



LOCKS & KEYS



Issue 35

The Newsletter for lock collectors

early 2008

"Locks & Keys" needs more subscribers. If you know any other collectors, please ask them to subscribe to their own copies!

"Locks & Keys" welcomes contributions, preferably with illustrations on separate sheets. PC disks with files in MSWord7, MSWorks4.5, Write, Wordpad, or saved as .rtf can be used. Articles may also be emailed to the Editor — see below right.

SALE of locks mainly from UK banks details on page 4

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Editor

This issue should have been the November 2007 issue, and I was going to number it as such — but decided that might be confusing and unfair.

A number of readers have said they enjoy reading this *newsletter*, some have even missed it. However, what an editor most needs (apart from subscribing readers!) is copy! My knowledge of locks is limited, and so are my resources.

Many of the readers are, or were, working locksmiths. You know a great amount about locks old and new, and you have collections including many locks and keys of interest to fellow collectors. I have repeatedly pleaded for articles to include and this issue has been made possible by information on some locks for sale. I have some fillers, but little in the way of articles you would like to read.

Send me details of locks, or keys, and I can write the story for you, if you do not feel you can write, or edit an article for publication.

At present, I still work full-time, so would appreciate any help anyone can give me, if readers would like to keep this newsletter going. The purchase of a colour printer now allows full-colour pictures to be used.



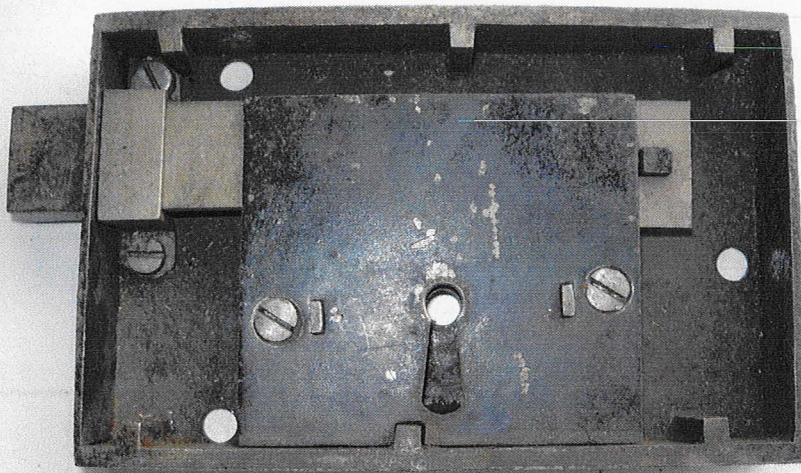
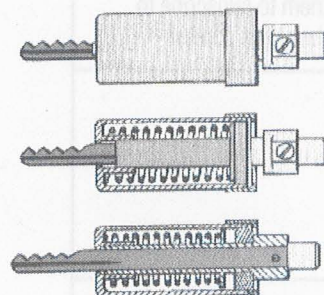
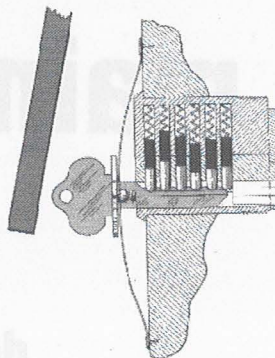
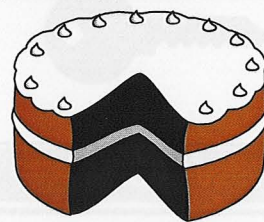
Normally, subscriptions would be due before the beginning of the new subscription year, but I shall wait to ask for payment until after the next issue ... if there is one.

Feedback

There are no questions, answers, nor advertisements for sale or wanted, other than the sale noticed on the front page.

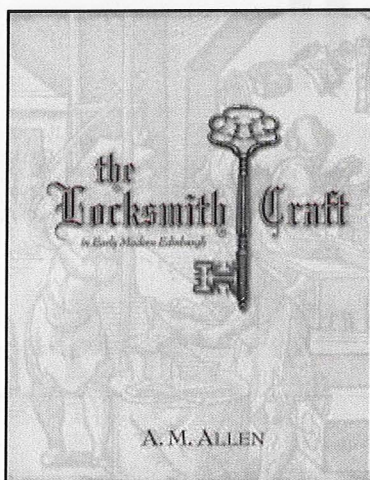
However, my attention has been drawn to a patent on lock bumping. I was only aware the idea went back to the 1930's. H. R. Simpson obtained US patent 1,667,223 for the idea in 1928! The modern practice appears even simpler than this patent diagram (*left*).

A vibrating pick which achieved almost the same idea was patented by G. J. Barron in 1925, US patent 1,639,919 (*right*).



Georgian iron rim lock, single sided, 1 tumbler and wards; left hand. C1800. (No key). £60

The locksmith craft in early modern Edinburgh



Aaron Allen is a postdoctoral fellow in Scottish History at the University of Edinburgh and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. His main areas of interest include urban history and material culture.

The locksmith craft was an important part of the early modern town. This book explores the lives of the craftsmen, the social structures in which they lived and the remarkable objects which they made, from the time of incorporation of guilds in the fifteenth century, to the eve of Deacon Brodie, the Industrial Revolution and the breakdown of guild control.

By considering this colourful group of craftsmen, the urban experience comes to life and our understanding of a staple occupation is enhanced.

The book is about locksmiths in Edinburgh, where the author is, and the Royal Museum of Scotland with a large collection of physical examples — but is typical of many pre-industrial towns.

The book is well-produced, but it clearly written by an academic. There is less emphasis on craft and technology than social matters

Edinburgh : Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, 2007 xi, 176 p. : ill., facsim., plans ; 29 cm. Includes bibliographical references (p. 169-173) and index. Originally presented as the author's thesis (Ph.D.)—University of Edinburgh, 2005.

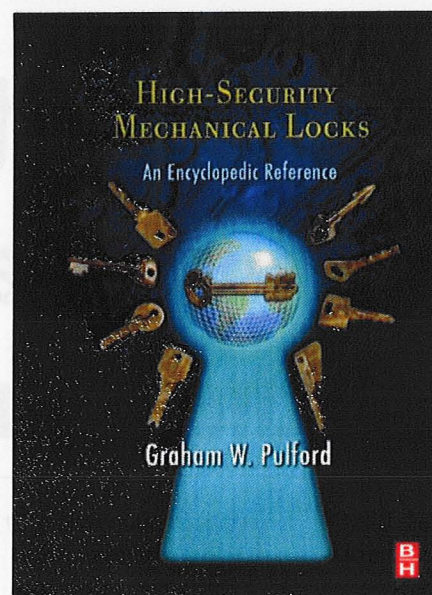
ISBN: 090390344X

ISBN: 9780903903448

Hardback. Price £50.00 distributed by Oxbow Books, Oxford

Countrybookstore.co.uk offers it for £40.

High security mechanical locks



High-Security Mechanical Locks comprehensively surveys and explains the highly technical area of high security locks in a way that is accessible to a wide audience. Well over 100 different locks are presented, organized into 6 basic types. Each chapter introduces the necessary concepts in a historical perspective and further categorizes the locks. This is followed by detailed 'how it works' descriptions with many pictures, diagrams and references. The descriptions are based on actual dissections of the real locks.

The scope is limited to key operated mechanical locks, thus keyless combination locks and digital locks are not covered. The book does not deal with routine locksmithing topics such as installation and servicing of locks. The sensitive area of picking and bypassing of locks is dealt with only at a high level without giving detailed information that would be unacceptable in the wrong hands.

* Comprehensive coverage of over 100 different types of 19th and 20th century key-operated locks, unified in a simple classification scheme

* Detailed operating principles - clear "how it works" descriptions

* Manipulation resistance rating for each lock on a scale of 1 to 5

PULFORD, Graham *High-Security Mechanical Locks*. Elsevier 2007

ISBN-13: 978-0-7506-8437-8 £50

Peter Hall
is acting as agent for the seller
of these uncommon locks,
mostly from banks.

All offers should be sent to him by post.

His address is:

14 Olive Grove

Burton Joyce

NOTTINGHAM

NG14 5FG

UNITED KINGDOM

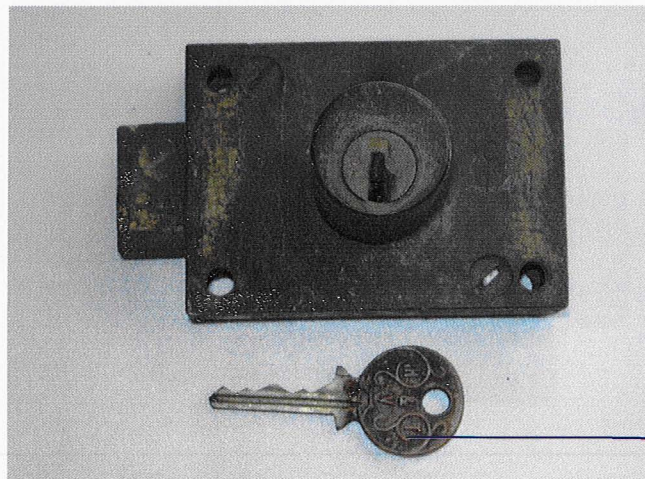
Telephone 07773 776 710

mobile 0115 844 0173

**Please include your email address if you
have one.**



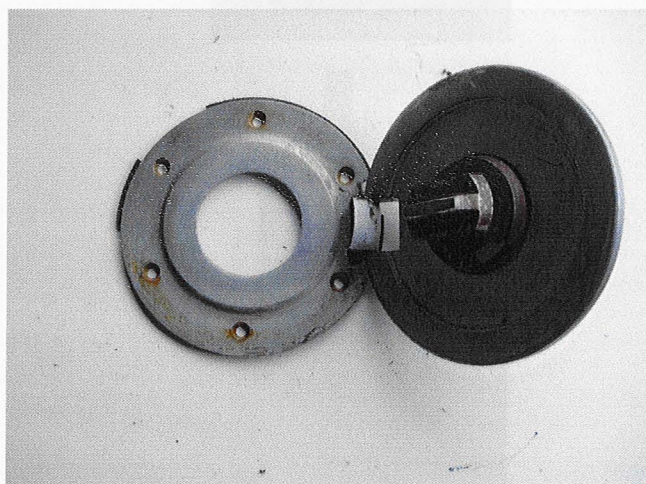
Bank and safe locks for sale



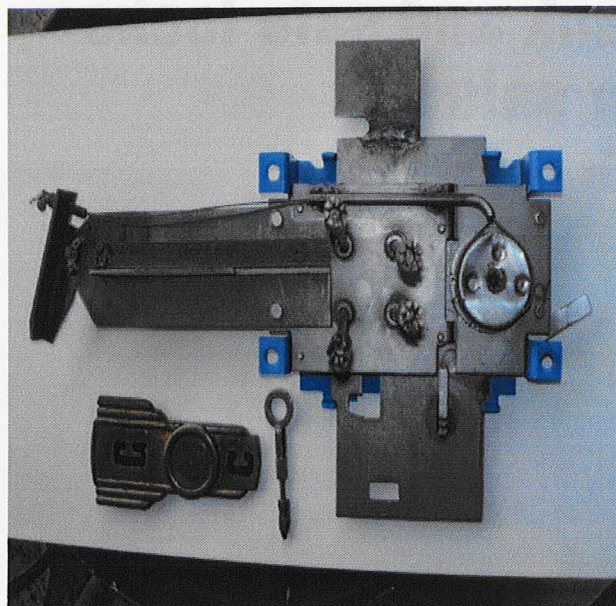
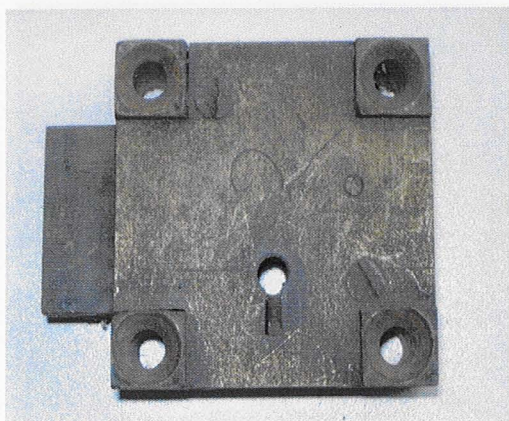
Top left: Chatwood safe lock 7 lever with 2 original keys £190

Top right: Chatwood rotary trap lock, with 1 'universal' key, from a Midland bank. £150

Bottom: Chatwood-Milner "Teapot 'combination lock'", as fitted over keyhole for extra security (dummy dial keyhole cover) £60



Various safe and bank locks for sale



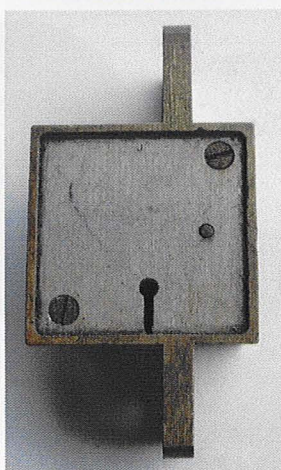
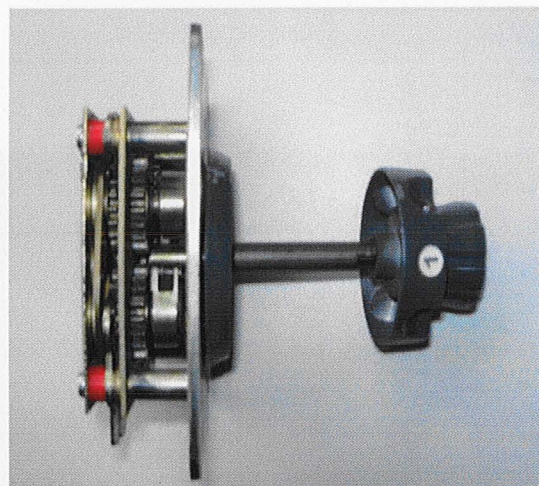
Top left: Chubb Adaptable Trap Lock NW (no key) new, £90. Another one is available, £80.

Top right: Fichet Bankers Safe lock GC key lock and click lock, complete with original key £225

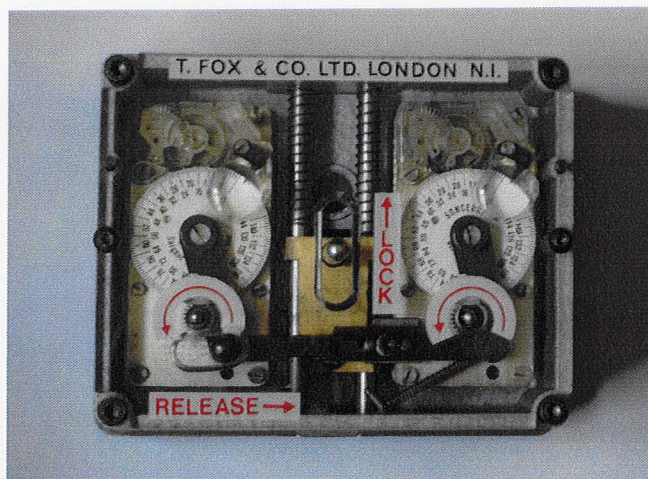
Right and bottom right: Fichet Monopole safe lock £150

Below: Lloyds Bank P type trap lock (no key) £90

Bottom left: Ditto, new, (no key) £100

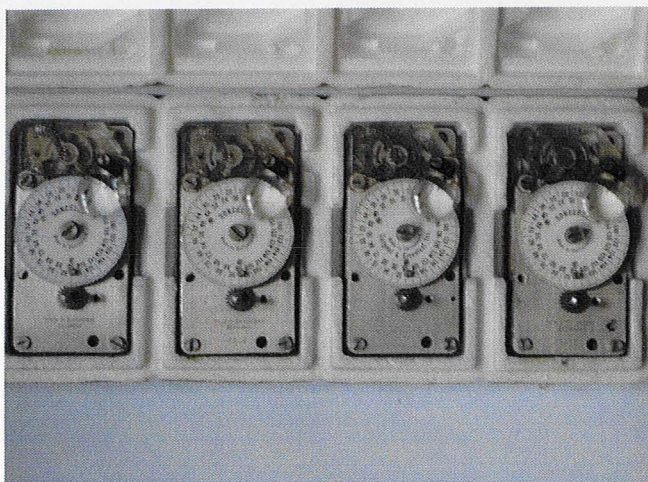


Time locks for sale



Upper left: T Fox twin movement time lock £120

Upper right: Sargent & Greenleaf twin movement timelock £60

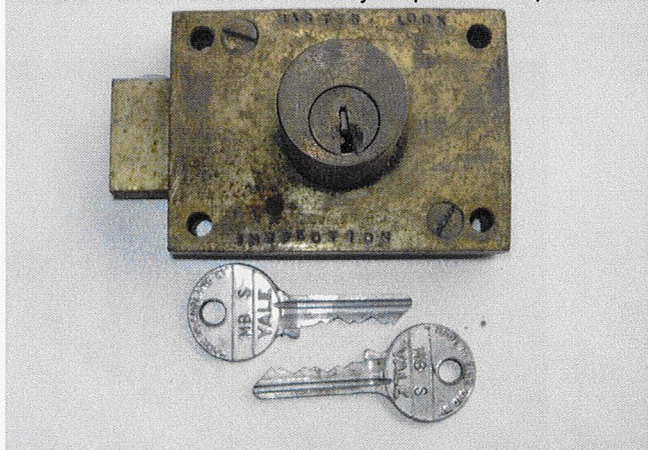


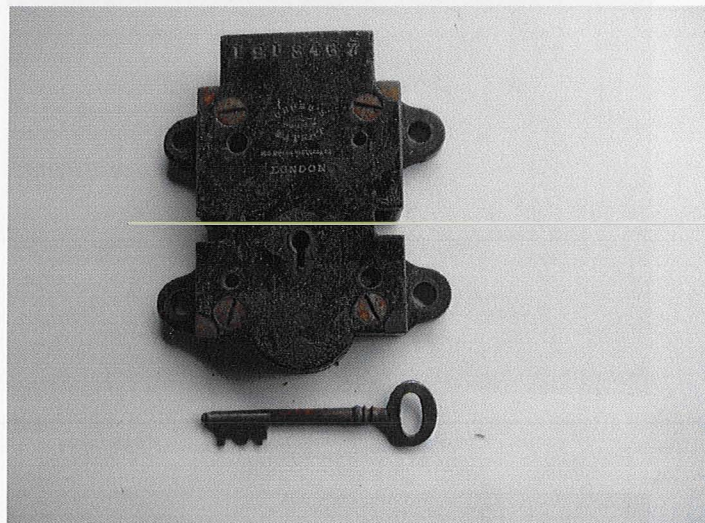
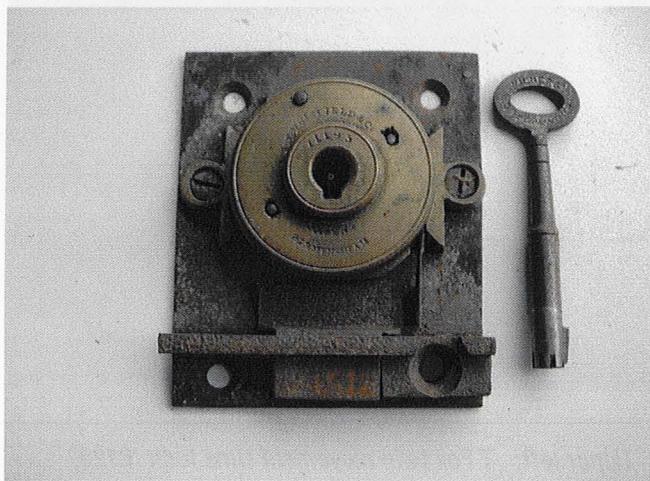
Left: four timelock movements Sargent & Greenleaf each £60

Bottom left: Chatwood rotary trap lock (inspection quality) from a Midland bank, with 2 original 'Universal' keys £180

Bottom right: Cox safe lock 71 with key £80 (2 available)

Midland Bank Chatwood Rotary Trap Lock - Inspection



Safe locks and keys for sale

Top left: Whitfield safelock with Milner key (made after Milner takeover) £80

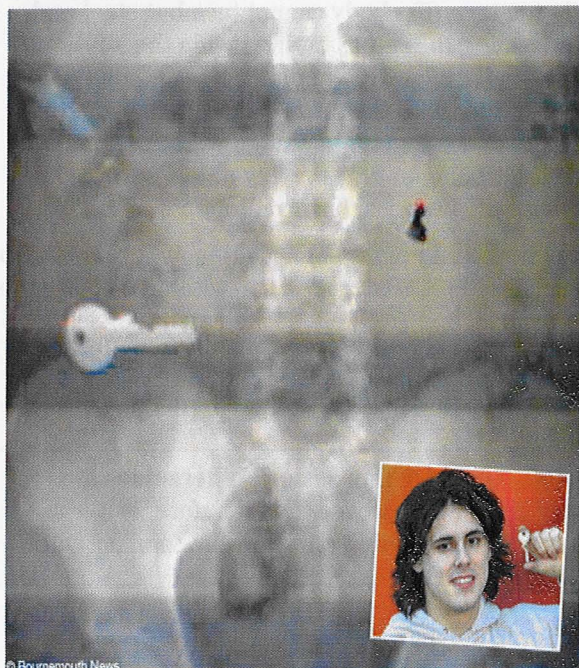
Top right: Chubb 7 lever safe lock with 1 original key £80

Bottom left: selection of 8 combination lock change keys, including Chatwood Type A, Manifoil, etc. £40

Bottom right: Milner 7 lever safe blocklock — DRILLED (for spare parts only) £30



No need for keyhole surgery ...



Chris Foster, 18, was drunk, but he was enjoying the party in Bournemouth University hall of residence — so much that he did not wish to go home. His friends told him he had drunk too much, and were taking him home.

In his desperation to stay at the party, he said he couldn't go home — he had swallowed his key, so couldn't get in!

Foster was given salt water in an effort to make him vomit, but that did not produce the key. He slept on a sofa in the communal lounge. Next morning, he had no recollection of what had happened, but his throat was very sore, and his stomach didn't feel right.

His friends took him to hospital, where he was X-rayed. This revealed the 2cm Yale-type cylinder key in his stomach.

No treatment was necessary, and the key passed harmlessly through his gut the next day.

The key was replaced on Mr Foster's keyring, as he said he couldn't afford the £20 charge to replace it.

[This story was widely reported in Britain in February 2008]

Other lock collectors' journals

The antique lock collector. West Coast Lock Collectors' Association.

Membership Secretary Bob Heilemann
1427 Lincoln Blvd
Santa Monica
CA. 90401
USA

Annually \$17 USA, \$20 world: cheques payable to WCLCA drawn on US banks only, or by Paypal to doggyjack@comcast.net.

www.wclca.org locksmann@earthlink.net

Journal of lock collecting the ALCA newsletter.

Annually \$20, payable to

David Rankl
ALCA
13115 Millersburg Road SW
Massillon
Ohio 44647
USA.

dir41@aol.com

The Lock collector

Tony Beck
19 Lawrence Avenue
Chaddesden
DERBY
DE21 4RD
United Kingdom

tony1000@ntlworld.com. Annually £9.50, Europe £10, elsewhere £11.

www.lockcollectors.eu

7th European Lock Collectors' Meeting London 19 — 21 September 2008

Visits are being arranged to the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Science Museum, staying at the Royal National Hotel, Bloomsbury, nearby in central London.

Reservations (quoting "Lock collectors, — Royal National Hotel) are £70 single, £90 twin/double, including breakfast.

email: info@imperialhotels.co.uk
fax: 0044 (0) 20 7837 4653
tel: 0044 (0) 20 7278 7871

More details from John Holden,

fax: 0044 (0) 161 926 9694
tel.: 0044 (0) 161 928 0743
email johnholdensecurity@hotmail.co.uk

Lock from a chronometer case 1795

The lock is fitted to a timekeeper box of 1795, made in the small Kennington (London) manufactory established by Thomas Mudge Jnr.

The pictures may speak for themselves, but in case not, I'll give a description:

This small lock (N.B. it is small: whole thing is 20mm across) is of a very simple yet very effective and elegant design. No example of the key survives, so I had to make the key shown here (approx 30mm long) to what I believe it must have been like. It works perfectly, so I believe I'm not far wrong!

The lock contains a circular rotating disc and the curved 'bolt' is formed from its edge. When fully locked, the bolt is fully across the opening of the lock and runs fully through the hasp of the lid. When fully locked like this, there is a little latch mounted on the disc which has engaged in a notch in the body of the lock (see photo 4). The disc has a simple rectangular hole at its centre for the key, which has a straight rectangular 'bit' which inserts directly into a rectangular hole in the lock. However, simply turning a rectangular peg in this hole will not unlock the disc as the latch prevents movement. It is necessary first for the tail of the latch, positioned next to the rectangular hole, to be swung aside. So, the key (photo 1) must be designed to have a piece at its end which has spring-loaded, 'limited motion' independent of the main 'bit' of the key (photo 2). I attach a picture of the key in pieces (photo 3) to show how this is made up. The handle of the key is fixed rigidly (threaded through and lock-nutted) to the central steel 'end-bit' and is connected (via limited motion slot with side-screw) through the helical spring, to the brass body with the main rectangular bit.



Replica key 1

The key therefore works as follows (see attached photos): Lock fully locked (4). Key inserted (5). Handle beginning to turn (6) - body cannot turn but steel end-bit does (arming the return spring inside the key), releasing the latch, at which point the main body of the key starts to turn with the disc (7) and the spring inside the key causes the end-bit to realign with the body of the key. Continuing to turn the key unlocks the bolt fully (8) and the key is withdrawn. Ingenious, isn't it?

The design also allows for semi-locking, where the hasp can be secured by a 20 degree turn, without causing the latch to drop in, and so can be locked and unlocked without the special key (e.g. with a plain rectangular bit key).

My questions are:

Do readers recognise this design? Where does it originate? If they have never seen it before, is it nevertheless like anything else they are familiar with?

Hoping someone may be able to help,

Jonathan Betts

Senior Specialist, Horology

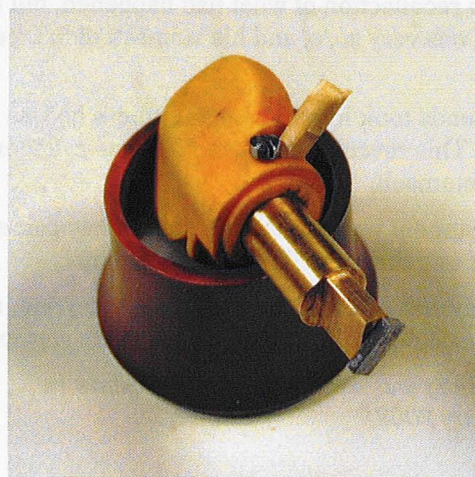
Royal Observatory

NMM Greenwich SE10 9NF

Tel: +44 (0)20 8312 6756

Fax: +44 (0)20 8312 6652

[More pictures on p.12]



Key working 2

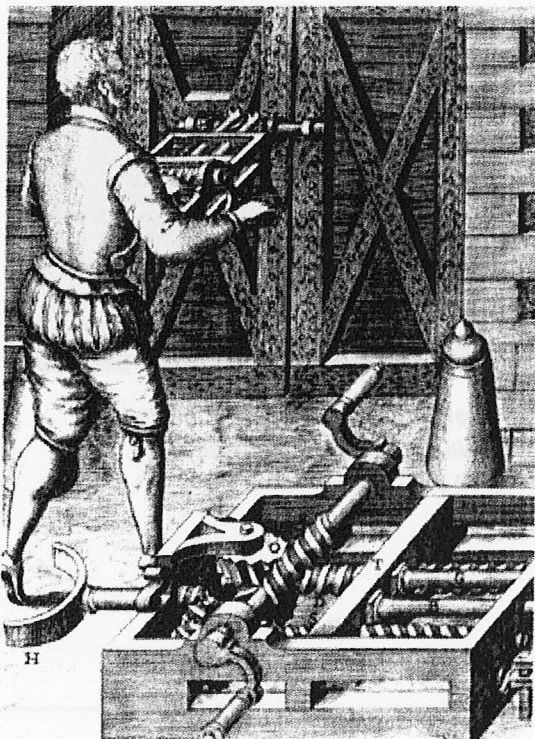
Danner's breaking screw

In the Gothic period door locks were still fixed on the outside of the door, which had the benefit that one could open the locks with a relatively short key since the key did not have to bridge the thickness of the door.

However, in the middle of the 16th century the locksmith Leonhard Danner from Nürenberg, Germany, brought onto the market an instrument which he had called by the beautiful name "Danner's breaking screw" and of which he promised in woodcuts, which he distributed as advertising newspapers, that with that one can easily and noiselessly remove any lock from the door.

The fact, that from this time on almost all locks were fixed on the inside of the door, attests that Danner's invention soon became a big seller.

The device is essentially a screw-operated device. There is a wooden frame, about 2' square. In this is a large screw, and a hook. The hook is forced behind a rim lock or bolt, and turning the screw forces the frame (carrying the hook) away from the door, tearing off the lock or bolt. It seems today perhaps over-engineered. Cutting the threads would then have been a difficult and expensive production. But it would undoubtedly have been effective, and quiet — important in such a quiet world as the c16th.



Richard Hopkins adds: This has so many parallels today. The Auto Wedge for car doors, the tool for uPVC doors, and even the tool with an eccentric cam and two long handles used by, among others, H.M. Customs to lever open doors all work on this principle.

About a year ago, in a charity shop, I saw a book about the last years of Charles 1.

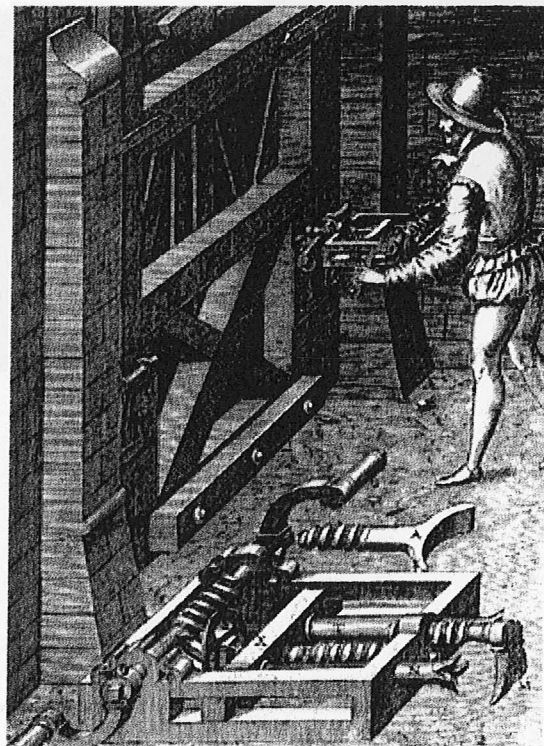
It described an attempt to rescue him from one of the places where he was held before execution. It would have been taking place about 80 years after Danner's invention.

Unfortunately I did not note the details of the book but the gist of the plot was that a screw jack device, similar in principle to Danner's screw but with a different, I believe lighter, construction, should be smuggled into the King who could then use it to pry apart the bars of his quarters and escape down a rope to freedom.

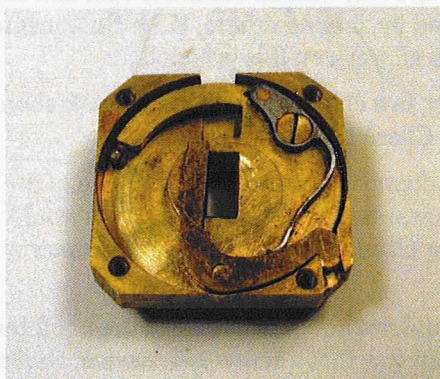
I forget why the plan was not followed through. Possibly the King did not have the mechanical ability to operate the screw or maybe he was moved before the rest of the escape could be organised. The book said that the device was a recent invention. There was an illustration of the screw but no footnotes to pin-point its inventor.

A similar gadget was used by Michael Caine in a 1966 film '*Gambit*' to spread the bars of a cage holding an expensive sculpture. The tool was made from car jack parts but as a young Shirley Maclaine was also starring I did not pay as much attention to the tool as I should have. It was set in the Lebanon and Herbert Lom was also involved.

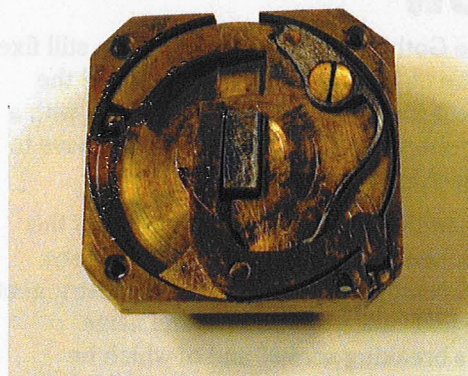
We now have hydraulic door jamb spreaders operated silently by compressed air to carry out the same operation.



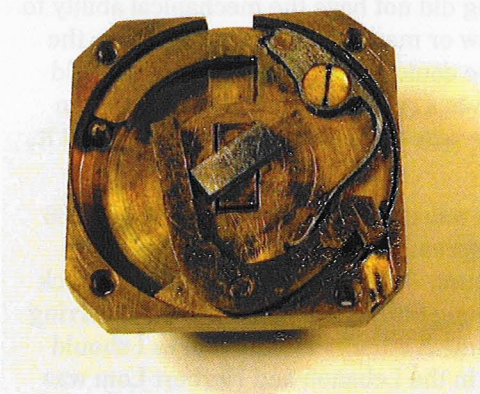
Chronometer case box lock



Locked — key removed. A link on a linkplate on the box lid enters the slot at the top of the lock, and the curved bolt passes through it. 4



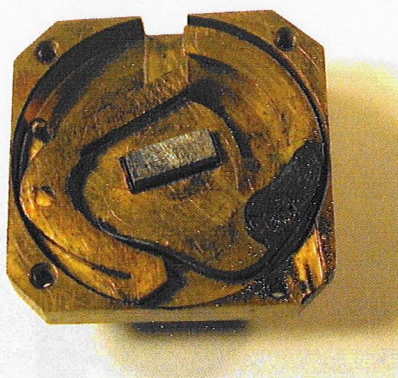
Locked plus key — the key is about to start pushing round the tail of the bolt. 5



Unlatching 6



Unlocking 7



Unlocked — the end of the curved bolt has cleared the box lid link. 8



Extending mechanical key (modern reconstruction): key in pieces 3. [see also p10.]