



**THE
MECHANICK'S
ADVISOR**

2/15/24

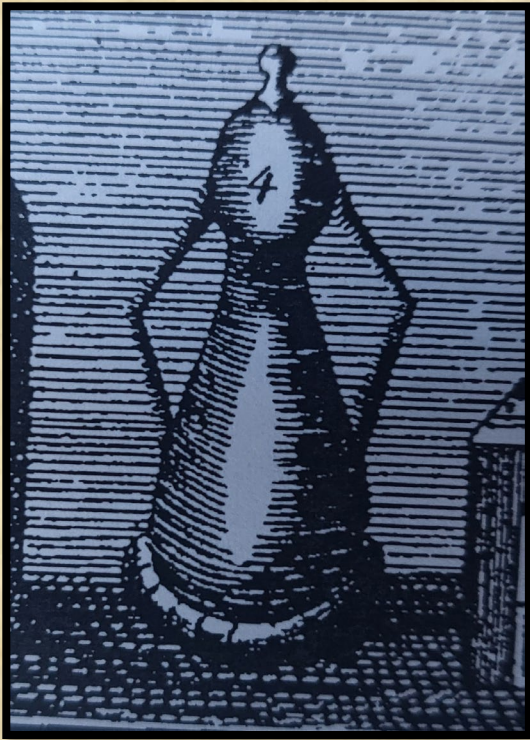
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Apothecary

Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

We're busy with trainings this month and have been concentrating our efforts on learning all we can! Sharon continues with Ledger B. Margaret continues with distillation. Stephannie continues with Hippocrates.

- Margaret Perry



The pelican (c/ o Croker, Williams, & Clark's Dictionary of Arts & Sciences, 1764) holds the dual distinction of allowing distilled material to circulate back into the solvent and also looking like a little guy with hands on their hips.

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Carpenter

Sunday through Thursday

We are still working on shingles for the Bray School and First Baptist Church. We currently have 3 pallets complete. We've got 5 more to go.

- Matthew Sanbury



Shingles both done and waiting to be finished.

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Cook

Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, Saturday

Fortune shone brightly over at the Palace Kitchen the last couple of weeks! Thanks to our friends with Coach and Livestock and Master Farmer Ed Schultz, we were gifted the opportunity to work with 6 Bantam chickens (courtesy of C&L) and 3 Snipes (hunted by Farmer Ed himself on his property at home)! In the 30 years Frank has been in the kitchen, neither he nor Barbra have ever had Snipes on the Governor's table. The European Snipes were hunted to extinction in the 18th and 19th centuries, and the Common Snipe from the Americas only migrates through Virginia once a year, making them an extra special gift that we are very thankful for. Apprentices Dom and Abbey were able to practice plucking and gutting all of these birds to time (a chicken should be plucked, gutted, and ready for cooking in 30-45 minutes), and we are pleased to report they were successful in this venture. Thanks to our colleagues, we will now be able to show the public fowl that are appropriate to the 18th century and how they would have been utilized for the Governor's household.

- Charlotte Shoaf



The Snipes provided by Farmer Ed after being prepared for the Govenor's table. Dom and Abbey plucking the Bantam chickens from Coach and Livestock.

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Engraver

Sunday, Monday, Wednesday through Saturday

Things are quiet for now in the engraving shop, as we work through goals and winter training. Everyone is taking this time to get some practice in, with the apprentices in particular focusing on letter work. We are also collectively working through a tray of trade silver from the silversmiths.

- William Fleming, Apprentice Engraver



Two bottle tickets set up and ready for engraving.

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Gardener

Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, Saturday

Apprentice Marc has dodged rainstorms over the last week to begin pruning the four pomegranate trees in the Historic Garden. Pruning selectively removes branches to control the size and growth of a tree for aesthetics, health, production, and interest. These pomegranate trees do not lack for character! The first daffodil bloomed in the garden and was quickly followed by crocuses and snow-drops.

- Marc Nucup



A Punica granatum before pruning.



The first Narcissus blooming the garden, joining the hundreds of other examples in the historic area.



A pruned tree showing some of the removed branches.

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Gunsmith

Sunday through Thursday

This past week Darrin cast brass into pistol trigger guards and may pour again this coming week.

Richard and Darrin have also been hammering out a bar of iron to shape it into a barrel skelp prior to welding a tube from it.

- Darrin McDonal



The cast brass trigger guards still attached to the gates and sprue.



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Harpsichord Maker

Sunday, Monday, Thursday through Saturday

Planes, those shaving tools that are vital to all woodworkers, come in many different sizes. Large bench planes handle the big boards. For the harpsichord makers and violin makers, these tools go all the way down to small ones that fit into the palm of your hand. While they can be regarded as cute tools, don't underestimate them by their size. Small planes handle the fine detail work from shaping a violin soundboard, to shaping the curved bridge that transmits the string vibration energy to the soundboard in a spinet. We keep all these at the ready in our corner. They are highly prized... and thanks to our cabinetmaking colleagues for the lovely arrangement in the photo. Cheers and please come visit us.

- Edward Wright



Planes for Musical Instrument Making

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Joiner

Sunday through Thursday

With the Working Wood Conference behind us, we are launching head first into furniture building for the Bray School! Ayinde has made two of the six benches, Brian has started drafting out plans for a turned chair, Peter is on the hunt for material for a set of six ladder-back chairs, and Laura is wrapping up work on Mr. Fleming's toolbox so she can begin shortly on a blanket chest. Frequently visitors ask us "If you both make furniture, how are you different from the Cabinetmakers?" This set of furniture illustrates how our pieces tend to be more functional than fashionable when compared to our colleagues on Nicholson Street. The current research on the Bray School indicates that teacher Ann Wager, perhaps seeking to be thrifty, may have procured furniture secondhand or of an older or less ornamental variety, so we are building our pieces to demonstrate what might have been in the school. By the end of the summer, we should have tables, chairs, chests, and benches ready for when the Bray School opens to the public this fall.

- Laura Hollowood



One of the tables we will construct will be based on this original walnut table, in our museum collection, OBJ 1933-36.

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Printer

Sunday, Monday, Thursday, Saturday

The Press continues to work off 5,000 copies of pages two and three of the main body of the current gazette. David Wilson has a column and a half remaining of typesetting to complete his news supplement. David has also printed additional labels for the cabinetmakers . Cecelia Weaver has completed the typesetting for “An American Parody on the old song Rule Britannia.” Next, Cecelia will set a colophon, proof, correct, then print this item. Copies will likely be given to our guests as a keepsake for visiting The Printing Office.



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Tailor

Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

Quite a few coat projects on the work board right now. The work board is our main stitching location in the shop. It is an elevated platform on which we tailors sit in our ancient position, cross-legged, and work upon; getting us off the dusty and drafty floor, and next to the windows for the best light. Patterning and cutting happens on the counter in the front room. The cord strung up above the board is used for hanging up projects in progress.

- Michael McCarty



Our work board comfortably accommodates all three of us tailors, maybe a few more if we cleared off some of the clutter.

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Next Week, Look Forward to Updates From...

- **Bookbinder**

- *Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday*

- **Cabinetmaker**

- *Sunday, Monday, Thursday through Saturday*

- **Cooper**

- *Tuesday through Saturday*

- **Farmer**

- *Closed for the Season*

- **Fife and Drum**

- **Founder**

- *Tuesday through Saturday*

- **Historic Masonry**

- *Sunday, Wednesday through Saturday*

- **Milliner and Mantua-Maker**

- *Tuesday, Thursday through Saturday*

- **Musket Ranger**

- *Ticket Event*

- **Silversmith**

- *Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, Saturday*

- **Shoemaker**

- *Daily*

- **Tin Plate Worker**

- *Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday*

- **Wheelwright**

- *Sunday, Monday, Thursday, Friday*

- **Wigmaker**

- *Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday*

Editor.

Matthew Siepinski