire artillery against civilians. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Blair_Mountain

"WHEN MINERS MARCH author William C. Blizzard has been featured by the History Channel on their prime time special, HILLBILLY, The Real Story. Audio drama and music sound track producer Ross Ballard also got "screen time" and project scholar Wess Harris provided countless hours of backgrounding for the production crew. Scenes on the Battle of Blair Mountain are more accurate than any prior documentaries. Check the History Channel web site for upcoming air dates."

"When Miners March is the definitive history of the coal miners of West Virginia. William C. Blizzard wrote the text in the early 1950s while his father, miner's hero Fearless Bill Blizzard, was still alive and able to comment. Political realities kept the book in a box for more than half a century--unavailable to either scholars writing their own accounts of the mine wars or Union families seeking to pass on their own proud heritage. The text has not been edited from the original (No Need. A Great Read.) but pictures and documents from the collection of William C. Blizzard have been added giving readers a first hand look into our Union roots."

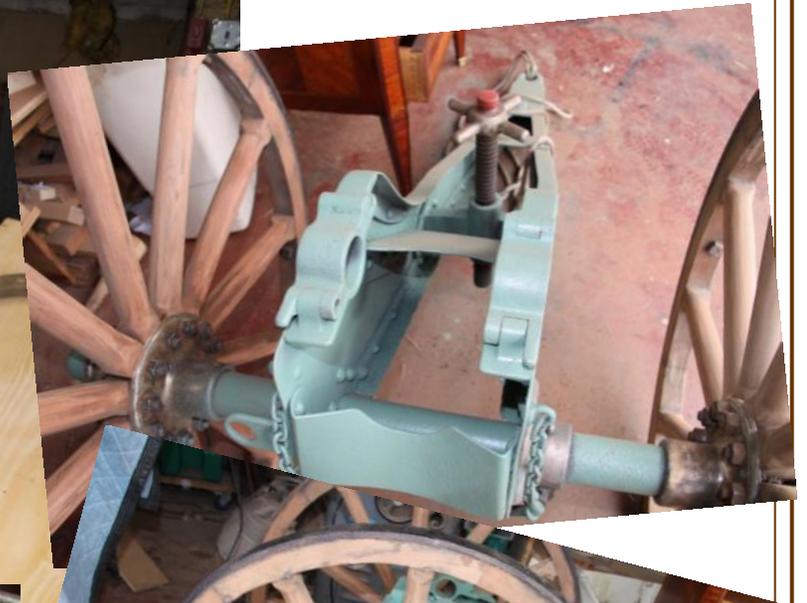
The restoration of this piece included breaking down the gun to its basic assemblies, removing and treating the rusted surfaces, and then painting it to match its original documented colors. Cannons of this transitional period continued to utilize wagon style wheels. Rubber was scarce and the vulcanization process was not perfected to produce reliable air filled tires. The military continued to use wagon wheels on artillery through World War I. The wheels were moisturized and varnished, and should be maintained with a regularly scheduled light spray of water to keep the joints swelled into position. Wheels that are allowed to get dry will begin to separate and loosen.

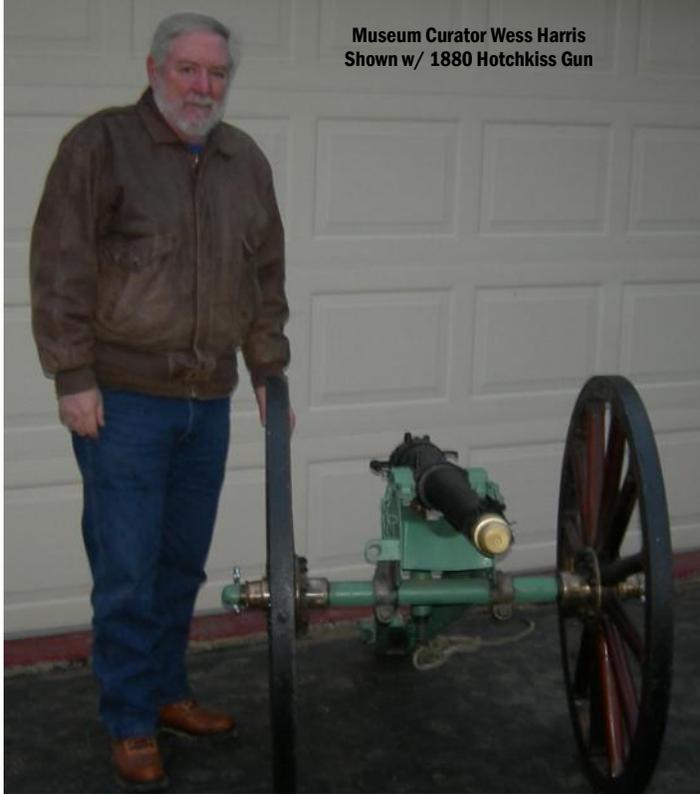
* Quoted text from: <http://www.whenminersmarch.com/>

CANNONS & COAL MINES BEFORE RESTORATION

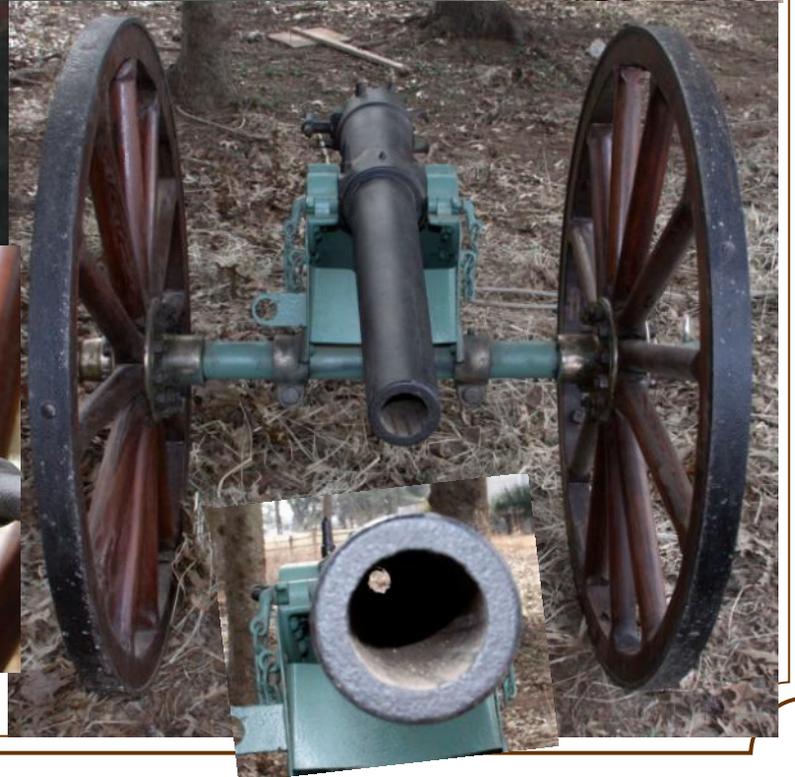


CANNONS & COAL MINES BEFORE RESTORATION





Museum Curator Wess Harris
Shown w/ 1880 Hotchkiss Gun



AMAZING TRANSITIONS

This inlaid secretary received a full restoration. The original lacquer was removed, the entire piece broken down then reassembled, and a hand rubbed shellac and tung oil finish has been applied.



SHERIDAN SERVER RESTORATION



Finish, veneer, doors, general structure repairs and restoration were all required to bring full brilliance back to this Sheridan server. (Studying the photo to the bottom right) The crazing and darkened surface clearly obscures the warmth and glow regained by our restoration process.

The completed restoration brings out the striped mahogany, further develops the contrasting inlay, and regained drawer and door functionality.



TODL SURPASSES 50,000 MEMBERS! (P R P R I N T)

Press Release: February 12th, 2010 TODL approved its 50,000th trade member for access to the longest running and largest design research and specification library exclusively for the A&D industry. *(Artisans has been spec'ed since 2008.)*

This is quite a milestone for a company that has never had an automatic password generator; in fact, each and every application submitted to TODL gets personally reviewed and verified prior to granting access. While a tedious and time-consuming process over the years, it is integral to TODL's core strength.

TODL serves the design professional at the day-to-day, real-life business level. Projects often have hundreds, if not thousands of products that have to be researched and specified to meet specific parameters - project type, design style, quality, application, price and lead time. The time spent on finding each of the products and services necessary to complete a project can determine the bottom line for any design professional.

TODL is solely concerned with providing its 50,000 trade members with a true specification library comprised of products and services that include all types of applications (residential, contract, hospitality, education, healthcare, green), all types of products (surfaces, furnishings, accessories, fixtures, seating, specialty building materials, etc.) in all budget ranges - and all in Standard Design Spec (SDS) format. TODL takes design professionals from search to in-depth specification in seconds.

"Remaining purely focused on the design professional allows TODL to innovate and deliver a service that actually impacts a professional's time spent on project research and specification," states Stacey Tiveron, Founder & CEO. "The advent of the Internet has proven to add more time to design research for many firms who find their staff getting lost for hours searching the Internet, downloading website after website, only to find that the majority of websites referred are retailers or Internet resellers who don't have the experience or wherewithal to service the needs of the design professional."

Leading the industry in electronic design research & specification for 13 years, TODL has stood the test of time as countless online design businesses have come and gone with much fanfare at the onset and a fizzle at the end. In an industry fraught with change and new economic hurdles, TODL has remained steadfast in supporting and bringing together design and architectural professionals and industry manufacturers, artists and service providers.

About TODL: TODL.com is the industry's only online password-protected, trade-only, searchable product library exclusively for professional designers, architects and product specifiers. TODL.com, Trade Only Design Library, Inc. Servicing the Trade since 1997. Contact Bernadette Bumpers at (800) 631-3111 or visit www.todl.com

KYLE'S PINWOOD DERBY

Everyone seemed to get a kick out of our friend Kyle Sinclair's award winning four wheeled armored assault pinwood derby entry so we decided feature this year's project. Kyle decided to go on the legal theme and built himself a black and white.



ARTISANS OF THE VALLEY

HAND CRAFTED CUSTOM WOODWORKING



[Artisans of the Valley](#) offers museum quality period reproductions, original designs by commission, antique restoration/conservation services, hand carving, modern furniture refinishing, onsite furniture repair, hand made walking sticks, and educational programs. Our website is now over 225 pages, including galleries, feature articles, and educational sections, company background, and our new adventure album section. We extend an open invitation to explore our site, and please contact us directly with any inquiries or questions you may have.

Eric M. Saperstein is Master of Artisans, Owner, Webmaster, Editor, Bookkeeper, Buyer, Office Manager, Legal Pit-bull, and he's in charge of vacuuming the shop: eric@artisansofthevalley.com

Stanley D. Saperstein, Master Craftsmen, Author, & Historian founded Artisans of the Valley in 1973. Stanley offers historic presentations, impressions, and various lecture series ranging from Civil and Revolutionary War, American Folk Art, and Interactive Role Play of Characters ... sometimes trying to reenact American Chopper episodes in the shop: woodcarver@artisansofthevalley.com



BLOG TOPICS



["Restoration of the Game"](#) ... Artisans of the Valley is proud to be a small part of the amazing history behind Jaques of London – a company founded in 1795 and remaining without disruption within the same family lineage. We are one of the very few restoration shops in the world that will handle chess set restoration.

["PIFS Preview Event"](#) ... Artisans will be on site for the duration of the Philadelphia Invitational Furniture Show to display our carvings, gothic furniture line, and a variety of images and details from our portfolio. Join us starting with the preview event on March 26th and/or for the show March 27th & 28th!

2010 2ND PHASE

Details & Reports From the Philly 2010 Fine Furniture Show

A Golden Oak Roll-Top Restoration

A Grandfather Clock Restoration (Preview Below)

Hand Carved English Brown Oak Mantle Restoration (Preview on Right)

A Lion Carving Project



Our studio hours are by appointment. Please call ahead!

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