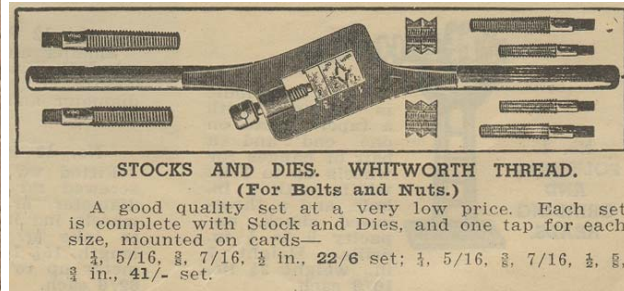
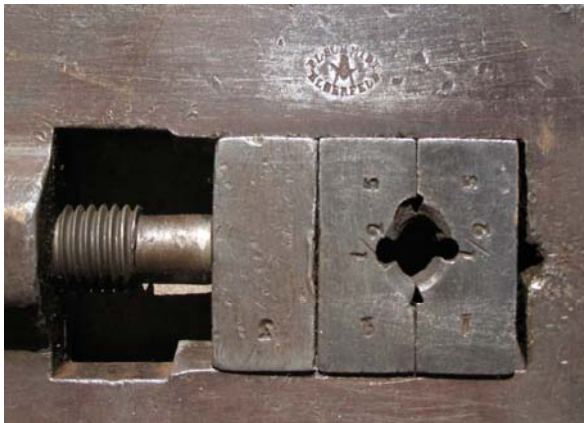


## From the Collection - Stock & Dies

by Coal Creek Curatorial Officer - 18 September 2008



Amongst the many interesting and useful tools we have in the collection is this stock with cutting dies restored to working condition by our ever-helpful volunteer and avid tool collector Ian Lester. Stocks and dies are used for making threads on nuts, bolts and pipes. The stock is the handle piece and the dies are the cutting blocks which are fitted into the centre of the stock. Sizes vary depending on the need. We have several sets in the collection which will soon be on display in Boston's Carriage works when it reopens. Ian has kindly offered to restore more tools and we are very grateful for his help.



This particular tool bears the maker's stamp - P L SCHMIDT ELBERFELD. The company was founded in 1790 by Johann Schmidt in Sprockhövel Dirk / Westphalia, Germany. The Schmidt family were farriers and swordsmiths. Johann's son Peter Ludwig Schmidt gave the company its name and the character "angle and circle". Located in the town of Wuppertal, Elberfeld, Germany the company P. L. S. grew and soon became well known abroad.

In 1875 Carl Kämmerling entered the business as a young apprentice. Later he left the company Schmidt and opened his own businesses (CK Tools) in Wuppertal with a sales offices in London. His son Wilhelm Carl Kämmerling entered into its operations. After the death of his father in 1935 Wilhelm Carl Kämmerling took over the company Peter Ludwig Schmidt. Until the final merger of the companies CK and PL Schmidt in the 50s both companies retained their identity and their brands. Today the company, now known as Carl Kämmerling International, is one of the largest employers. This year they launched their new look to the international market along with a new website.

You will soon see the restored P L Schmidt tool along with others Ian has kindly offered to de-rust at Boston's Carriage Works. I wish to thank volunteers Ian, Perry and Doug for their help in identifying tools and various items from Boston's over the past weeks. Thanks also to John, Chris, Gill, Ben and the school boys for assisting to clean and move the large, heavy and often awkward items back into Boston's.

