

“THE MECHANICK’S ADVISER”

For June 23 - 29

Last week, the Department of Historic Trades and Skills held their annual Reception, at which we honored our two new Journeymen and new Master. A framed certificate was presented to each of them. They then posed for a picture with their Master and Supervisor, Director of Historic Trades and Skills Ken Schwarz, and Vice President of the ERHI Division Beth Kelly. We thank Fred Blystone for taking these pictures.



New Journeyman Silversmith Christina Hodges Strum (and her daughter) and Master George Cloyed



New Journeyman Weaver Ann Welch and Master Karen Clancy



New Master Shoemaker Valentine Povinelli

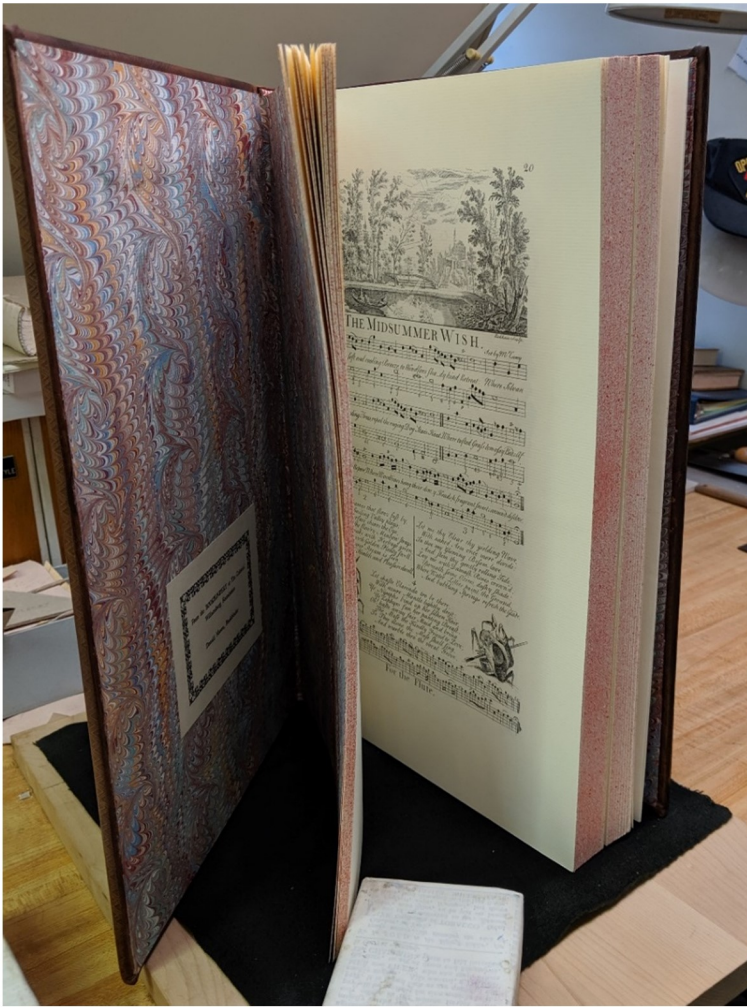
Armoury:

Blacksmith – “The Blacksmiths bring happy news as Tim, our summer intern, is finally hammering away in the Shop and ready to burn holes in his clothes to match with the rest. In other news, the Blacksmiths’ dear neighbors have helped them replace one of the pipes linking bellows and forge. Piping hot out of the fire are goods that impress and inspire. Axes and chisels, bolts and reinforcements for the Wheelwrights’ cart, portfolio locks, rakes and spatulas and scrollwork, too. It’s getting crowded at the foot of the anvil.”

Tinsmith – “An observant traveler brings word of a gentleman taking a long tube between the Tinshop and the Blacksmiths. The traveler suspected them of bringing a drinking straw for a giant, but the monster has yet to emerge. There is also word of an eerie glow emanating from their shop on overcast days. At first suspected to be a visit from an infernal imp, it was revealed to be six-sided lanterns and horn lanterns bound for the Palace. The clatter of newly made cups, coffee pots, and tinderboxes warn travelers of an ill wind blowing through. It remains to be seen what this omen brings.”

Bookbinder – “Donald Mason has made a binding of a reproduction of George Bickham’s The Musical Entertainer, published in London in 1740. It is covered in full English Calf Skin with a red Moroccan Goat Skin title patch on the spine. Gold tooling is on the spine as well as the front and back boards. The Endpapers are English-made marbled papers. This book was presented to Mr. William Barker for his many years portraying Mr. Jefferson. With the completion of this book, Don has now finished his Bookbinding Apprenticeship.”





Colonial Garden – “The Gardeners have been extremely busy weeding, planting, and watering this week. We’ve planted turnips, carrots, and calendula from seed, and transplanted scabiosa, some corn, and cypress vine. We’ve also set our last potted pomegranate and bitter orange tree into the Garden. Squash vine borers have been particularly terrible this season, and we’ve been fighting them and squash bugs each morning. Unfortunately, some of our Maycock squash had to be thinned out, but our work hand pollinating the flowers to preserve pure seed is coming along nicely. The willow hedges have been sheared once again, and a large arbor is now over the bench near the cactus bed. Soon enough, it will be covered in cypress vine, making it a nice place to observe the Garden and hummingbirds. Our cucumbers have been putting out a large harvest, and the squash has started to come in, as well. The Palace Kitchen and the Armoury Kitchen have both benefited from the carrots, onions, and greens we have been harvesting.”

Farming – “The tobacco looks really good this year!”



Gunsmith – “Well, the Gunsmiths have our new Apprentice, Brad Fountain. Brad is getting settled in slowly and is quite excited to learn new techniques to his years of previous gunsmithing experience. Brad is a highly regarded artist and one of the featured artists at Lord Nelson's gallery. We're lucky to have him here. Now we have to get him used to his new surroundings.”



Joinery – “This week, the Joiners will be welcoming Amanda back from her sojourn to New York City, where she has been examining variations in architecture and design preserved in the grand museums of the metropolis. In the meantime, Scott will be finishing his door, while Peter does everything in his power to avoid work in this dismal weather. Charles will be assembling the case of his tool chest, and hopefully starting to prepare materials for the skirt and lid.”

Milliner and Mantua-Maker – “It seems the Milliners of a certain Shop in this city are preparing for some large undertaking. A Lady Smith was seen returning a basketful of snips, shears, and scissors to the Apprentices who took more delight at the prospect of sharp metal than this author feels they ought. Upon making some discreet inquiries as to the nature of this order, I was told by a Tailor who frequents this shop that the ladies have asserted to a customer that they can make up a set of clothes for undress in just a day, and it seems that this person has decided to put their boastful claim to work. I have it on the best authority from a Cpl JB who frequents said Milliner's Shop that the great event is set for today, the 21st of June. This author would be greatly indebted to any kind readers who would find it convenient to witness this occasion and convey their observations to her by correspondence directed to Mrs. Crackenthorpe and left near the well between the lodgings of Mr. W R----- and M H----- for this author to collect on Wednesday next. (I will, as usual, relate all of the most interesting bits of said correspondence to you, my readership, in addition to any other eventful happenings in this city.)”

Public Leather Works – “In the Public Leather Works, Mr. Howlett took a well-deserved week off. Jan and Andrew both happened to be working on hats, with Jan's soon to grace the head of Col. Washington.”

Silversmith – “Bobbie continues piercing the top portion of her spice caster, which has proven to be an interesting challenge due to the nature of the design. When she needs to step away for a bit, she has been producing trade silver. Chris is raising the body and lid of her teapot. Lynn has been watercoloring several prints of the fan plate this week. This week also marks the return of Engraving and Silversmith interpretation to the Geddy House on Fridays with Lynn and William. Preston is working on several small fluted bowls and continues raising the body of the tankard. Parker has been tasked with making the copper ball that will be used in the construction of the new weathervane for the Art Museum’s expansion. William is cleaning the solder joints of his dram cups and preparing them for polishing. He has also run the first several test prints of his copper plate and continues to work out any minor issues with the engraving.”



Inking the plate



Buffing the surface clean



One of the first test prints