Knotting

Matters

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KNOTTING MATTERS

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL GUILD OF KNOT TYERS

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"Never Volunteer" the old salts used to tell us when we first joined up - a bit late, being as wee had already volunteered to join! However, I did volunteer to be your Editor, if nobody else would take the job on, but, I am afraid that because of my job there will be some penalties, for which I ask you to be tolerant. "He who pays the fiddler calls the tune" so the saying goes, and the great British Tax-Payer has first right to call the tune I dance to, which involves me being away from home a fair amount, sometimes unpredictably; thus I may not always be able to react instantly to your mail and at times (like this) KM might even be a little late - but I will try my best.

Reading another Newsletter yesterday I wonder if perhaps the reason I have ended up with the job is because I am also a 'Coach' - the editor of my AWGB newsletter is a Fencing coach, Geoffrey Budworth (your first Ed.) a swimming coach, and now me, a shooting coach: Are there any more out there? Coaching, to a large extent involves instilling confidence in the team or individual through coercion and good communication - this is to be my philosophy for KM too. I need you the readership to 'COMMUNI-CATE' and have the confidence in your own ability to write an article, send me a quotation, pass on a good idea - nothing is too small (though some articles Robert has passed on to me are too large!) nothing too trivial. Don't worry if you are not one of the academic type (neither am I) I have a couple of volunteers who will knock your jottings and diagrams into shape if needs be.

The jungle drums sound disturbing vibra-tions regarding the plethora of 'academic articles' in KM - well folks, that is because it is, apart from one or two stalwarts, the academics who write most of the material received by the editor - if you are one of those drummers, now is your chance, send me something you think should be printed. Likewise if you think that your particular interest in knot tying is not well represented, get together with others of the same ilk and put forward some mate-rial.

Have you - yes I bet you have - ever asked yourself "What do I get out of KM?" If the answer is 'very little' you have proba-bly just reminded yourself that perpetual motion is impossible, or that your bank manager will not let you take until you have given! Put some work in and I will do my best to see that you too get some-thing out. It might be difficult for some, particularly those members outside Eu-rope, to consider that their annual sub-scription is anything other than for 4 Newsletters; it is NOT, there are many other expenses, however I hope that in the future you will get a little more in your copy than the U.K. members with your own loose centre fold - more about that later.

This edition is the start of my learning curve and if I am to improve I need YOUR help, thoughts and guidance.

Oh, and for those of you who like to find fault - there will no doubt be something for you in future issues too. Please don't hesitate to haul me over the coals - I can take it - but if you are going to be critical please be constructive with it.

HOW TO HELP YOUR EDITOR...

Volunteer to become a 'Page Editor'-

Submitting a regular feature for each edition of KM.

Write knotting articles - up to 4 pages long including diagrams.

Send in - Requests for Assistance, For Sale or Wanted advertisements, Can anyone help, Does anyone know where I can find, Where I can look for, etc.

Write - your favourite - Hints, tips or ideas that you like to pass on.

Write - about your favourite tools and how you can use them.

Send - Photographs - preferably BLACK & WHITE slightly under exposed. Or if you have an **exceptional** colour photograph & Negative/Slide to go with it I MIGHT be persuaded to have it printed in colour.

Get your Regional Branch secretary to tell me what is going on in your Branch/ Chapter - or - if you do not have an affiliation write to me yourself - I need dates of events (well in advance) intended shows, exhibitions, lectures, talks, etc.

Overseas members - will someone in each Continent/Region volunteer to put together a 4 page Regional News-sheet, covering those things you think are purely regional - In your own language too if you like.

Don't all write at once! - A flood now will mean that some of the material has to be delayed and might never see the light of day. Pick a month, say the month of your birth and make a note in your diary to DO SOMETHING for KNOTTING MATTERS.

GUIDE TO WRITING NEWS ARTICLES ...5 W'S...WHO - WHAT - WHY - WHERE - WHEN

HOW TO HELP YOUR EDITOR ...EVEN MORE!

Articles submitted, handwritten, typed, or on disk will be equally welcomed as will drawings of all standards, however although I am a copy-typist and use all manner of keyboards (of the querty type) I am NO artist without my AutoCAD therefore if you can send good clear drawings of a suitable size (its costs to reduce/ enlarge) I am more likely to use them.

For those of you with access to PC based word processing facilities, scanners and the like - your DTP here is TIMEWORKS version 1.2 - my PC uses 3.5" disks of the 750K or 1.4Mb variety. I can import text to the DTP from -

WORDPERFECT, WORDSTAR 5, 1ST WORD PLUS, QUINTET, MS WORD 4, BEYOND WORDS, WORDWRITERS PC, ASCII and drawings from EPS (Post-Script) files. Disks will be returned of course.

Thanking you ALL in anticipation.........

Ed.

A BETTER MOUSETRAP

by Percy W. Blandford

It is said that if you design a better mousetrap, the world will beat a path to your door. It could be like that with a new knot.

At the activity session after the A.G.M. 1990 I enjoyed having many members demonstrate to me their 'new' knots - some practical and some decorative. It may be argued that you can twist cord in an infinite number of ways and come up with something different, but is it justified?

I am not an expert on decorative knotting and do not propose to argue about decorative knots. If you devise a new system of overs and unders and you like what you see, so be it! Not everyone may agree with you and you may, or may not, be able to hold your own against the traditional fancy knots.

My interest in knots has always been in the practical applications of ropework, such as joining, hoisting, rigging, lashing and hauling. I have been concerned with many applications, sometimes life-and-death, which depended on me using the best knot or splice. Many years ago I was involved in testing ropes and knots to breaking point. No knot or splice is as strong as the plain rope. A splice is stronger than a knot. It is surprising how much a knot can weaken a rope - 50% with some knots. The strongest knots have their parts taken in easy curves and use the minimum of them. If your special knot bends the rope tightly, twists parts closely over each other and has lots of turns, it may resist coming apart, but in the ultimate loading the rope will break within the knot long before its unknotted part would give way.

So what is the strongest knot? In our tests it was the common (or sheet) bend/bowline that did best. The form of these knots is the same and we got upwards of 75% of the rope strength. The knot formation has the minimum number of curves and none are very sharp. Construction is simple, the knot should not slip under load, and it is easily undone, even after being under load. If I am shown a new joining or loop knot, that is my standard of comparison. You may yet come up with something that beats tradition. Keep trying!
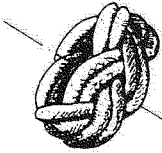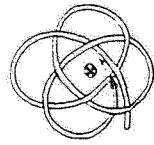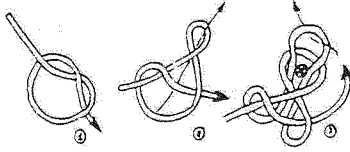

YOU KNOW WHAT? NEVER MAKE KNOTS ON YOUR BACK!
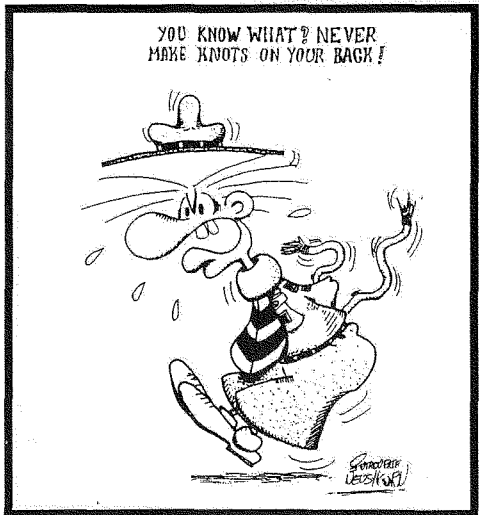
QUOTATION

"Every knot is an exercise in friction, a device to make rope grip itself or another object...extreme simplicity can only be had at the expense of effectiveness."
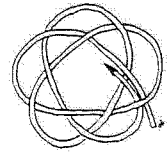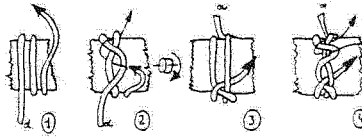
Brion TOSS - Master Rigger (1984)

4

4B - 3L - 2P

5B - 3L - 2P

5B - 4L - 2P
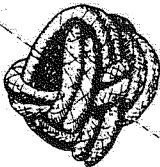
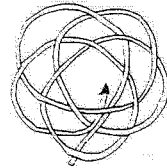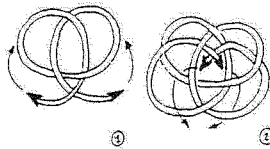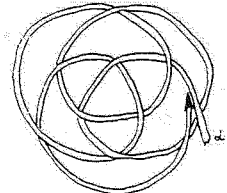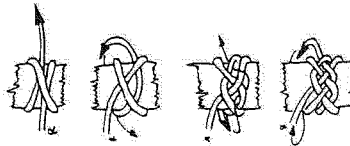3B - 4L - 2P

Submitted by **Kobierczynski Jurgen,** from Belgium, these beautifully drawn
variants of the Turks Head depict the Scout neckerchief woggles he so enjoys
making. The cartoon on Page(4) shows yet more of his artistic talent and humour.

HOW TO BEEF UP A REEF KNOT

by Roger Miles

It is common knowledge that a REEF knot should never be used as a bend, for joining two pieces of line. Nevertheless, a REEF knot may be easily beefed up into a strong bend, as follows.

1. Form a loose REEF knot:

Fig 3

Fig 1

2. Flip over the two end loops:

Fig 2

4. Carefully tighten:

Fig 4

The result is a REVERSED [i.e., with the standing and free ends interchanged] RHOMBIC bend - (See KM No.34, p.17).
Interestingly, starting instead with a THIEF rather than a REEF knot, and applying the corresponding steps, one finishes with a REVERSED ZEPPELIN bend. This knot tyer feels that, due to its unattractive distorted shape when tensioned, the latter is less satisfactory, as a bend, than a REVERSED RHOMBIC; even though it may be more easily undone.
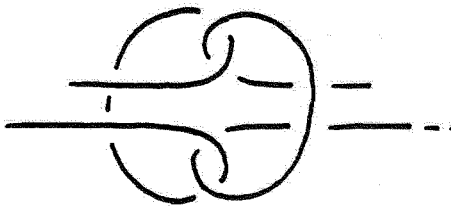Finally, note that neither the GRANNY nor the WHATNOT knots can be beefed up in this way.

3. Thread the two free ends round their own respective standing parts, thus pinioning them (in this way, overhand knots are formed in each line, when regarded in isolation):
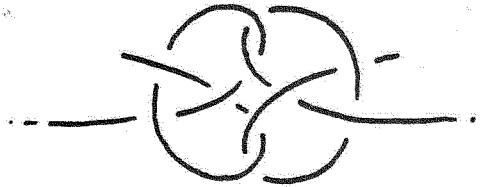
RHOMBIC BEND.

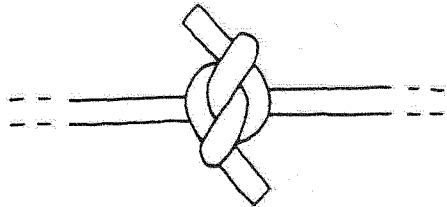## AN EASY WAY TO TIE A RHOMBIC BEND

by Roger Miles

In 'Knotting Matters' No.34 (p.17) I described a RHOMBIC bend. After tying it from the layout there given, the knot tyer might be forgiven for concluding that 'it may be a fine knot but what use is it if it's so difficult to remember?!' The object of this note is to show just how easily, in fact, a RHOMBIC bend may be remembered and tied. A reversed (i.e. with standing and free ends interchanged) RHOMBIC bend can be formed quite easily from a REEF knot as you will have seen on the previous page but that is of little assistance here.

1. Form a loose OVERHAND knot at the end of the first line (Fig.1, but this method works whichever way this knot is laid down!).

2. The second line goes in as the mirror image of the first (Fig.1). As its free end is progressively threaded, it alternates between Over & Under each line (including itself) it next encounters. Thus we use one or other of the two crossing sequences

1U 2O 3U 4O 5U 6O 7U (as in Fig.2) and

1O 2U 3O 4U 5O 6U 7O

Whether the initial crossing is 1O or 1U is decided by the second line being on the same side as the free end of the first (parallel arrows in Fig.2). Thus Fig.2 shows the correct choice (If the wrong choice is made here, the final result is a ZEPPELIN bend, one of whose standing and free ends are reversed). corresponding to Fig.1.

3. Carefully tighten. There is a bit of a capsize on the way to the final RHOMBIC bend. .....Try it!
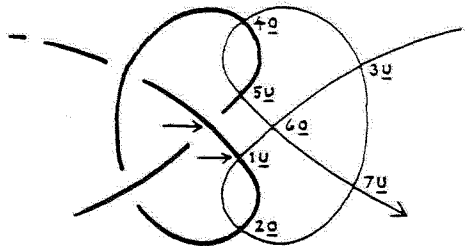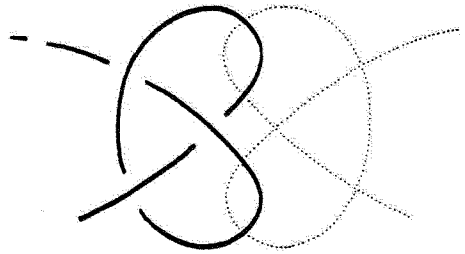
NEW ZEALAND CHAPTER

Tony Fisher is the Secretary of the newly formed "Antipodean Chapter" of the Guild (they think "Branch" smacks of the retail trade - funny isn't it, here we think chapter smacks of Hell's Angels - well it takes all sorts...Ed). An election was held to install Roger Carter as President, Prof. John Turner as Vice-President and George Schaake as an Executive Member. Dr. Vaughan Jones, a "Field Medallist" has accepted their invitation to become Patron of the NZ Chapter in a ceremony involving tying a "Knot of Acceptance" (in lieu of a handshake) with John Turner. Tony goes on to explain that they now intend to set about swelling their ranks and inviting the Wellington Maritime Museum to become a Corporate Member.

The museum staff are very supportive, have offered their facilities for meetings, lectures, tours and whatever as well as selling the Turner/Schaake books on Braiding.

KNOT YEAR 90 REPORTS

Several items have been received over the past year but I feel that they are now so out of date that to publish them in a newsletter a year or more after the events is perhaps a little tardy. So that these reports will not go unused - I will attempt to put together a supplement for the next edition of KM, as a record for everyone and to go to the archives along with the many newspapers and magazine cuttings Frank handed over to me recently......Ed.

OXFORD -

Stuart Grainger writes to say the OXFORD branch has four members, among which is Mary Harrison our Guild Supplies Secretary, Ann Norman who is a professional weaver and spinner, but who also makes beautiful coloured woollen ropes, Lonnie Biggs, who has interests in everything from fishing to broadcasting, works in electronics and still finds time for membership of the I.G.K.T. Council, and of course Stuart who needs no introduction.

Stuart and Lonnie attended a big all-day meeting for local Club Scouts at a permanent camp site near Oxford earlier in the summer, where Lonnie and his son and friends set up their rope-making machine, and Stuart spent all day making and selling "woggles". The Branch have recently made contact with the local Sea Cadet Unit, T.S. EURAYLUS and hope to establish a good relationship with them in the future. Shortly after Christmas the group plan to give a talk to a Witney pensioners' club.

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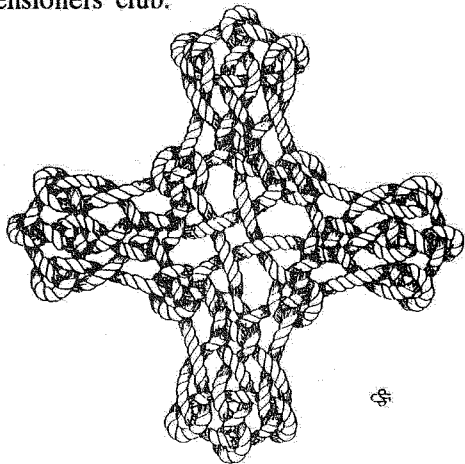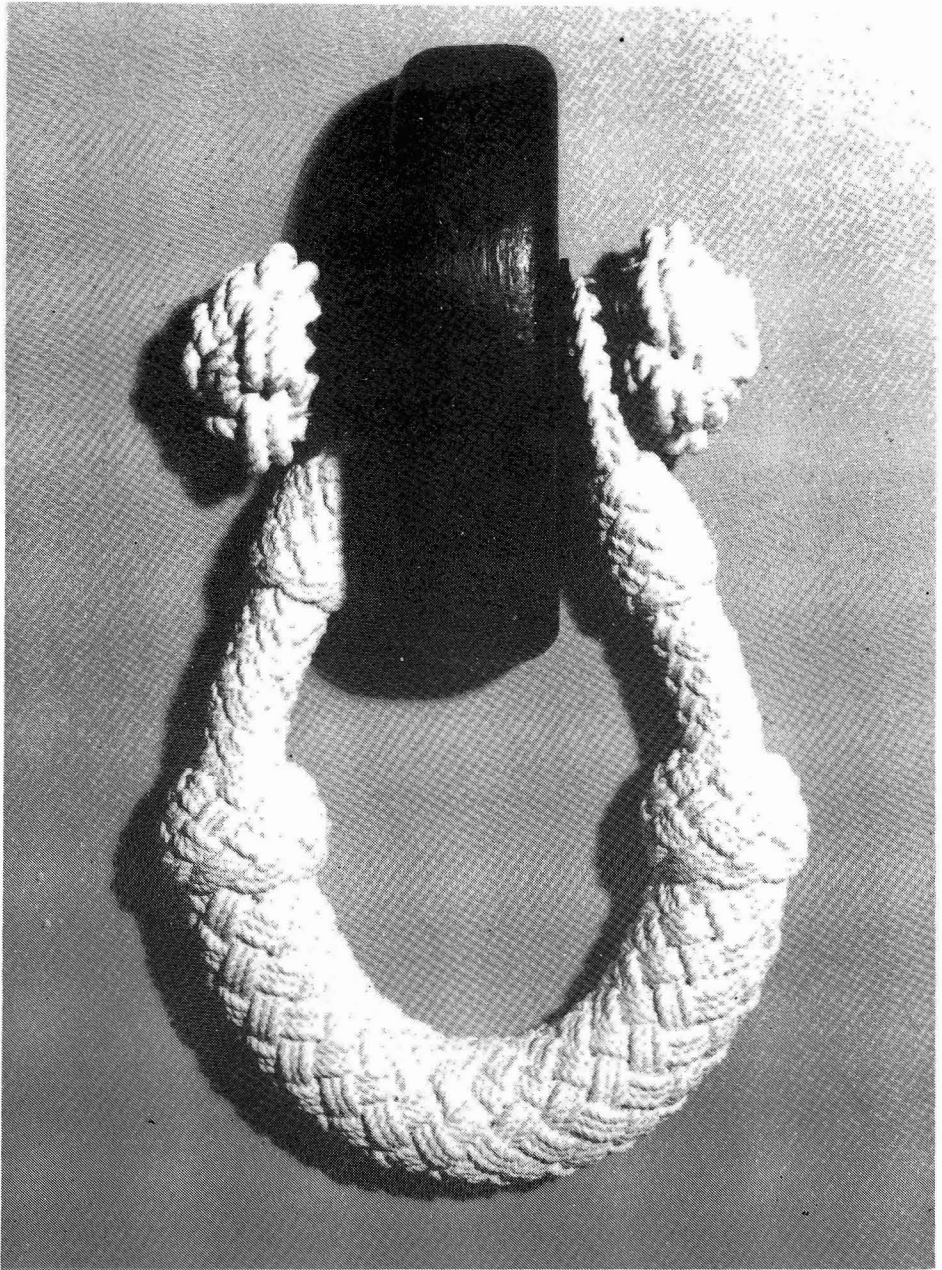
CHEST BECKET - 1980's
Thought to have been made by Eric DAHLIN, Santa Barbara CA.

THE INTERNATIONAL GUILD OF KNOT TYERS

Supplies Secretary, Yew Tree House, Goosey,
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Telephone no. 0367 710256.

1991 PRICE LIST.

"The Knot Book" (95 gms)
Geoffrey Budworth – ISBN 0–7160–0704–5   £1.99   each

"Breastplate Designs" (65 gms)
Brian Field   £2.50   each

"Ropefolk" (30 gms)
Stuart Grainger   £1.30   each   *

"Knotcraft" (130 gms)
Stuart Grainger– ISBN 0–9515506–0–8   £3.25   each   *

"An Introduction to Knot Tying")
"Solly's Single Strand Star"   (Available as a set at the
"Some Splices & Lanyard Knots"   (reduced price of
Stuart Grainger   )   £2.50   per set

"Turksheads the Traditional Way" (110 gms)
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Percy Blandford   £2.50   each

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Dr. Harry Asher   Vol. I (160 gms)   £1.85   each
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Bow ties "   "   "   "   "   " £7.80   each

Enamel Badges   £1.80   each
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Metal badges, 3" dia. painted   £0.30   each

Christmas Cards, pack of ten
with envelopes   £3.00   per pack

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* Quantities of ten or more of items marked with an asterisk can
  be supplied from central stock subject to a discount of 33.33%.
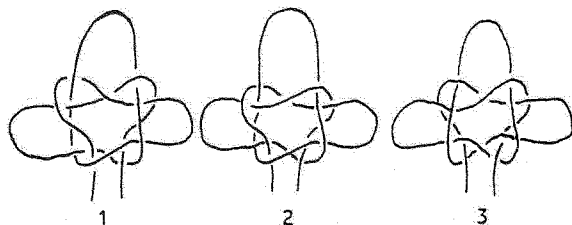
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by Pieter van de Griend

Inventing a truly new knot is, according to me, utterly impossible since the knots as structures exist a priori, they merely await recording and in this article I intend to try and kill a few holy cows by putting forth some of my ideas on the phenomenom New Knot along with a few popular, but erroneous beliefs about knots in general and , while at it, conclude with some reflections on an IGKT constitutional rule related to it all. I would like to illustrate the problems using a recent experience.

A while ago I received a letter from Frank Harris with a few photocopies of some correspondence between him, and the Greenwich Maritime Museum and a Mr. Sonne from Denmark concerning a sort of Mast Head Knot depicted in <1>. For the sake of convenience in the following I will refer to it as the Sonne Knot. Frank asked me if I could help identify it, since it was neither in the Ashley Book of Knots nor in Graumont and Hensels Encyclopedia.

My very first thought was that it was a Shamrock Knot <2> as named by Cyrus Day [DAY 1947] and shown by Clifford Ashley as #2301 or 2302. However I fiddled about with a copy of it and found that it could be pulled apart (i.e reversing a tying process!) into two non-interlocking Overhand

Knots. This is something the Shamrock Knot definitely can't do since it is derived from two interlocking Overhand Knots. The Shamrock is also known as a Japanese Masthead Knot and that hints at an oriental origin. I thought that a search among the knots recorded in my books from the Far East should be the most fruitful way to find out whether on not the Sonne Knot had been described before. I went out searching for the method I had empirically stumbled onto <4> That is by letting the respective bellies split the opposite Overhand Knot's spine [ASHER 1986]. This is also the most frequent way the Shamrock Knot's con-

Sonne Knot   Shamrock Knot   Nakazawe Knot

struction is shown <5>. In a book called Musubi No Sukan from 1979 by a Japanese author trio headed by Hiroshi Nakazawe, I found what is described in <6>. The knot has a Japanese name, but I will refer to it as the Nakazawe Knot here. I phoned Mr. Sonne, wrote to Frank Harris, sent copies of the find to both and thought that it all was solved. Well, I did scribble a PS on the letter to Frank about variants on handedness and noted that in that respect the Nakazawe Knot and the Sonne Knot could be considered different, but it wasn't that what counted. Variants are to be found all over the place.

Much to my surprise Mr. Sonne phoned me the next day to say that he didn't agree at all. After the talk I found he did so for several reasons. Foremost one being that he derives his knot from a symmetrical elaboration of a Hand-

cuff Knot [Ashley #1140] shown in <7-11> and this knot has a differing symmetry compared to the Nakazawe Knot, which is due to the choice of handedness of the initial Overhand Knots. What more came from the phone talk was that he, like so

two likewise orientated Overhand Knots. Finally he also expressed a desire to have the knot registered and named in some way or other.

Knots are a field which is so full of lore and other peculiar tra- ditions as to make it a fas- cinating sub-
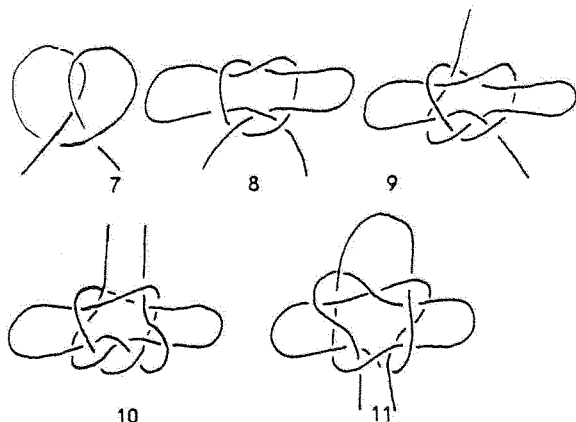

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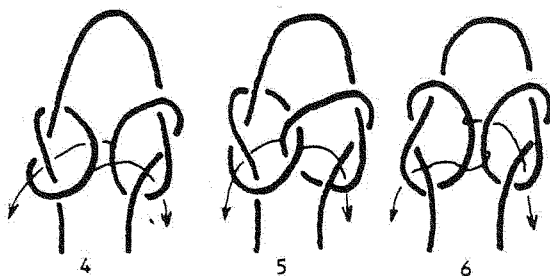
a Sonne Knot   a Shamrock Knot   a Nakazawa Knot
tying procedure   tying procedure   tying procedure

many others having followed the pub-licity affair of The Hunter Bend and the stream of misinformation which came forth with that, believed to have a claim to fame too for finding a previously unrecorded (?) knotted structure. I tend to follow an old line when it comes to knots: There is nothing new under the sun. All rela-tively simple knotted structures have already been realised empirically. The latter being a statement which is equally unprovable as are the inven-tors' claims to origination. However there obviously seems to be something new under the knotting-sun when Mr. Sonne comes up with a structure which is not recorded the way he found it and espe-cially con-sidering the fact that two differently orientated Overhand Knots are not topologically equivalent to

ject in its own right. All people who have been tying and researching knots throughout the ages have had their ideas which were to shape the field. The spectre over which the phenomemom knot occurs spans from the ethnogra-pher's interest on the one hand (being evidence that knots are a part of a tool-tradition) and at the other end they pose some of the toughest questions asked in the Natural Sciences during the past century. A long line which offers a lot of scope for personal satisfaction, which is therefore mostly met as a good deal of lore.

Knots also have a pro-perty of being related to scout-like competitions such as knowing many knots along with displaying a dexterity in tying them. A tradition which apparently originated due to some vague pride oldendays mariners

7   8   9

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seem, to have taken in knowing more (?) about knots that landlubbers. A dubious relic-statement from the past since there are experts from those days who produce evidence to the contrary [NAVAL REPOSITORY 1762, Ashley p425][WETJEN 18??, Ashley p156]. Anyhow also therefore knots seem to pose a challenge to many people's intellect. There is not much wrong about that as long as it is all non-seriously meant. We all know the question of "How many knots do you know?" We mention a number and then we can brag a little about that, but the point missed out is that one knows infinitely many knots. Perhaps not by name and that seems to be part of the game. Though when it comes to giving names to infinitely many objects then what to do? Well, there are several approaches. I prefer to see things in a structured fashion, from fixed reference, since lack of such soon leads to fuzzy talk. That is a view typical to the academic world. It almost seems inevitable that knotters and scientist are to have their, also historically-rooted, traditional clash due to it all. Taxonomy is the scientist's pet while knotters seem to detest it. In this light consider Geoffrey Budworth's quote from his book Knots in Crime:

"Many knot-tyers dislike formal taxology. They prefer an accumulation of knotlore in their heads and fear anything which threatens to blur their understanding of the time-honoured body of knowledge." [BUDWORTH 1985].

Yet what is it all about? Taxology is mainly about names. More precisely it is an attempt to find some kind of invariance. The latter denotes things which are set, fixed, solid, rigid. The name of a knot is a sort of invariant. Albiet a very weak one, since it can change from place to place and time to time and subsequently does.

Naming a knot not encountered before. What's the point? I'd like to call the Left Handed 13-fold Overhand Knot after myself. Well world take notice!. From now on that is the van de Griend Knot. The rest of the world can't stop me, since a claim to it has not appeared in the knotting literature yet. There are more Overhand Knots than people, so we will not run into problems until the day more than one person wants to name the same knot after itself. The Overhand Knots have a very easy to remember code of classification. They come forth when you repeatedly take the wend of the medium in which they are to be realised up between the spine and belly. A neat and simple algorithm to generate the entire class. Too simple perhaps and that may be the reason as to why nobody cares to claim them. All or piece-wise. Well, except for the one I have just claimed.

The problem at the centre here is whether a principle applied to, or extended to, complex Overhand Knot structures, like Figure of Eight and such, deserve a naming for themselves? More specifically in this particular case: Didn't Nakazawe by showing the mutual spine splitting action of the 2 non-interlocking Overhand Knots' bellies also implicitly show the Sonne Knot and all other variants? More general: Is it enough to record a principle or must one record the actual knot? I find that the latter can lead to come fallacious claims. Like mine above and I know of quite some others.

So the problem also revolves around recording the knotted structures. Recording all knots is not quite impossible, but almost. Especially when you wish to do so piece-wise. The knots which do get recorded quite generally fall into two classes. They are the ones which show up most often and thus validate naming and separate mention. The other class consists of the ones which can be described in some or other

manner. We have already seen the Overhand Knots, but there are others like the Turk's Heads. We will be seeing more to what I mean.

The first class are empirically most frequent observed ones. They are knotted structures which people tend to use when they are forced to solve a romp problem. Some of the resulting structures which show up as solutions are not very often met. The already mentioned bend named after the late Edward Hunter is an excellent example of that. Functionalist as to bend along with vagueness in recording played a role with this structure. There are many bends based on interlocking single Overhand Knots and finding variants to them is quite easy and good fun. In fact Harry Asher wrote a book about the possible way to classify these bends. So they are well-recorded. And that brings us into the other class.

As a mathematician I feel that all structures, and does it need any arguementation that knots are structures?, exist a priori, just like the numbers. They await description. That they have unknown properties and unknown applicational potential is something different. In this light the knot-theoretical problem of which groups are knotgroups stated by for instance Elisa Rappaport [1960 Annals of Mathematics vol 71 p157] and recently solved, implies that all knotted structures (in a mathematical sense) can be recorded. I would also like to point out here that it is a myth that mathematics has nothing to do with real knot tying. It all depends on how one wishes to see things. Mathematicians usually see knots as something like knotted circles for their own good reasons. Knotters want more than just those clinical structures. While on the other hand some knot tyers do strive for singlestranded knots! In any case I am not going

to let the opportunity slip to promote some mathematics by showing that maths and knots is more than manipulating deformed circles. Why it is used as a tool to describe aspects of the world in which we live. I would like to show how its basic principles in model making work. They are called idealising and generalising. Let us see what we can do with these two in our case.

What immediately impressed me with the Sonne and Nakazawe Knot in relation to the Shamrock Knot, and in my eyes counts most, is not the knot as such, but the fact that the two initial Overhand Knots became non-interlocking. It is a logical action considering the centuries of interlockment. Why it hasn't occurred before may be asked. The knot falls apart easier? It is unsymmetrical? Perhaps the reason wasn't practical or esthetical at all, but more symbolic. Who can tell? Man y of such things get lost in the mist of history to which knotting lore doesn't even have the tradition to do much to prevent.

Two properties which obviously lend themselves for idealisation are the complexity of the initial structures and the other being their degree of interlockment. In very general terms we can say that the knots we have been discussing so far can be obtained by pulling a loop of the one component through the other component/knotted structure and vice versa. Stated this way we can create infinitely many classes of again in turn infinitely many knots. But let us restrict ourselves to Multiple Overhand Knots and additionally restrict their degree of interlockment to letting their respective bellies wrap around the other's in a helix. So much for idealising. Let's get over to generalising. This is done graphically in <14>. It is quite simple to see that the two arrangements in the top left corner of that figure generate the three knots we already have met. i.e.<1-3>

It is obvious that the tangles in <14>

only go one way. There are ever more complicated Overhand Knots and there is ever more complex interlocking. In short there arises ever increasing complexity. It must be clear why I was pleased to meet the simplest of them . Of course this set of knots has never been presented the way it is presented here. But does that matter? I don't think that <14> is useless at all. I have used it to illustrate my point that piece-wise recording of knots can be quite cumbersome. Uselessness in knots relates to the practicality demands set when one has to solve a rope problem. Some solutions are more suitable,

lity demands seem (temporarily?) overruled here. Decoration is matter of taste. So I'll skip that delicate topic. In a more pragmatical way it is a complicated way for tying 2 non-interlocking Overhand Knots. The structure showed us an entirely new class of knots, which we have just "invented" here and now in this article... or haven't we?

To me the affair is settled, since <14> displays a class of knots which contains the Sonne, Nakazawe and Shamrock Knot and many others. In a way it makes more explicit what I believe Nakazawe wanted to say. So what is left? Is there anything near to a New Knot or
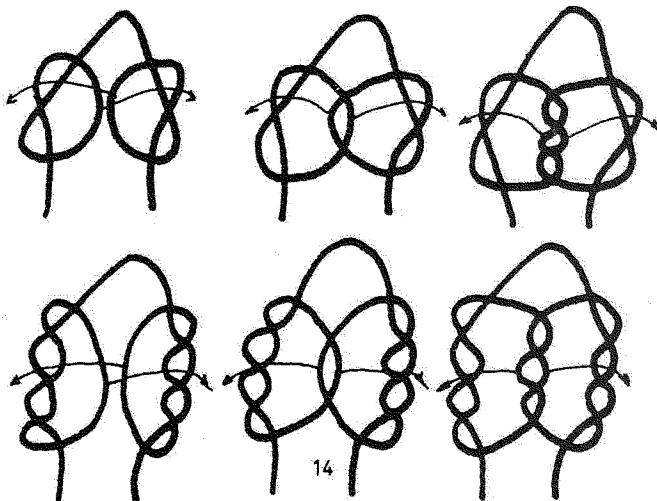
i.e. useful, than others. Saying that knots are useless is like saying numbers are. They might never be encountered, but that does not render them useless.

While on the subject of usefulness. Mr. Sonne's way of tying the knot is not shown in the books I have. But what is it to be used for? As a Masthead Knot its elaboration from the Handcuff Knot has eliminated the latters on-bight tying-properties, which are an unspoken prerequisite for Masthead Knots. You don't want to go cutting your rope and making it by the method <7-11> is rather cumbersome, unless your rope is not too long. What does count? The practica-

not? I still say that a variant derived from a described principle is not new. In fact my assertion is stronger: There are no new knots, only knots which may not have been adequately described or of which the description is not fully unambiguous.

As said, apart from the algorithm by which to construct the Sonne Knot, I don't think that any new results have been found. However considering it has been (adequately?) discussed and described now anyway, I would like to suggest that we call the method <7-11>, The Marstal Method for making this knot. That comes from what Mr. Sonne he wanted to call his knot. I see nothing wrong in charting the knotting universe

by giving some of the special events a name, but let's do that with some consistency.

There was one thing left on my mind. It relates to the Guilds constitutional rules under point 2. Why assign credit to origination of something which does not appear in a book or other work on the subject? If people wish to publish, all to the better. Though there is the mythical Greenwich Maritime Museum List over knots people will want to resort to. Some people even go so desperately far as to patent structures they believe to have originated. [ASHLEY 1916?] [HANSON 1987]. One single knot is a rather simple claim to fame. It might have worked well in Matthew Walker's case thanks to him having known Darcy Lever who wanted to write about it and considering people's gullibility and the widespread ignorance concerning knots, but I believe it should stop working that way. Personally I see a big task for the IGKT there. The talk about and the need for the recording of knots is not much ado about nothing, since the world will not just change overnight, and it can stimulate discussion to determine or outline some of the functions of the IGKT. A relevant question soon becomes whether we must offer that service or is it simply our duty? Anybody want rid of any comments? I will happily learn about them.

PRINCE LEE BOO FOUND
reports
Geoffrey Budworth

Following Cy Canute's clue on page 22 of K.M. 30 Frank Harris and I located the final resting place of Prince Lee Boo of Palau in the grounds of the Parish Church of St. Mary Rotherhithe, in South East London.

The late 18th century memorial to this knot-tying royal native must have collapsed or been vandalised, for the plain brick tomb to be seen now surrounded by black painted iron railings and rampant summer weeds, would be unremarkable but for the older stone lid re-cut with the words:

To the memory of
PRINCE LEE BOO
A native of the
Pelew or Palos Islands
and Son to Abbe Thulle
Rupach or King of the
Island Coo'roo'raa
who departed this life
on the 27 December 1784
Aged 20 years
this Stone is inscribe by
the Honourable United
East India Company
as a teftimony of the Efteem
for the humane and kind
treatment afforded

To the Crew of the Ship
the Antelope Capt Wilson
which was Wrecked
off that Island the Night
of the 9th. August, 1783
"Stop, reader Stop Let Not
Nature Claim a Tear,
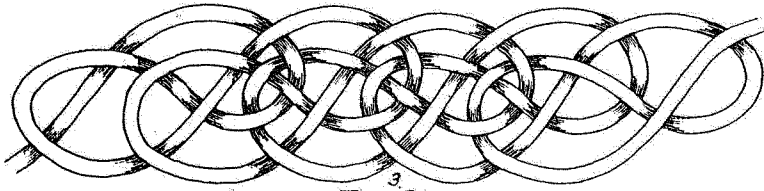A Prince of Mine Lee
Lies Buried Here."

- - - o O o - - -
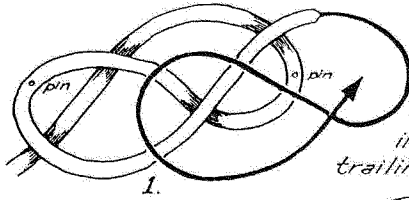
It may be helpful to pin stages 1 & 2 to a board initially, through the trailing and leading loops, and

1.

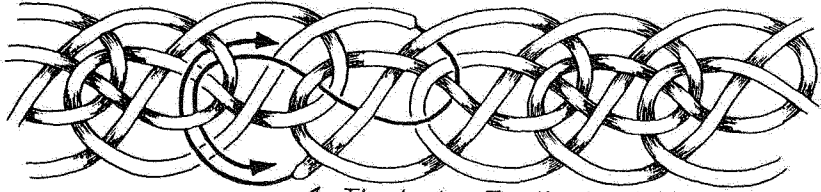*move the leading pin forward as work progresses.*

2.
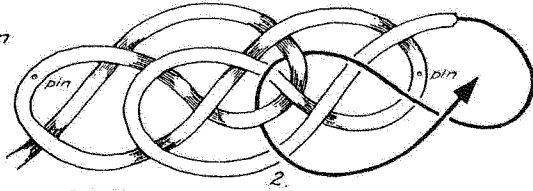
Repeat the sequence until the chain is long enough for the ends to overlap around the circumference, then link them.

3. *The Chain.*

The Link is easier if the Chain is pinned around a cardboard tube.
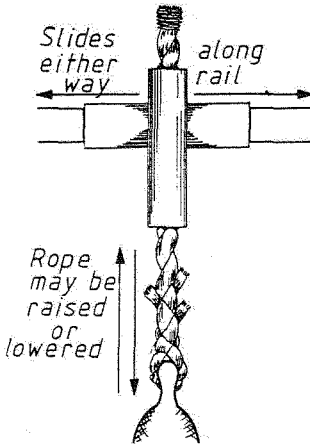
4. *The Link. Finally double the lead.*

Decorative Chain Grommet VIII.

⌘ 8·91

DECORATIVE CHAIN GROMET – by Stuart GRAINGER

ABOMINABLE WIDGETS

by Cy Canute

Slides either way → along rail

Rope may be raised or lowered

I spotted this complicated plastic slide-&-grip T-clamp on display at a chandlery stall in the U.K.'s 1991 Southampton Boat Show. There were lots of them in sealed packs, each containing two, priced 595p. It's a contrivance to attach and adjust fender ropes to the hand-rails of posh yachts or motorised gin palaces; but who would buy one, when a Clove Hitch or such-like is preferable?

I mentioned shackles and thimbles at Europes largest sailing school recently, and a 53-year-old instructor queried; "What's a thimble?" Now, I can understand a devoted dinghy sailor like him using mechanical rigging clips and clamps for racing, and so being unfamiliar with more traditional hardware. Thimbles can still save their users money. The purveyor of fender-fasteners to wealthy weekend sailors, however, is flogging a gadget nobody needs. The right knot comes cheaper and does a better job.

PEARL KNOT.

In a letter to Geoffrey Budworth, 'King' de Koning writes:-

Re Ashley Nr.383 - Pearl Knot. The method described here I find rather cumbersome as the whole of the necklace has to be pulled through the open single knot every time a bead is added. Also, it is not easy to tighten the knot firmly against the bead.

Mrs A. Berning of Amsterdam taught me a different method, which I find not only more effective, but easier to use as well.

A bead having been added, a single knot is made in the string, close to the bead. A needle is then passed through the knot (see sketch). The knot is moved along with the help of this needle until it is tight against the bead. Pressing the knot into place with the fingernail and keeping the loose strand of the string taut, the needle is withdrawn. The knot will then lay tight against the bead.

If this method should deserve its own name, I suggest calling it the Albertina knot or -method after the lady who taught me.
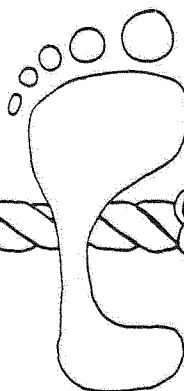
Yours knottily,
KING

Pearl Knot

The Albertina-method
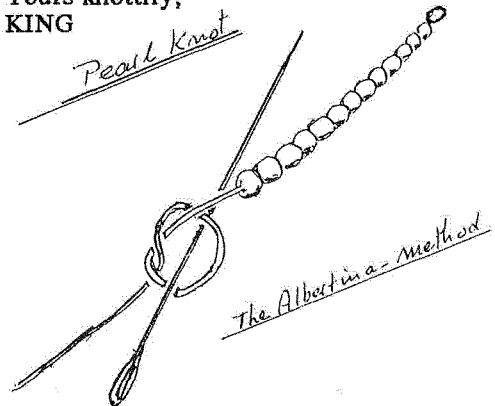
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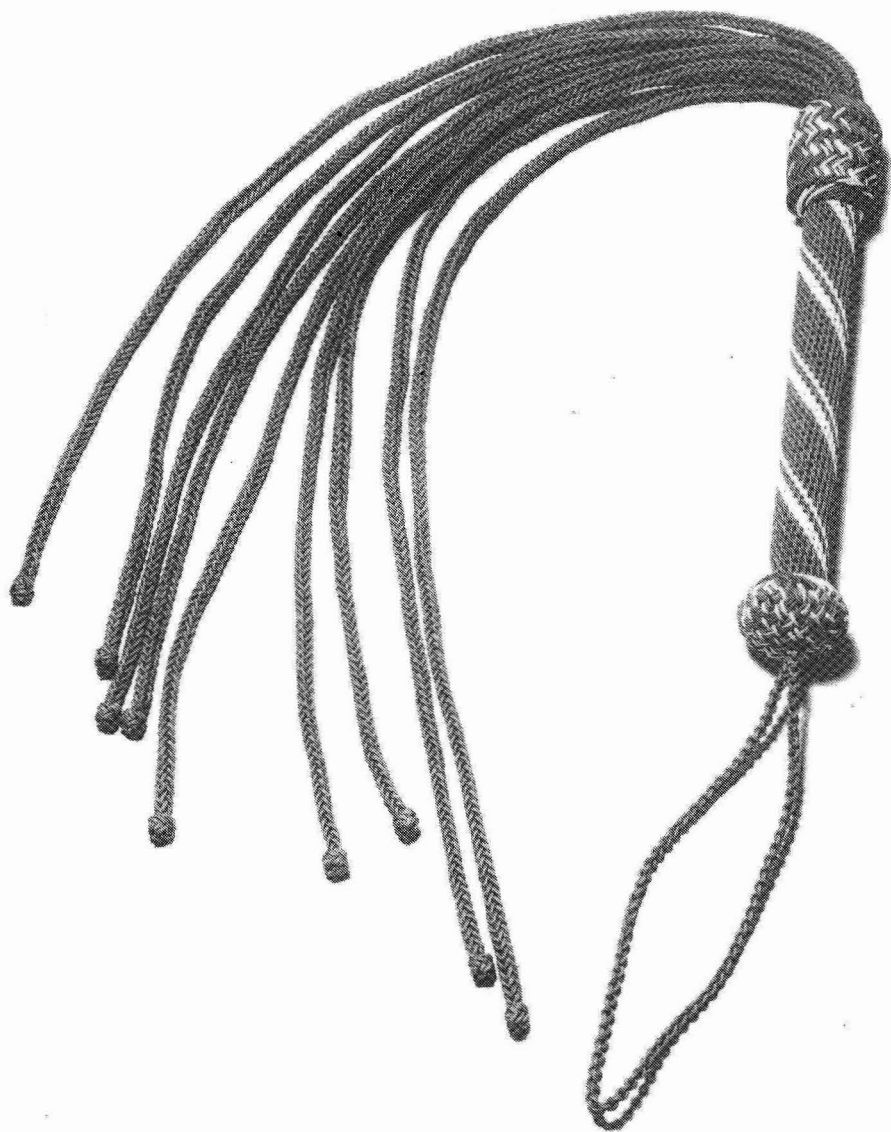
CAT - O' - NINE TAILS (Red & Gold)
by Geoffrey BUDWORTH – 1968

20

PUZZLE REVIEW

Rubik's TANGLE

At last, there's an indoor game for us to play. Made and marketed since 1990 by Matchbox Toys Ltd., Burleigh House, Enfield, Middlesex, England, it is called Rubik's TANGLE.25 identical card tiles must be arranged in a 5 x 5 square.

Each tile has the same interlaced pattern of 4 different coloured ropes upon it, but the colours of the ropes are swapped from tile to tile; and the colours at the edge of one tile must always match the colours of adjoining tiles (see the black and white illustration for an idea of what this means).

As the left over pieces become fewer, it is harder to make colours match.

There are so many permutations that neither methodical elimination or thoughtless hit-or-miss works. An intuitive approach is what is required.
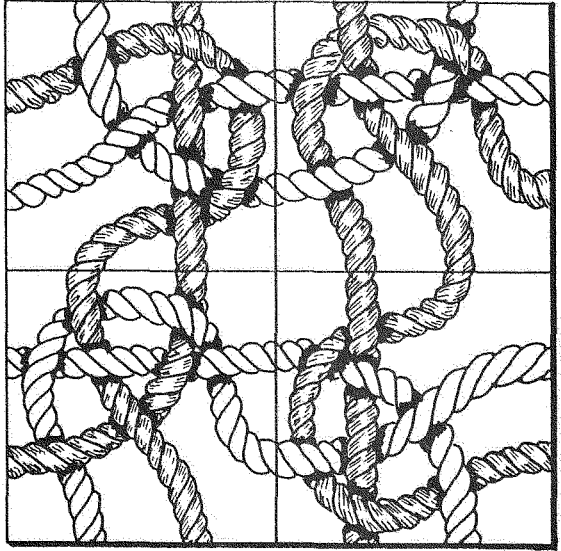

BETWIX & BETWEEN

by Cy Canute

There was a stopper knot missing - Ashley thought - between the Figure-Eight (#524) and his Oysterman (#526). Explaining on page 86 of his book of Knots what it should look like, he came up with the Tweenie (#525) but admitted it was not the solution.

My Twixie (shown here) is even closer, it seems to me, but marred by one crossing point too many.
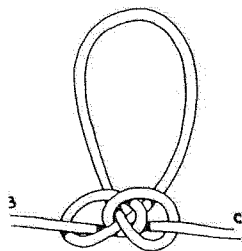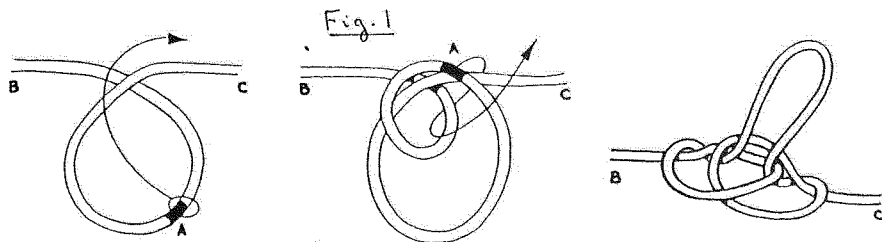
Can one of you find the mystery knot?

Cy
Canute's
'Twixie'

21
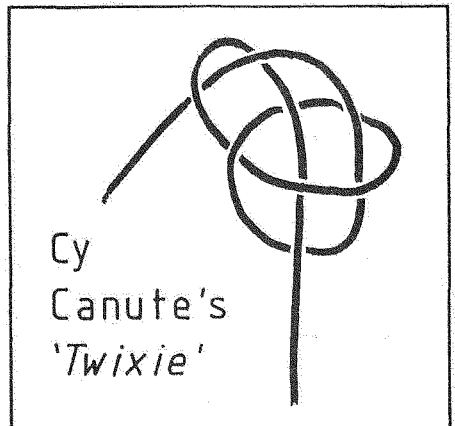
by: **Harry Asher**   Illustrated by:**Phillip Vernon**

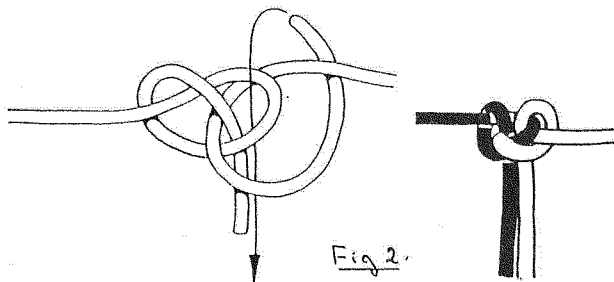ALPINE BUTTERFLY LOOP IN BIGHT

Fig.1

1. Loop in Bight.

The Alpine Butterfly Knot or Lineman's Loop is a useful general purpose knot for tying a loop in the bight. It is usually described as a loop to be tied round the chest of mountaineers, though presumably it must settle in place round the waist until a fall occurs. For me it was brought into prominence by the little known method of tying recently revived by Lester Copesteak (Q.J. 26, p.2, 1989) takenfrom the Alpine Journal Vol.40, p128, (1928) and shown here in Fig.1.

2. Bend

The same knot used as a bend was first described by Guild Member Brion Toss in The Rigger's Apprentice, published in the U.S.A., and later in the British edition (1985) entitled The Complete Rigger Wire and Rope. The general method of deriving the loop corresponding to any bend was described by me in the Guild Publication: A New System of Knotting, 1986, Chapter 6, p.6. The method as applied to the Alpine Butterfly knot is show in

ALPINE BUTTERFLY AS BEND

Fig.2.

Fig.2. In the same chapter there is also a description of the reverse process: How to obtain a loop from a bend.

3. End Loop

If this reverse process is applied to The Alpine Butterfly Bend, an end loop is obtained; the method of tying is show in Fig.3.
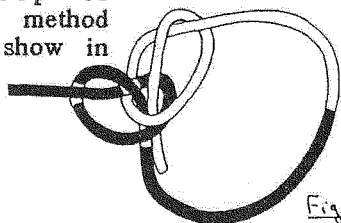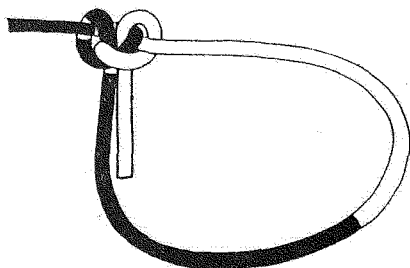
ALPINE BUTTERFLY AS END LOOP

Fig. 3

4. Alpine Butterfly Bottle Sling Knot

The method is shown in Fig.4. Note that the tying is almost exactly the same as in Fig.1 for the Loop in the Bight; the only difference is in the pulling up. I believe that the knot is much more easily learnt than any of the many other bottle sling knots so well described by Ashley, Eric Franklin, Percy Blandford, and Geoffrey Budworth, and this is certainly true for those who already know the A.B. Loop in the Bight, as tied in paragraph (1)

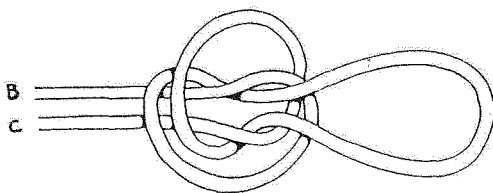ALPINE BUTTERFLY AS BOTTLE SLING KNOT

B
C

Fig. 4.

CAN ANYONE HELP?

"THE CRINNAN KNOT"

No description supplied. The only clue is that it is a decorative knot on trappings associated with highland dress. It is presumably a flat two dimensional knot either engraved, or worked in silver on a kilt pin, plaid brooch, or on the hilt, or sheath of a Sgian Dubh. Going on researches into celtic interwoven work, I would hazard a guess that it is akin to the Carrick Bend.

Can any member from north of the boarder help with a description?

(By Ed.. I think this came from Roger Miles in Australia)

DEFINITIONS

FID -

A bar of iron or wood put through the fid-hole of a mast, and across the tresstletrees, to support a topmast or top-gallant mast. The fid of a top gallant mast is formed of two wedge-shaped pieces of wood, forced into the fid-hole from opposite sides, and then being connected together, the fid cannot be jerked out by the pitching of the ship. [NARES SEAMANSHIP 1897]

KNOTS WITHOUT TEXT

B.S. Hatto writes:

Since joining the Guild, I have been sorting through various oddments and have come up with my old Father's drawings he made for me, when I was a small boy, dated 15th December 1947.

I have re-drawn a few of his examples for you to see and, given time, I might well decide to re-draw his many sketches, as most, it would seem havn't been illustrated before. I note with interest one of his methods used to tie a Strangle knot was some 17 years later published by P.P.O. Harrison as his invention!

My father worked in various areas, but mostly in heavy haulage and no-doubt used many of these knots to lift, and secure his loads. Knowing my father, he probably tied his knots by observing others in the trade, although it is posssible he may have ''invented'' a few himself. Unfortunately he died many years ago, so I am unable to provide much more in the way of information.

I thought I might produce a small book illustrating many of the more interesting knots and possible uses. All of my fathers illustrations seem to be drawn especially to be understood with no text, he wasn't one for much writing!

''Silver Birches''
Rowhills, Heath End,
FARNHAM, Surrey.

By Ed.. I publish this, and some of the superbly drawn sketches for two reasons; firstly I have had requests to publish articles that the novice knot tyers can understand, and secondly as a tribute to one who obviously went to great pains to pass on the skills of knot tying to the younger generation. I will save a couple for KM38.

--- oOo---

CONSTRICTOR KNOT

1

2

3

CLOVE HITCH
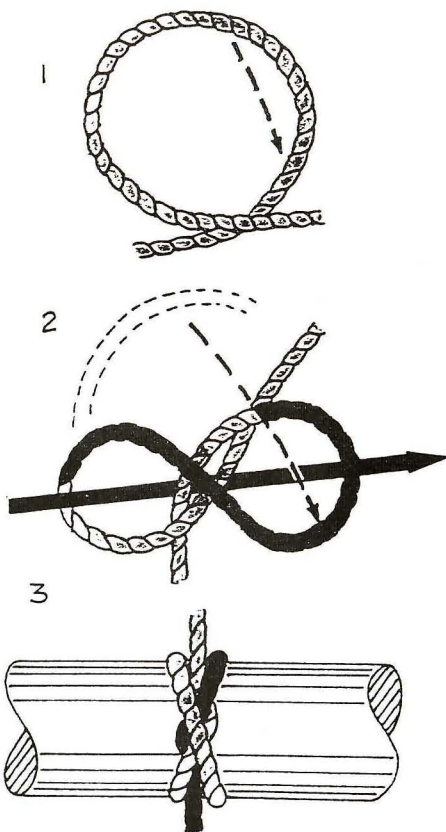
Dear Members,

In April 1992 the International Guild of Knot Tyers will be ten years old and the Council has been discussing possible ways in which to mark this anniversary. We believe that the tradition of giving presents to someone celebrating a birthday is familiar around the world, so we are inviting every member to make a birthday present for the Guild of a special piece of knot craft, showing how much their knowledge and skill has improved over the past ten years.

Many of the items which were made for our first major event, the Knotting Extravaganza in Charlton House, have been exhibited so widely and frequently since, that they are looking a little tired, so a new collection of exhibits presented for our tenth birthday will be opportune. This time we want to emphasise that the items are to be exhibited as top quality examples of knotting. The intention is to form the collection into a Tenth Anniversary Exhibition, specifically designed to be easily erected, dismantled and transported, therefore we are seeking beautiful but fairly small exhibits. If we can achieve the right quality and size, the Exhibition should be able to tour not only the U.K. and Europe, but perhaps even the world, if we can find some helpful shipping agents. (Any contacts?)

We shall be keeping you in touch with plans as they emerge. There is no desperate hurry, but it is not too early to start thinking about your birthday present to the I.G.K.T. and, if you have any good ideas for a birthday party, let us hear about them.

Des Pawson Council Chairman

25
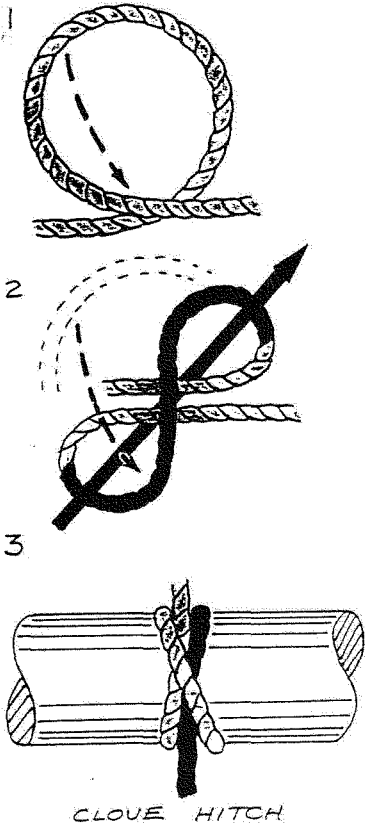
Geoffrey Budworth reports...

American Clifford Ashley died just 3 years after the publication in 1944 of his 'Book of Knots'. He did not live to see it become the bible for dedicated knot tyers, with a general readership worldwide. So it has been keen users of the book who have found and reported mistakes and omissions which - had he survived - he should in time no doubt have corrected himself.

Earlier attempts by Guild members to have this monumental book amended all petered out: but this year I contacted Sarah Gleadell with U.K. publishers Faber & Faber Ltd. and she persuaded Doubleday in New York that something should be done.

I have completed and submitted the project early in September, 1991. She was pleased with the work, and sent a copy of it to Doubleday who will share with her paying my fee.

The book might have been revised before now, if Ashley had lived longer, with enriched new editions from time to time. Instead, it has remained unaltered, a singular social record (and a memorial to the man himself)which - I believe - would be spoilt if it was now drastically updated. For that reason, I only corrected faults, remedied omissions and clarified misleading bits in both text and illustrations. I inserted NO new stuff. It is, after all, Ashley's **Book of Knots,** and so it should remain. Reluctantly I rejected some excellent innovative ideas from respected Guild members, who - bless them - have all accepted my arbitrariness without complaint.

Still, with their help, I have put right 36 illustrations, proposed 95 textual amendments, and made 20 alterations to the index. Thank you, gentlemen, for the sharp-eyed competence and generosity of your contributions:

AUSTRALIA - Neil HOOD; Roger MILES;
UK - Harry ASHER; John CONSTABLE; George PASK; Harold SCOTT; John SMITH; W Ettrick THOMSON; Ken YALDEN;
USA - Edgar SINDER; Brion TOSS.

I am told that stocks of the U.K. edition will run low in about 18 months time. Reprinted then, each copy will contain a slim booklet of our amendments. In a forward explaining why 151 amendments are needed, I point out that they were collected and collated by members of the I.G.K.T., and give my name and address for readers of the book wanting further details about - and to join - the Guild. It will be a unique boost for us to appear in every copy of Ashley bought and sold.

Almost certainly there will be something I have failed to put right, or (worse) I may have added some gaffe of my own. I'm awfully fallible. Still, 18th century British writer and lexicographer Dr. Samuel Johnson said; "When it shall be pointed out that much hath been omitted, it must be realised that by the same token a great deal hath been performed."
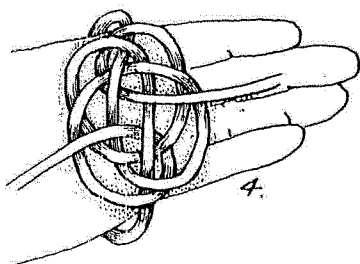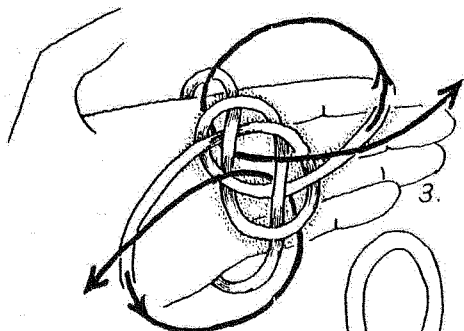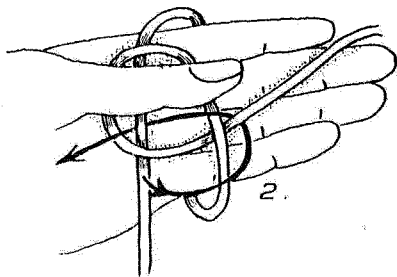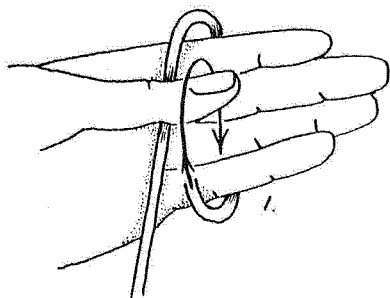
Pull ends and eye
with care to tighten
symmetrically.

Knife Lanyard Knot

(or Single Strand Diamond).

THE BASIC ESSENTIALS OF KNOTS FOR THE OUTDOORS

Author: Cliff Jacobson
Illustrated by: Cliff Moen

Published (1990) by: ICS Books Inc.,
One Tower Plaza 107 E.89th. Avenue,
Merriville, IN 46410, U.S.A.
ISBN 0-934802-57-2
Price: $4.95 - U.S.A. $6.95 -
CANADA 3.95 - U.K.

- - - oOo - - -

This slim cheap book aims to give rope-working advice for a safe and enjoyable trip into the wilderness. The author is a camping and canoeing expedition leader and writer.
I found it a bit of a pot-boiler. The choice of knots, bends, hitches, lashings and splices is sensible. The facts given - including some types of ropes and their care - are correct: but we've seen them before elsewhere and the writer failed to convince me that his trips depend on them. Of his 'Power Cinch' (the Trucker's Knot) he says; 'skilled conoeists use this pulley knot almost exclusively for tying canoes on cars.' Really? No kayaker I know can even tie it.
The American voice ('schlocky bowline', 'low utility cutesy knots') will jar on some U.K. readers; but Cliff Moen's tuck-by-tuck drawings are just right. His cartoons are fun, although they might mislead a novice, and I would love to see in Knotting Matters the one of the man who has unintentionally incorporated his fingers into an eye splice.
Cliff Jacobson's attempt to cater for left handed knot tyers may be misguided. Most of us are a mixed-up 50/50 sinister-dexter, so I doubt if all mirror image knot versions are easier for me to learn. Still, the LH hand symbol that appears every few pages is appreciated. This is a soft covered book of 63 A5-size pages, value for money, and a good buy for a beginner.

G.B.

S4C

S4C is the title of a booklet by **Pieter van de Griend**. In it Pieter explains the development of a method for the single-stranded covering of a sphere with a regular weave, some reflections on a herringbone weave implemented single stranded covering of a sphere and notes on the covering of cones. Published privately in a limited edition it can be purchased from Des Pawson.

CHAIN GROMMETS

Stuart Grainger has another book on the stocks - a collection of his beautifully drawn diagrams (a taste of which you can see on page (17)) showing how to form chain grommets. Stuart believes that the long-standing popularity of the Turk's Heads, which they superficially resemble and to which they offer alternatives, are in most instances easier to tie and teach. He has used the grommets for scarf rings, table napkin rings, bangles, basket rims and as starts and breaks in needle-hitching.

INTERNATIONAL GUILD OF KNOT TYERS