



Mid Staffs Woodturning Association Newsletter

Issue - January 2017

Editor: Hugh Field editor@mswa.co.uk Page 1 of 11

I had a dream the other evening!

I was at a woodturning club Annual General Meeting.

The Chairman gave an illustrated recap of the previous years proceedings (useful, as I am at that age when I sometimes struggle to remember what happened yesterday, let alone a year ago!). It was fascinating and clearly the club had had an interesting year and must clearly have many enthusiastic members, and an equally enthusiastic committee. The Treasurer gave another illustrated presentation indicating that the Club was in a healthy financial state and had made great strides over the last few years in turning round this aspect of the Club. More evidence of the enthusiasm existing in this group of people. Then came the turn of the Events Secretary. It was obvious that the programme for 2016 had been a great success and the one presented for 2017 was, if anything, to be even better; and it included demonstrations by two club members. Yet more evidence of the enthusiasm I had detected.

But then shock and horror! These key committee members all wish to stand down, what will happen next? No problem thought I, there is much enthusiasm amongst the members and many volunteers will surely put themselves forward.....

There was also a most interesting video presentation of firstly a scale model of a steam traction engine powered circular saw mill (which looked familiar to me, it was at the Warwickshire Model Engineering Exhibition that I attend every year) and then an extremely large, and frightening, one which the Chairman had seen at an event at Statfold Barn near Tamworth. What diverse interests exist at this club, I thought, and I really enjoy steam power.

A refreshment break came next which also allowed time for voting and judging the competition entries, but what is this I see? Only one entry for the Premier Trophy, the once a year competition? Where is all this enthusiasm I though existed? Surely that is not typical of this competition each year?

I suddenly realise I am seated at the "top" table next to the Chairman. In front of me is a sea (certainly not an ocean!) of blank faces and all was quiet and subdued. The silence went on, and on..... Then there were mumblings at the backvolunteers for key positions..... a solution that would allow Dawn to take up the role of Chairman (again!) we had people who were prepared to act as "DYD librarian" and "shop assistant", and to manage the refreshments (possibly the most important of all the club activities!). And now more mutterings, the current Secretary would be prepared to do another year. Now, even more mutterings and we had a volunteer to "assist" the current Treasurer.

I find myself contributing to the meeting, something about problems with a camera system, and gripes about not having enough help with setting up and operating it. A few members offer to help in future, great!

All is well, the club will continue, albeit with a largely "re-cycled" committee; but what a relief that must be to the club members. But what about a new Events Secretary, perhaps I had woken up before the dream ended...?

But, horror of horrors, it wasn't a dream..it really happened. I was on that committee table...for real! I am the Newsletter Editor; goodness me, whatever can I put in the January 2017 issue? Perhaps I can write about dreams!

I can't wait to see what happens next.....!



35p (£4 per year in advance)

Mid Staffs Woodturning Association Newsletter

Issue - January 2017

Editor: Hugh Field editor@mswa.co.uk Page 2 of 11

Forthcoming events

Club Meetings

3rd February Paul Bellamy Rugby Ball

3rd March Sally Burnett

Green Wood Open Form with Decoration

Club Competitions

February *Novice*

A pair of matching Bud Vases

> March Challenge A Quaich

The 2017 Programme is at the end of this Newsletter so you can print it out for future reference!

Sorry, no space for an index this month, you'll just have to read it all to find out what's in it!

Chairman's Notes

Happy New Year to everyone who could not make it along to the AGM last week. I am pleased to report that the club lives on for at least another 12 months, but only by the skin of its teeth.

I have reluctantly taken over as Chairman again, but only after a lot of peer pressure and persuasion on Friday night. I have a lot of other commitments this year with the Search & Rescue team, so can only hope that I somehow manage to do reasonable job. It seems a huge shame that we only have a few volunteers who are prepared to try and keep the club going. But I hear that it is the same with most other small clubs and organisations. Or is it just that I'm not the only fool out there who just can't say the word "No"!

Sadly though, this could indeed be the last year for the club, as we were unable to press-gang another "volunteer" to take over as our Events Secretary. Ted has done a fantastic job over the last few years and has managed to book some wonderful demonstrators and keep the costs in check. However, it appears that no-one else has either the time or inclination to take over the baton. As the number of committee members has decreased over the last few years, there are now just the four of us left, and we really cannot be expected to do all of the work. When I joined the club 10 years ago we regularly had 8 or more people sitting round John Smith's dining table in Rugeley. So I must implore you all to have a rethink and see if we can get a new Events Secretary sooner rather than later. If not then I fear that the next AGM could see the club being officially folded.

The biggest challenge for the club and main cause of our current predicament has to have been falling membership numbers. Our numbers have fallen from over 50 to less than 30 over a couple of years. This has been down to a combination of our aging membership, illness and the passing of some of our beloved colleagues. We have tried to recruit new faces, but for every new member it appears that we have sadly lost at least two others. Woodturning has also fallen out of favour as there is so much new competition from new pastimes and modern technology such as computing, gaming or even robotics. It seems that everyone either wants to fly a drone or play computer games these days!

Enough of all this doom and gloom. I just want to say though is a huge "THANK YOU" to Phillip, Ted, Vance, Hugh and John for steering the ship over the last few years. I know you will all continue to support us and keep me in check as usual. Also thank you to everyone who has re-joined the club this year and continues to support us in many ways. It's been all the little things that have helped, such as donations of tools or materials to sell in the club shop. Not only has this benefited club members who have received some excellent deals, but it has swelled the clubs funds and kept us ahead in the monetary game for a change. No wonder Vance was so cheerful at the AGM and his financial report was possibly the highlight of the evening.

See you all in February folks!

Dawn Hopley



Page 3 of 11

Past Chairman's Notes

I though that by resigning I would escape the monthly chore of writing the Chairman's Notes, but the Editor thought that I should contribute at least one more time.

I explained to those who attended the Annual General Meeting that there were two main reasons for my action. Firstly, I had served as Chairman for four years which is long enough for any one person and it was time for somebody new with fresh ideas to take my place. Secondly, I had been pushed to take on the role of Chairman of the West Midlands Panel of the national charity REMAP. For those of you who do not know this charity, it is an organisation that makes and adapts equipment for people with a wide range of disabilities. As its name implies, the West Midlands Panel serves the whole of the West Midlands Metropolitan area from Tamworth in the east to Dudley in the west. There have been a number of resignations and retirements from the Panel over the last year and a prime focus of my initial activity will be to rebuild the Panel by recruiting new volunteers. Not an easy task!

My best wishes go to Dawn Hopley who stepped forward to take my place. She will need, and deserves, your support. The organisation of the club is not just for one person. I also acknowledged at the A.G.M. the support and assistance that I had received from the members of the present committee.

I hope that the MSWA continues and that it can grow in membership.

Philip Watts

Editors Scribblings

I trust that you all had an enjoyable Christmas, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all and your families a Happy and Healthy New year.

My introductory piece will have given those who did not attend the A G M an idea of how I felt it went. We begin 2017 with Dawn Hopley taking over as Chairman (I wish it was still "politically correct" to make the title gender specific) from Philip Watts as Chairman (who has acted in this, at times difficult, position for the last four years). This is a post a post that many of you will be aware she has held previously and in which she has ably demonstrated her ability and enthusiasm. Welcome back Dawn!

Some gaps in the committee remain, in particular that of Events Secretary, but at least we have the essential core of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer; without these our constitution would have meant the club could not carry on. The programme for 2017 is in place and the demonstrators booked, so there is time to fill this role later.

Later in this issue you will see that I have re-printed the article that Gordon Fradley wrote in the January 2010 issue of Wood 'n' things where he describes how he made the Novice Trophy on his home made ornamental lathe. This issue is no longer available from the club website. Knowing the effort, patience and time that had been expended in producing the trophy made me even more proud to have held it in 2012. I hope those of you who have not previously read the article will enjoy it, and the insight Gordon gives into this other, and perhaps lesser known, aspect of working with wood.

Hugh Field

AGM Treasurers summary

Copies of the accounts will be posted on the club notice board at the next meeting rather than being published in this Newsletter, which is available to anyone accessing the Club website. Suffice to say that the accounts show that the club is currently in a sound financial position.

Membership and attendance summary

Membership at the end of the year was a reduction on previous years down to 31 members however the average attendance over the year was better at 66% of the membership.

Our highest attendance figures were for the demonstrations by Richard Findley in September (84%) and Adam Stephens in February (81%).

The lowest percentage attendances were for the August evening (this has historically been a lower attendance evening) and for the 'hands-on' event.

Individuals worthy of special mention are:

In the 'Close-but-no-cigar!' attendance award category, having missed only two sessions are Malcolm Bennett, Dave Dawes, John McElroy, David Neale, Vic Perrin and Phil Williams.

In the 'Highly Commended' attendance category, having missed just one evening, is Dawn Hopley.

And finally, in the 'All Star, Outstanding Achievement' category for 100% attendance are Gerald Adderley, Ron Dixon (for the third consecutive year!), Hugh Field, Vance Lupton, Jane Russell and Brian Shaw. Each was awarded the much coveted certificate of attendance and badge!

Vance Lupton





Two of Philip Watts' pictures from his presentation at the AGM.

Stiles & Bates 2017 Catalogue

I've just received my copy of this and can recommend it if you haven't already got yours.

I know there are many catalogues available but this is certainly one of the most comprehensive ones for woodturners. It also includes "How to" pages which are relevant to novice and experienced turners, and lots of other useful stuff! I also like the fact that it is obviously compiled by someone with a nice sense of humour, although you might miss this if you only glance through the pages. The owner also writes regularly in "Woodturning" magazine.

It's free and available on request from Stiles & Bates, Upper Farm, Church Hill, Sutton, Dover, Kent, CT15 5DF. It can also be requested via their website at www.stilesandbates.co.uk

Alternatively 'phone them on 01304 366 360, or email sales@stilesandbates.co.uk

Hugh Field

Page 5 of 11



January Competition entries

This month featured the annual Premier competition for a necklace or bracelet, and the final entry for the Challenge Trophy. There was only one entry for each class.



Jane Russell's wenge and turquoise bead necklace (left), and receiving her award from Philip Watts (below). Congratulations Jane!









My final entry for the Challenge competiton. Set of 6 coasters and stand, made from sycamore, American black walnut, and beech with white Corian inserts (above and left). I sometimes wonder why I make things so complicated!

Hugh Field

2016 Competition awards



Graham Massey was the winner of the 2016 Novice series so will hold the Gordon Fradley Trophy during 2017. Here he is receiving his award (left). Congratulations Graham!

Your Newsletter Editor receiving the Challenge trophy for the third time! (right)

(no-one has yet won it four times.....)



The Gordon Fradley Trophy - reprinted from the January 2010 issue.



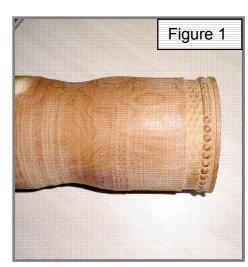
The Making of the Gordon Fradley Trophy

Let me begin by saying that I was surprised and taken aback when I received a letter from Dawn Hopley, our Club Secretary in June 2009. The letter was a request from the committee asking if I would be interested in designing and making a new Novice Trophy and could we name the Trophy in my honour along the following lines:-

Mid Staffs Woodturners' Association The Gordon Fradley Trophy

Needless to say, I felt proud and honoured to be approached in this way so, after much cogitation, I spoke to Dawn and agreed to commit to the task. The following describes the making of the Trophy and being an Ornamental Turner for a number of years, how I decided to add some ornamentation to embellish the Trophy. But before committing to the final piece I rough-turned a maquette of the body of the cup in Yew to see if it would take the required finish from the various cutting frames

I wanted to use. The reason for this is that ornamental turning has to accept the finish produced from the cutting tool. There is no chance of sanding or buffing or polishing after cutting any pattern as this would destroy the sharpness and crisp nature of each cut. Normally ornamental turners would use Ivory or African Blackwood or, quite often, Lignum Vitae, all of which are renowned for accepting a good finish from a well honed cutting tool. Figure 1 shows the maquette in yew which took the cutting of the larger pearls and also the basket weave pattern reasonably well. So I decided to make the trophy in Yew but to be extra diligent in the pattern cutting and to be extremely patient as each cut was prepared. For example one slip in counting the holes to use around





A bung was turned to suit the inside bore of the Trophy which was then chucked on the O.T. lathe. A row of pearls were cut on the upper bead of the body using the VCF

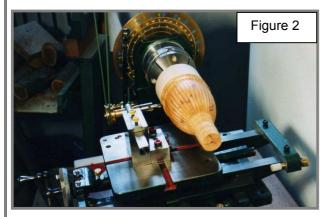
Page 7 of 11

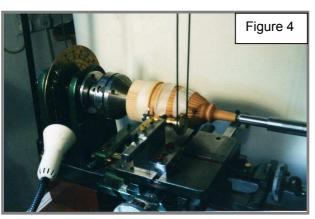
Figure 3

the dividing plate would be disastrous. The bowl of the Trophy was hollowed out and the outside cup shape was established in the normal way. Flutes were cut around the body using my Tri-ax system. This can best be described, to those who have not seen the set up, as a small router mounted on a carriage which can be moved across the surface of a steel table on the lathe's bed in virtually any controlled direction. In this application, the router carriage was mounted on a steel bar whose other end was fixed via a steel peg onto the table to act as the fulcrum point. The router carriage was clamped at a radius to suit the curved shape of the body of the trophy and the required flutes were cut around the trophy.

> soft-wood bung and a prototype tailstock is used

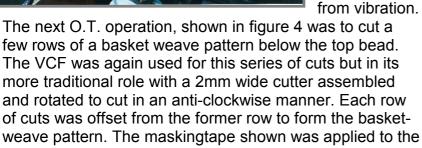
the assembly remains free



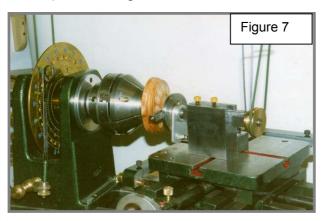


(vertical cutting frame) as a drill spindle, see figure 2. Figure 3 shows a second row of smaller pearls being added to the lower part of the body, again using the VCF as a drill spindle. Naturally a smaller cutter is required to suit the size of the bead so that the pearls are commensurat e in size to the bead. The trophy is still mounted on a

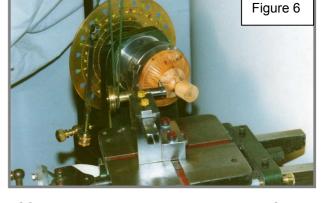




body to prevent cutting frame oil contaminating the work piece. The lid for the trophy was chucked on a 1.5" diameter spigot and now the HCF (horizontal cutting frame) was brought into use and mounted in the tool post.



An appropriate pointed. round nosed cutter was set at a radius to match the radius on the

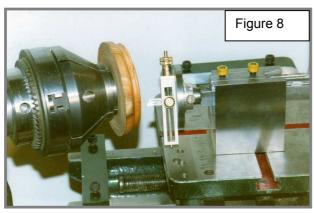


lid and a series of flutes were cut on the curved top of the lid. You will also see that a second 1.5" diameter spigot is





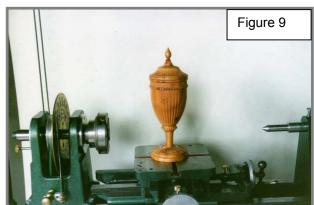
Page 8 of 11



turned on the top end of the lid. This will be used for chucking whilst the lid is hollowed. See figure 5. The lid was then hollowed and finished to conclusion before being chucked on the inside to further shape the lid for cutting 24 angled facets with the VCF. You will see from figure 6 that the cross slide is rotated to an angle to suit the angled face

to be faceted and the 'Y'axis stop is brought into use to limit the inward travel

inward travel of the cutting tool. The Trophy lid was further ornamented with a series of small concave flutes and finally topped-off with a neat finial. A base for the Trophy was turned from the same piece of yew. It was then ornamented with 12 shell patterns. For this operation the ECF (eccentric cutting frame) is brought into action. The shell patterns are created



by cutting (say) 8 circles each circle being reduced by 2mm from the maximum circle diameter of 13.5mm but instead of cutting all circles concentrically each time a smaller circle is selected on the ECF, the 'Y-'axis cross slide is moved in by1mm. This then creates the eccentric shell pattern as shown in figure 7. Figure 8 shows a closer view of the ECF, the 60° angled shape of the cutter used and the angled cross slide to match the angled face of the base. The final figure 9 shows the finished Trophy standing on the lathe that made it. The Trophy was completed by the addition of a soft wood plinth which I sprayed black. It was kept square so that successive winner's names could be engraved onto a simple small rectangular silvered plate. These are provided with an adequate adhesive backing to stick to the appropriate side of a square plinth thus avoiding curving and pinning. The whole exercise culminating in this article for our Newsletter has been a very interesting journey. This all started with a desire to learn more about Ornamental Turning. The lathe is a home-made one with the exception of the cross-slide. I made all the cutting frames to various designs which I had read about and as you can see, the tail-stock is still a provisional design in MDF constructed specially to produce this Trophy. I hope that successive winners will enjoy this trophy as much as I have enjoyed making it. If you are interested in learning more about ornamental turning, my workshop door is always open to you to come and have a go yourselves.

Gordon Fradley December 2009.





Page 9 of 11

Hints and tips

This section is for any tips or advice you would like to pass on to other members. If you have discovered something you found useful, that you think may benefit others, please pass it on.

++++++

Custom Toolrests – David Fields

David is an ex member of MSWA and his grandson is able to make tool-rests, similar to the Robert Sorby system, out of round steel bar. These can be tailored to suit your requirements i.e. tool-post stem and length of the actual tool-rest. At the moment he is only doing straight tool-rests but bowl rests may be feasible in the future. If you have a Record lathe and do small spindles, he has developed a cranked tool-post, allowing the tool-rest to get close to the work, without the banjo dropping off the front bed bar.

If you would like to see one, or want to discuss your requirements, please have a chat with David on 01283 229072.

Carnauba wax polishes – Paul Bellamy

Following the favourable reaction to the polishing kits Paul started earlier this year, he has established a supply of carnauba wax flakes. These can be used to make your own 'sticks' or mixed with other components to make a range of polishes. He is selling these in 250g bags but could do larger quantities if you need it. He also has some ready-made wax blocks, comprising 60% beeswax / 40% carnauba. These are softer than most 'wood-turning sticks' but he prefers this as it doesn't score your work.

He also has more of his 'Buffing kits', similar to Chestnut's system. For more details, e-mail him at paul@pnbellamv.co.uk

[David and Paul are members of Derwent Woodturning Club, as am I, so I could act as "go between" on these if required - Hugh Field]



Abrasives and other items

Mirka Abranet 70 x 125mm Sheets:

5 x Mixed Grit Pack (120, 180, 240, 400 and 500) = £2.00 per pack

Mirka Abranet 50mm Sanding Discs:

7 x Mixed Grit pack (80, 120, 180, 240, 320, 400, 600) = £1.50 per pack

Rhinogrip 50mm Sanding Discs:

7 x Mixed Grit pack (80, 120, 180, 240, 320, 400, 600) = £0.90 per pack

Flexipad Sanding Pads (for above discs):

50mm Velcro Conical Spindle Pad with 6mm shaft = £8.82 each

J-Flex Sanding Paper:

 $5 \times 1 \text{ m}$ lengths mixed grits 120, 180, 240, 320 & 400 = £9.50 per pack

Screwdrivers:

Various sizes donated to club = £1 each

BondFix Superglue:

50g Bottle of Medium Viscosity = £3 per bottle

Donated Items:

Various Books and Magazines = 50p to £2 each



Club information

Your club committee for 2016 is:-

Chairman - Dawn Hopley chairman@mswa.co.uk

Tel: 07860 501 379

Secretary – John McElroy secretary@mswa.co.uk

Treasurer - Vance Lupton treasurer@mswa.co.uk

Assistant Treasurer - Graham Massey

Events Secretary – Vacant <u>events@mswa.co.uk</u>

Newsletter editor – Hugh Field editor@mswa.co.uk

Tel: 0121 329 2911

Webmanager – Philip Watts webman@mswa.co.uk

Health and Safety Advisor -

Hugh Field <u>health.safety@mswa.co.uk</u>

Please use phone numbers only if absolutely necessary.





Page 10 of 11



The club has a selection of Woodturning DVD's for use by registered club members use only. You can borrow them for just £2 per month (some are free)! If any members have DVDs which are not on the list, but which they would like to donate to the Club, they would be most welcome.

Current List of DVD's available:

Club Ref.	Description		Cost per month
MSD1	AWGB Instant Gallery 1991 to 2003		Free
MSD2	Sharpening Woodturning & Carving Tools	The Guild of Master Craftsmen	£2
MSD3	Turning Projects with Richard Raffan	Selecting wood and various projects	£2
MSD4	Turning Wood with Alan Holthm	Project No.3 A Table Lamp	£2
MSD5	Colouring Wood with Jan Sanders	The secrets behind various wood finishes inc. liming and gilding	£2
MSD6	The Trent Bosch 3 disc collection	Vessels of Illusion, Decorative Bowls & Sculpting Wood	£2
MSD7	Bowls for Beginners with Ray Jones	£2	
MSD8	Missing DVD	Last borrowed by Pete Harland	
MSD9	Making & Decorating Platters	Mick Hanbury DVD	£2
MSD10	Making & Decorating Boxes	Mick Hanbury DVD	£2
MSD11	Jimmy Clews "Turn it On" vol. 1	A footless bowl, and oriental style box and tool sharpening	£2
MSD12	Jimmy Clews "Turn it On" vol. 2	A Ziracote Bowl with Brass Inlay, A long stem Goblet and preparing a fallen tree for turning	£2
MSD13	Jimmy Clews "Turn it On" vol. 3	A Lidded Box, Footless Bowl with Silver Highlights with ~The use of CAD to design projects	£2
MSD14	All Glued Up with Sue Harker	A study in Open Segmented turning	£2
MSD15	Turned Out Nice Again with Sue Harker	A study in Involuted Turning	£2
MSD16	Missing DVD	Last borrowed by Pete Harland	£2
MSD17	Woodcut Turning Tools promotional DVD	The Woodcut Bowlsaver and Pro-Forme hollowing tool	Free
MSD18	Missing DVD	Last borrowed by Pete Harland	
MSD19	Inlaid & Novelty Boxes with Chris Stott	Box making and decorating techniques	£2
MSD20	An Introduction to Fine Woodturning with Simon Hope	"Hope For Us All" vol.1 with Simon Hope	£2
MSD21	A Burr Hollow Form with Pewter Finial	"Hope For Us All" vol.2 with Simon Hope	£2
MSD22	Wet Turning with a Difference with Stuart Mortimer	Wet wood turning with a difference!	£2
MSD23	The AWGB Seminar 2011	Images and Gallery from the 2011 convention	Free
MSD24	Turning Green Wood with Mick O'Donnell	Thin wall turning of green of fresh timber. DVD also includes Tool Sharpening techniques	£2
MSD25	Missing DVD	Last borrowed by Anne Hopkinson	£2
MSD26	Turning a Half Sized Hat with Andrew Hall	Live demonstration of hat turning	£2
MSD27	Turning a Small Corinthian Helmet and Stand with Andrew Hall	Another live demonstration by "The Hat Man".	£2
MSD28	Sharpening - Glenn Lucas	How to do his custom grinds	£2

David Brearley has taken over the responsibility for these items and may be seen at Club Meetings.

Mid. Staffs Woodturners Association

2017 Programme

Meeting date	Demonstrator/activity	Competition
January 6th	Annual General Meeting and presentation of awards	Challenge - Set of coasters and stand
		Premier - Necklace or Bracelet
February 3rd	Paul Bellamy - Rugby Ball	Novice - A pair of matching Bud Vases
March 5th	Sally Burnett - Green wood open form with decoration	Challenge - A Quaich
April 7th	Gary Rance - Three items including a pepper mill	Novice - A Ring Stand
May 5th	Hands-on and Open evening. Display, try a technique	Challenge - An Abstract
	yourself, sharpening, wood sales, etc.	
June 2nd	Mark Sanger - Lidded Hollow Form	Novice - A Miniature Birdhouse
July 7th	Dawn Hopley - Woodturning and Weaving	Challenge - A Plant Stand
August 3rd	Hugh Field / Philip Watts - Video evening - How to do and	Novice - A table or Stool Leg
	how not to do it!	
September 1st	David Atkinson - Box making	Challenge - A Miniature Table or Stool
		50 mm maximum across top.
October 6th	Steve Heeley - Choose a project on the night	Novice - An Egg and Cup
November 3rd	Gerry Marlow - Fork Handles!	Challenge - A Clock
December 1st	Ted Gill - A Reconstructed Bowl	Novice - A Candlestick
January 2018	Annual General Meeting. Date to be announced.	Challenge - An Offset Candlestick
		Premier - A Decorated Hollow Form