

Rocky Forge News

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Next Meeting: 2/11/2017

The next meeting of the Rocky Forge group marks a milestone; **it will be our 15th anniversary**. The group was started in February 2002 with an organizational meeting in Ted's basement. We had a very large crowd with then IBA president, Jeff Sallot, leading us through the process of becoming a satellite group of the Indiana Blacksmithing Association (IBA). I will summarize more on that day later, perhaps in a separate email. Nevertheless, we have reason to celebrate this coming Saturday at Ted's shop. As usual, we will have coffee and doughnuts ready by 8:30, so come early to enjoy that and time to socialize with our friends.

You all know what a swage block is, right. Well do you know all the different things a swage block can do for you? **Saturday I am going to show you what all those depressions, holes and shapes in a swage block can do to make your hot metal work a lot easier.** And for you sheet metal workers, galvanized, thin iron sheet, copper, silver and gold there are numerous procedures that use the swage block. I hope to send you home with a far better understanding and appreciation for that big heavy pieces of cast iron.

Also, one of our guests at this meeting is an expert on hammer handles. **He will tell us about the various types of handles and will have hammer handles to sell.**

After that we will have **open forge time** so you can work on your favorite project, so bring your bucket of work tools. Unfortunately, we were pretty well iced out at the last meeting, but the weather forecasters are calling for possible rain on Saturday with temperatures in the mid 40's. Let hope that one holds, rain we can handle, ice is a no show!

Carol said she would fix us good ole chicken and noodles for lunch, so bring some side dishes to go with that menu. She also said, "Potato chips do not qualify as a side dish".

We will have "Iron-in-the-Hat" so bring items to add to the table for our drawing. Recently we have

had some pretty good items on the table so let's keep the quality up. Many thanks to those who bring quality and useful items to Iron-in-the-Hat!

I hope to see you all on Saturday, February 11. Bring food, tools, iron-in-the-hat and a desire to learn and work at the forge and anvil.

Ted

Interesting Web Sites

Blacksmithing for beginners: Forging nails:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wmcDjLn0eR8>

On facebook: james austin - forged axes. historical blacksmithing & tools

Getting to Grips with Railings!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=heANRE4KWho>

The Principles of Beauty, by John Addington Symonds, Bell and Daldy, London, 1857:

<https://books.google.com/books?id=RRrIDvBArVYC&printsec=frontcover&dq=the+principles+of+beauty&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjbtYGT6vvRAhXk0FQKHUqADMIQ6AEIHDA#v=onepage&q=the%20principles%20of%20beauty&f=false>

Last Chance:

Rocky Forge Address Book

Rocky Forge is putting together an address book of our members for our members. There is a web site for you to provide your contact information and it is at the following URL.

<http://www.rockyforge.org/members.shtml>

Please click on this link and give us your contact information. It takes less than 60 seconds.

Contacts

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Excerpts from
The Principles of Beauty,
by John Addington Symonds,
Bell and Daldy, London, 1857,
Pages 56-60.

“Beauty depends upon the mind. There must be a mind to perceive it. To a person wanting the power of perception it is of no use to be told of exquisite colours, or fine lines, or of harmonious combination of form, or of the expression of related emotions, &c. If he does not perceive these things, to him the object is not beautiful, and to him there is not even *Actual* Beauty, which is beauty perceived. Now Ideal Beauty in its birth is not that which the mind perceives, but that which it imagines. No one will question that the mind makes combinations very different from anything that has ever been presented to the senses.”

“Art does not consist in the mere imitation of the real and actual, but that it aims at educating and realizing the divine possibilities of our nature. If a person has no imagination, to him there is no ideal beauty; just as we have seen that to the person wanting the correlative sensibility there is no actual beauty. As is the mind, as is the imagination, as are the ideas, such will be ideal beauty. Raphael writes a letter to his friend telling him that he is designing



a Madonna-from a model? No - but from an idea that is floating in his mind. No one who really admires the Madonna di San Sisto will dream that Raphael had ever seen such a face as her's. His mind created it as an idea, and his hand realized it on the canvas.”

“Art is not subordinate to nature. It is inclusive to nature. It is nature *plus* the skill, the power, the sentiment, and the imagination of man's mind. It is nature informed with thought and infused with feeling. It is nature exalted, refined, and glorified. In a word, it is nature impregnated with humanity.

“Art, I have said, is inclusive of nature. It is nature and something more. Nature is substance existing in certain forms and modes and conditions of being, full of forces which are latent or actively at work, - and man is in the midst of them. If he is content with nature as he finds it, he is a dwarfed, undeveloped being. But it is not so; for it is obvious that there ever arises in his mind a dissatisfaction with world about him. He has the capacities of enjoyment which this rude, uninformed nature will not satisfy; his thoughts grow, and nature is compelled to grow in co-ordination with his thoughts. His food must be elaborated and refined into something more sustaining and delicate and enlivening than what he can gather from wild fruits and rivulets.”

“Let us refrain, then, from a hypothetical laudation of Nature and disparagement of Art. When the flowers of our conservatories are to be plucked in the woods and hedgerows, when a match for the English hunter or racehorse is caught in the prairie, when silk-worms make Cashmere shawls, when the winds chant masses of Mozart, and the birds pipe a pastorage of Beethoven, when we meet a Venus of Melos in the fields, or accost a Delphic Sibyl in the village, then let us begin to talk of Art as a mere reflex of outward nature.”

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