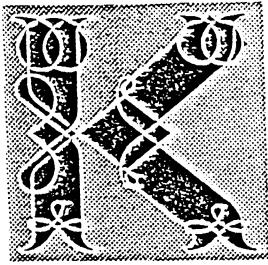
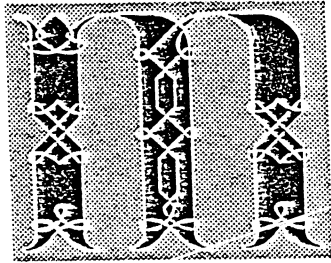


Issue No. 8
July (Summer) 1984

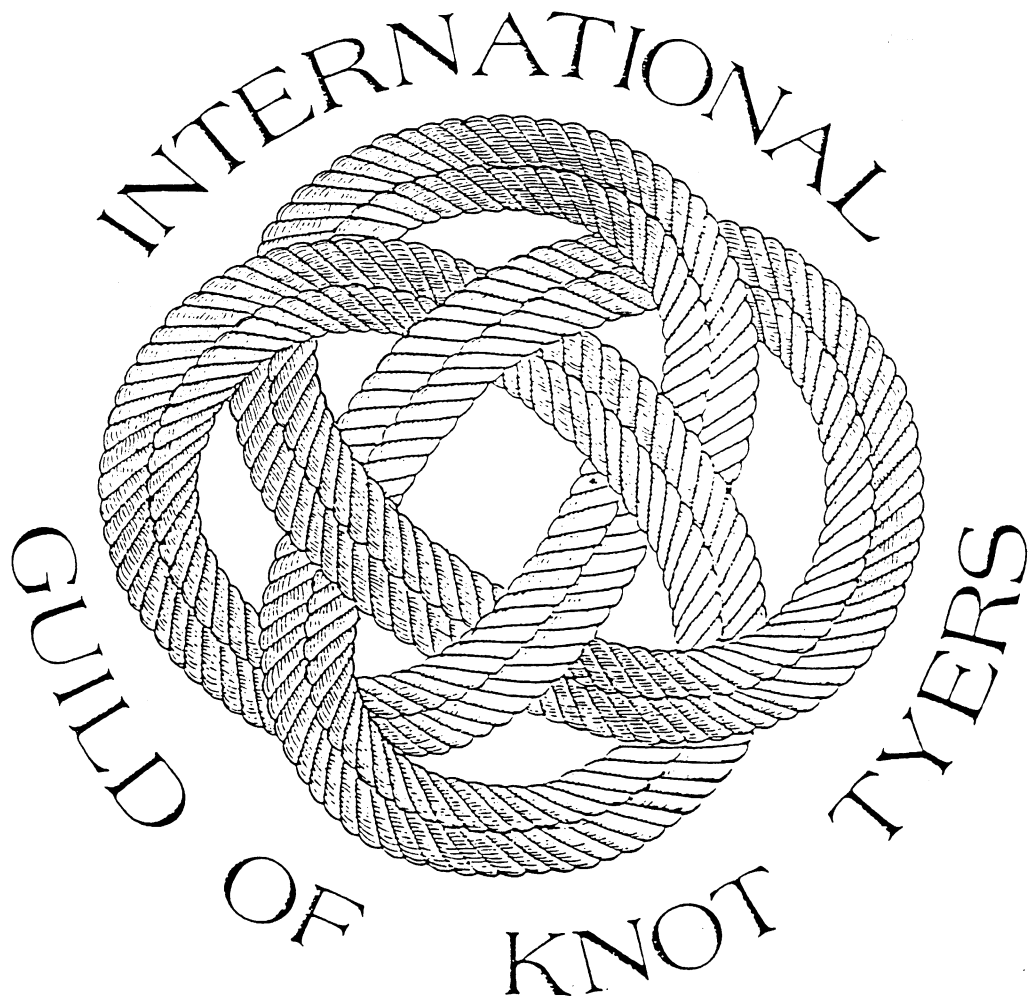


Knottling



Matters

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE



"KNOTTING MATTERS"

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL GUILD OF KNOT TYERS

President: Percy W. Blandford

Hon. Sec. & Editor
Geoffrey Budworth,
45, Stambourne Way,
Upper Norwood,
London SE19 2PY,
England.

Issue No. 8
July (Summer), 1984

tel: 01-653 8757 (home)
0689 42553 (work)

---o0o---

Editorial

As a sports coach practised in conditioning swimmers I'm often asked; "What should I do to get fit?" My reply is always; "Fit for what?" Fitness, understand, is specific. The world's strongest man may get out of breath walking uphill; while the fell-walker is unable to lift the strongman's barbell.

Similarly, out in the real world, another sort of fitness - fitness for life (being useful) - is also often only relevant to the task in hand. Policemen are suited for scenes of crime. Doctors are indispensable during medical crises. The golf pro., the car mechanic and the midwife, all have a limited ambit.

There is, however, a general sort of fitness with which - it seems to me - everyone should be equipped if they are not to be a liability, skills so basic they should be part of everybody's education.. .1st. Aid, map reading, fundamental anatomy & physiology, changing an electric plug and KNOT-TYING.

Isn't it illogical when people buy expensive gadgets to achieve what a length of cord and the right knot would do as well? The latest ludicrous device (glimpsed in a smart West End chandlery) is a "knotless holdfast". Its a hank of dearly packaged line fitted with a plastic widget (like a tent guyline runner) around which the line must be hitched to make it fast. Knotless - my elbow! Witless -certainly!!

We're surrounded by sophisticated yet helpless souls in need of our simple know-how. One of the guild's goals must surely become to transform their lives by giving them a knot or two. If each one of your acquaintances mastered just one knot, our world would be subtly altered. If you chose to teach that one knot (and NO other), what would it be? Answers to your editor, please, and a list of your choices will be published.

Quotation

"...it would be interesting to meet such a passionate admirer of fine ropework that he would steal from a Cathedral."
(Capt. Paul P.O. Harrison - at sea, February, 1963 - upon the fact that one of his presentation bellropes had disappeared from Rochester Cathedral, Kent)

Answers

to Eric Franklin's PAGE OF KNOTS
'K.M.' issue No. 7, page 2.

A - Artillery Loop	N - Noose
B - Blackwall Hitch	O - Overhand Knot
C - Cat's Paw	P - Prusik Knot
D - Diamond Knot	Q - Quipu
E - Eye Splice	R - Rolling Hitch
F - Fisherman's Bend	S - Surgeon's Knot
G - Granny Knot	T - Thief Knot
H - Honda Knot	V - Victory Knot
I - Inside Clinch	W - Water Bowline
J - Jury Mast Knot	X - X Seizing
K - Killeck Hitch	Y - Yardarm Knot
L - Lark's Head	Z - Zigzag Knot
M - Magnus Hitch	

Linked Overhand Knots - Part II

and SOME RELATED KNOTS

by HARRY ASHER

with illustrations mostly by Eleanor Draper

INTRODUCTION Part I of this article which appeared in 'K.M. issue No. 3 described a laborious method of working through all the possible ways of linking two overhand knots by means of two tucks.

However, since then I have hit on what I think is a far better system which is based on the principle that a bend which is symmetrical is far more likely to be a good one than one which is not. I learned this great truth and much else about symmetry from my friends Desmond Mandeville and Ettrick Thomson to whom I am indebted deeply. The method to be described sets out to produce symmetrical bends only.

RIGHT-HANDED and LEFT-HANDED LOOPS This distinction is of fundamental importance to what is to follow. The loops of fig. 1a and fig. 1b are both right-handed. One can think of fig. 1a as screwing down into the paper as you wind clockwise, and of 1b as unscrewing ~ out of the paper as you unwind anticlockwise. If you fix the loop with a spot of glue it will always remain right-handed no matter if you turn it over, hang it on the wall, or place it where you will. It is only for description (see below) that we must keep it flat on the table. Fig's 2a and 2b show two left-handed loops.

CONVENTIONS Every bend to be described starts life as two loops, one dark and one light. The loops may be either of the same 'handedness' (same sense) or of opposite sense. We agree to make the dark loop always right-handed (R), then the light loop may be either right-handed (R) or left-handed (L). Thus all bends are either RR or RL.

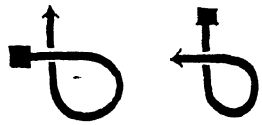


fig. 1a 1b

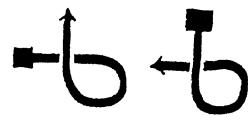


fig. 2a 2b



fig. 3

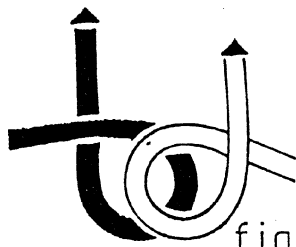
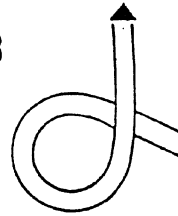
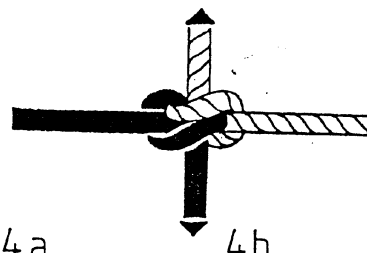


fig. 4a



4b

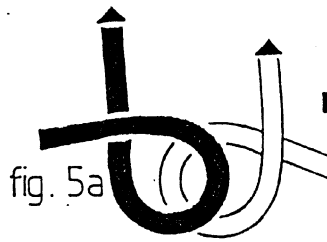


fig. 5a



5b

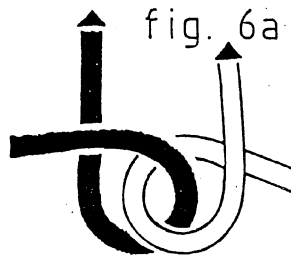
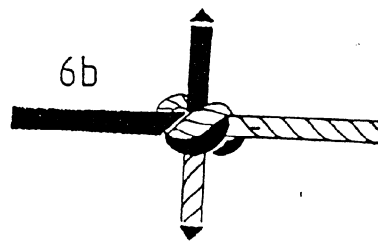


fig. 6a



6b

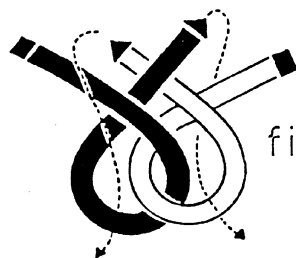


fig. 7

We assume that at the start both loops lie flat on a horizontal surface; therefore up means up out of the paper, and down means down into the paper. Terms like 'above', 'below', 'uppermost', 'beneath', conform to this scheme. North, South, East and West are as on a map.

Finally, we always start thus: the standing part or lead of the dark cord always runs Eastward into the loop from the West, and the running part or end finishes by pointing North. The lead of the light cord runs Westward into the loop from the East, but, as we shall see later, sometimes the end points North, sometimes South. Fig. 3 shows the case when both loops are right-handed.

We now come to describe the bends, some new, some old, which may be grouped into several categories according to the way the loops are placed at the start. This initial placement of the loops is given in the headings 1, 2, 3, etc., below.

1. Light Above Dark, Ends Opposed, RH, Fig. 4a

The light loop is placed above the dark loop with the light end uppermost. The ends are then said to be opposed because the dark end is at the bottom and the light end is at the top of the pile.

Bend - Take the light end down outside the loops, then up the centre. Take the dark end up outside the loops, then down the centre. Avoid crossing dark and light ends. The knot is rather like the Rigger's Bend, and is shown in Fig. 4b. In the code of Part I it is RAS USUR.

2. Light Above Dark, Ends Opposed, RL

The starting position is as above except that the light loop is left-handed. The dark end points North, the light end South. I hope this is clear without a Figure.

Bend 1 - The procedure is as for the previous bend, but we can put it more shortly, thus: Light end up centre, dark end down centre; do not cross. A beauty! Mandeville and Rosendahl's P. Knot, Poor Man's Pride, or Zeppelin Knot. In the previous code it is LAS DS UR.

Bends 2 and 3 - see additon at end of article.

3. Middles RR, Fig. 5a

The light loop is placed beneath the dark loop with its end above its own lead. The ends lie at the same level between the two loops, hence the term 'Middles'.

Bend - Cross the ends East to West, the light end passing beneath the dark end. Take the light end up, then down the centres; take the dark end down, then up the centres. Pull up carefully, bringing each end back to lie beside its own lead. An interesting bend (Fig. 5b), not consisting of linked overhands. A welcome change.

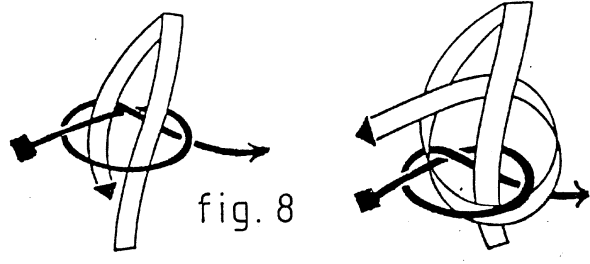


fig. 8

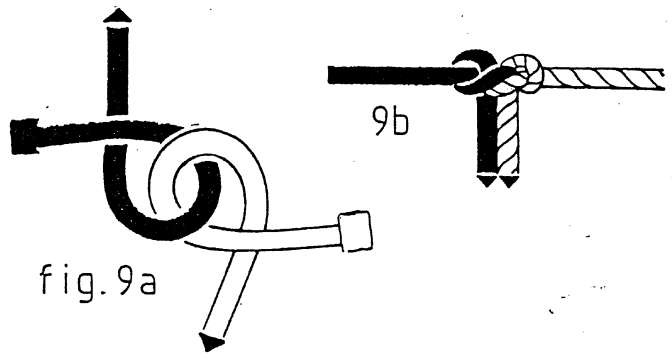


fig. 9a

9b

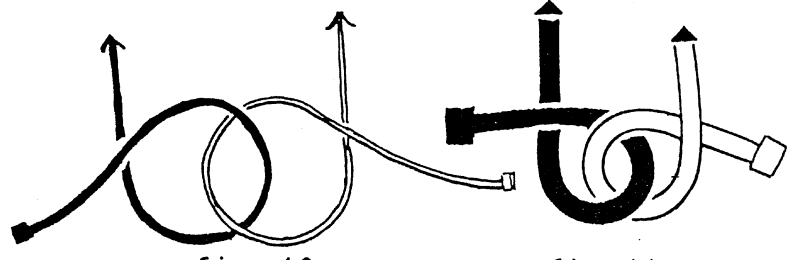


fig. 10

fig. 11



fig. 12

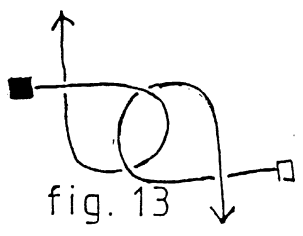


fig. 13

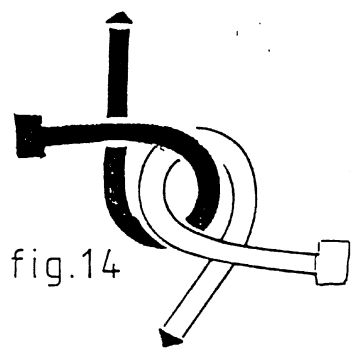


fig. 14



fig. 15

4. Middles RL

The light end lies above its own lead; the dark end points North, the light end South. Take the light end down, North, and up outside the loops, then down the common centre. Take the dark end up, South, and down outside the loops, then up the common centre. Do not cross. An easily broken bend which I call, Bend 88.

Alternatively, you can tie a 'Middles RR' version of the same bend.

5. Up and Opposed RR (Fig. 6a)

By 'Up and Opposed' we mean that the light cord comes up through the centre of the dark loop, and the ends are opposed because one is at the bottom and the other is at the top of the pile.

Bend 1 - Light up centre; dark down centre; don't cross. Rigger's Bend. In the previous code, RAS UC UR.

Bend 2 - Light up centre, dark down centre, cross dark over light. However, note that this can be done in two ways. The way intended here is that the dark cord should be running roughly South-East and the light cord roughly South-West at the crossing. The bend obtained is the Twofold Overhand Bend (Ashley 1426, RAS UC UC).

Many excellent bends can be obtained from the other method of crossing, which is with the dark cord running roughly East and the light cord roughly North at the crossing, though they will not be given in this article.

Bend 3 - Cross dark over light East and West, then take dark end up and light end down the common centre. This bend does not consist of linked overhands; it is handsome but inclined to jam (Fig. 6b).

Bend 4 (Fig. 7) - Cross dark over light East and West; reduce the overlap of the loops by pulling them sideways. Then take the dark end down outside and then up through the light loop; take the light end up outside, then down the dark loop. You get a square bend with ends emerging from diagonally opposite corners.

Bend 5 (Fig. 8) - This bend was originally obtained starting from the 'Up and Opposed' position, but it is best tied by following Fig. 8.

6. Up and Opposed RL

There are no entries under this heading because after much thought I have decided that for reasons related to symmetry the bends here must be essentially the same as those given later under 'Down and Opposed RL'.

7. Up and Same RR (Fig. 9a)

The light cord comes up through the dark loop, and both ends are at the same level, i.e. at the bottom of the pile.

Bend 1 (Fig. 9b) - Both ends down centre. There is no need to say "don't cross" because you will find you can't. Neat and beautiful, all that a bend should be. In fact it is Ashley 1452, one of many bends he hit on without apparently using any system!

Bend 2 - Take light end North, then down into dark loop only; take dark end South, then down into light loop only. Result: a form of Carrick Bend (Ashley 1428) which he says is less secure than the normal form.

8. Up and Same RL (Fig. 10)

The light end comes up through the dark loop, and both ends are at the same level.

Bend - Both ends down centre. Result: a bend 'where the ends emerge together. It has the same structure as the Linesman's Loop (Ashley 1053), which Geoffrey gives in THE KNOT BOOK as the Alpine Butterfly Knot (his Fig. 67).

9. Down and Opposed RR (Fig. 11)

Bend 1 (Fig. 12) - Light end down outside, then up centre; dark end up outside, then down centre running South over light cord running West. This bend is the same as the last bend of Part I, which was described as "best of the bunch", and the code given was RAB DR UC. However, in this case the code is ambiguous, and has caused confusion, so I hope this new description will clear things up. Desmond Mandeville has kindly christened this bend 'Shake Hands'. Thank you Desmond.

Bend 2 - East-West crossing dark over light. Light end up outside and down dark loop only. Dark end down outside, then up light loop only. Let the ends come together as you pull up carefully into a more or less square flat knot.

10. Down and Opposed RL (Fig. 13)

Bend 1 - Light up centre; dark down centre; do not cross. Easily broken, resembles the Zeppelin Knot. Sent to me by Ettrick Thomson in notes he wrote several years ago.

Bend 2 - Light end down, then North, and up into dark loop only. Dark end up, then South, and down into light loop only. Easily broken.

You can use either of these two bends for tethering your spare zeppelin.

11. Down and Same RR (Fig. 14)

Bend 1 'Both ends down centre gives a bend with ends emerging together (Fig. 15). Same as RAS DC DR, or Ashley 1408

Bend 2 - Light cord NNW over dark loop, then West under dark end and down into Western corner of dark loop. Take dark end East, and down into light loop only. A flat more or less square knot, almost decorative.

Bend 3 - Light end North, and down through dark loop only; dark end South, and down into light loop only. Easily broken; somewhat like a Carrick so I call it a Corrick. My name, but not my knot; it is Ashley 1451, very neat and effective, and perhaps not as widely known as it should be.

Bend 4 - Take the light end up, then NNW, and up through dark loop only; take dark end up, SSE, and up through the light loop only. Result: none other than our old friend the CARRICK BEND.

12. Down and Same RL

Bends under this heading will be essentially the same as those given under "8. Up and Same RL".

Further Developments

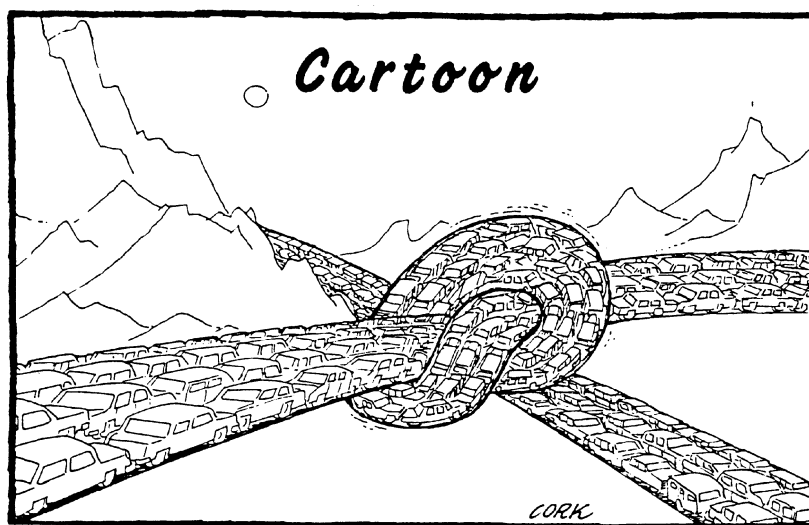
For any of the 'Opposed' starting points, bends not described here can be obtained by the alternative method of crossing mentioned at "5. Up and Opposed RR, Bend 2".

Two other lines have opened up since this article was first written, but for the present at any rate I am sure you will join me in saying "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH".

I am deeply grateful to Geoffrey Budworth for his stamina in cheerfully standing up to a prolonged deluge of confused letters from me, and for giving me much help and encouragement.

Addition (to item 2. Light Above Dark, Ends Opposed, RL)

Bends 2 & 3 - There are two ways in which the ends may be crossed at the last tuck. One yields a bend very like the P. Knot, and the other is easily broken also.



'POLICE' Magazine Vol. XIII No. 8 April, 1981

Incident on a Train by Andy KENNEDY

"Excuse me," said the man sitting opposite me in the train. "That's not one of those 'not...' books, is it?"

"No," I said. "I'm reading 'The Jewel in.....'"

"No, no, not that one," said the man. "I mean the one in the plastic carrier-bag on your lap. I can't see all the title because the plastic is wrinkled. I can just see the word 'not' and I like to get all the 'not...' books but I don't recognise that one. Is it a new one out?"

"Oh yes. No," I said. "This is a proper knot book, not the kind you mean. 'Not the Nine o' Clock News' kind of thing. I knew what you mean. No, this is a book about knots, by Percy Budworth."

"Is that Percy Budworth the gardening chap?"

"No, that's Percy Thrower the gardening chap. Oh, I mean Geoffrey Budworth, sorry. I should have said Geoffrey not Percy."

The man opposite me leaned back, trying to recover I suppose, and then after a while he said; "And has that book got all the knots in it?"

"Oh no, not all of them," I said. "You'd need a big book like the Ashley Book of Knots to have them all in. This only shows a few of the most useful ones."

"Have you got the Hadley Book of Knots?" said the man.

"No, I haven't heard of that one," I said.

"But you just said

"Ashley, I said," I said. "Not Hadley."

The man opposite thought for a bit. "Well, I don't think I need an encyclopedia. I only do the one in my tie and the good old sheepshank in my shoe-laces."

"You mean the reef-knot in your shoe-laces," I said, and I looked down at his shoes, but he had slip-ons on.

"No, I mean sheepshank. It's the only one I've ever used for 50 years. I know what it's called, I've been tying it for 50 years."

"Well," I said. "I really don't see how you could tie a sheepshank in shoe-laces. Look, I'll show you a sheepshank in this book."

"No, no, I wouldn't understand those drawings. If you have a piece of string, or it would be easier to show you on a shoe. I've only got slip-ons, but if..

"Here, I'll show you on mine," I said, bent down and unslipped the bows on my right shoe, leaving the plain reef, and put my foot up on the seat beside him. He bent down to peer closely at the knot,

"Tickets please," said the Inspector as he came into the carriage. "And would you mind, Sir, not putting your feet up on the seat." But he wasn't looking at me as he said it. He seemed more interested in the man opposite, who had his nose about an inch from my shoe.

Things weren't the same after that. There wasn't that air of friendly disagreement; we were more like shamefaced accomplices, and not much more was said before we parted at the station. But I still can't believe he really tied sheepshanks in his shoe-laces. I hope he buys Geoffrey's book.

Release Hitches

devised by Rob Chisnall in Ontario, Canada

Of all the prusik-type knots in existence, not one can be released while jammed or fully loaded. These 'slide-and-grip' knots must have their individual turns manipulated with the weight off the knot. Both hands may be needed. Climbers can become hung-up...and death has resulted.

Release hitches, properly used, could overcome these shortcomings and reduce the chance of accidents considerably. I must stress that these hitches are NOT yet accepted climbers' knots; but their careful use is urged so that their true character may be assessed.

The 7 release hitch knots illustrated I devised and tested. All work to varying degrees of security but No. 3 is about the best for simplicity and efficiency.

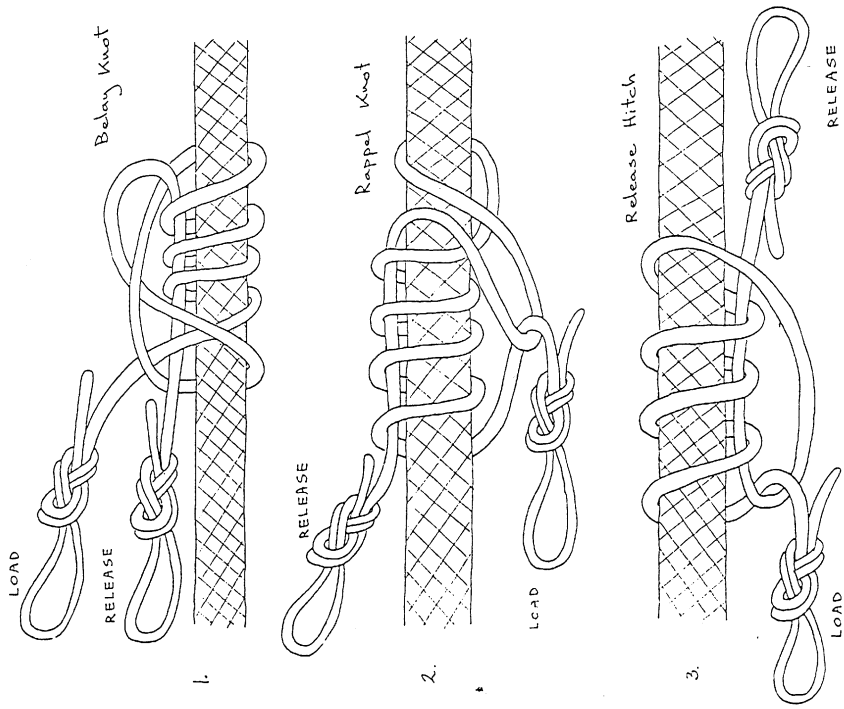
Release hitches have two ends, a load end and a release end. The load end of the knot runs from the set of turns wrapped around the descent line, and any loading of this end naturally causes the knot to grip the line. The release end runs parallel to the descent line and is contained by each wrap of the knot. Once jammed, the knot is released by a sharp tug on the release end. The uppermost wrap is caused to slip, and it in turn causes the one below to slide. This action spreads through the entire coil and then the knot slides.

In 50 trials No. 3 gripped and released when it was supposed to; and I find it works best with 7mm cord on an 11mm descent line with 5 or 6 wraps.

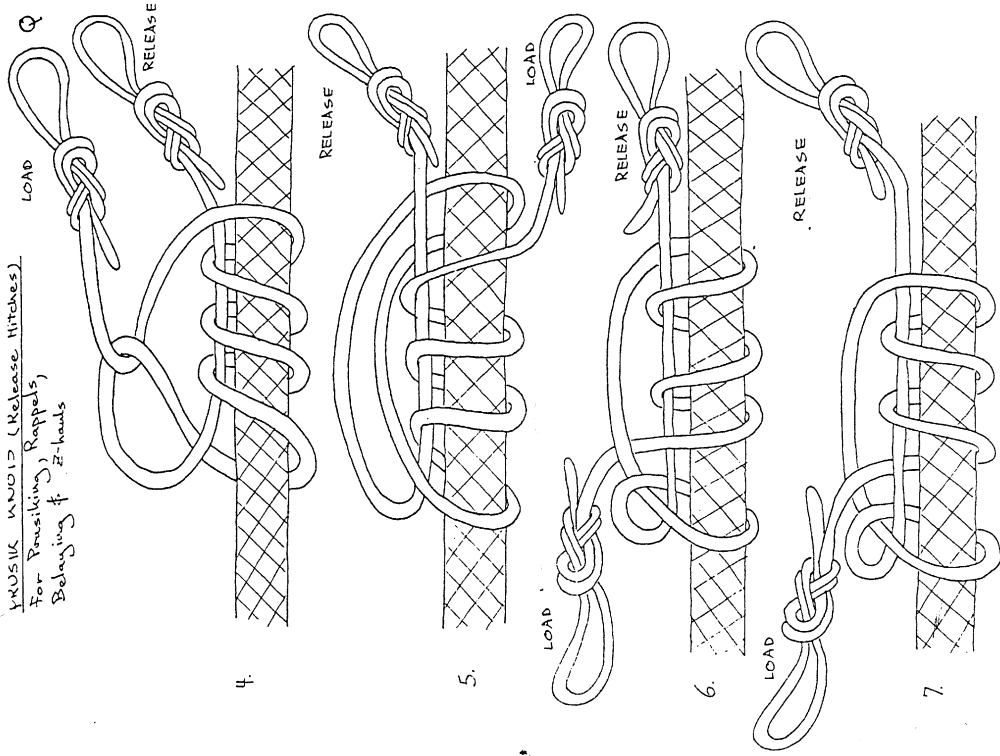
- illustrations overleaf -

(Rob Chisnall recently completed the task of compiling the Ontario Rock Climbing Association's software manual and publication is keenly awaited - G.B.)

PRUSIKS



RUSSIK KNOTS (Release Hitches)
For Prussling, Rappels,
Belaying & Z-hauls



New Members (1-4-84 to 31-5-84)

BOWLES J. 3, Dyke Hall Place, Sheffield s6 4ET;
CANHAM Morris The Old Post House, Old Minster Lovell,
nr. Witney, Oxon OX8 5RN;
DAWSON Robert J. MacG. Corpus Christi College, Cambridge;
DENYER, Howard 23, Oakfields, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3AS;
DYSON p. 17, Gosfield Road, High Garrett,
Braintree, Essex CM7 5NZ;
EDWARDS J.P. 9, Jubilee Terrace, Southsea, Hants. P05 3AS;
GAVALAS, Rossetos A. P.O. Box 248, 8 Kitious Kyprianou Str.,
Limassol, Cyprus;
GILHIJLY, Brian 8, Gainsborough Gardens, London NW3 1BJ;
JOHNS, Simon H. 26, Victoria Street (top left flat),
Dundee, Scotland DD4 6EB;
MARSON, Ian 52, Mount joy Road, Huddersfield,
West Yorks. HD1 5QQ;
MICK, Brooks A. 1450, Fostoria Road, Findley,
Ohio 45840, U.S.A;
MURPHY, Denis R. 15, Haddington Road, Stoke, Plymouth,
Devon PL2 1RR;
NELSON, Janet P. Orchard Gap, Shamley Green, Guildford,
Surrey GtJ5 OUB;
RIDINGS, Terry 4148, West 12th. Avenue, Vancouver B.C.,
Canada V6R 2P6;
RYAN, Eugene 'Kilcredane', Frances Street, Kilrush,
Co. Clare, Ireland;
SANDERS, Katherine 30, Briery Road, Halesowen,
West Midlands B63 1AT;
SCHNUR, Marjorie 44, Pilgrim Lane, Naugatuck, CT 06770, U.S.A;
SMITH, C.S. 16, Magnolia Close, Chelmsford, Essex.

Frank Harris is now our Hon. Membership Secretary and all enquiries about and applications to join the Guild should be addressed to him at 14 Games House, Springfield Grove, Charlton, London S.E.7 7TN (tel: 01-858 6728), England. Leaflets, etc., will be amended in due course.

Mrs Ivy Blandford has kindly undertaken to manage the Guild's shop (her title yet to be considered) so that all orders and enquiries concerning Guild ties, brooch/badges, work charts, etc., may now be sent to her alone at Quinton House, Newbold-on-Stour, Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire CVJ7 8UA (tel: 078 987 257), England.

Profile of knotsman GEOFFREY BUDWORTH,

by Cy Canute

Our editor is unlikely to write his own profile, so I'd better do it.

He's 47 and left the Metropolitan Police with the rank of Inspector after 25 years. He was a young P.C. in Soho and worked in the West End's vice squad (earning a Commissioner's commendation). Ten years were spent afloat on the Thames tideway in London's river police and also as a frogman. Then followed 7 years instructing criminal law and social studies at Hendon Training School, interrupted when he attended the National Police College at Bramshill as a young Inspector where his specialist studies were psychology and public relations. His final 4 years were at one of the Met's busiest South London operational police stations in the Elephant & Castle area.

Out of work 3 years ago, this middle-aged man took a job as a swimming pool lifeguard; and last year became a pool manager and a qualified member of the Institute of Bath & Recreation Managers (passing out top student!). It was during that same stressful period that Geoff teamed up with Des Pawson to found this Guild and he produced the first 6 newsletters.

He grew up on the South coast at Bournemouth preoccupied with swimming and boating, and drove "trips-around-the-harbour" motor boats before going to London as a 16 year old Police Cadet.

National Service as a radio operator in the Royal Corps of Signals made him fluent with Morse Code and he survived when an Army vehicle in which he was speeding along a West German autobahn rolled down an embankment and caught ablaze from end to end.

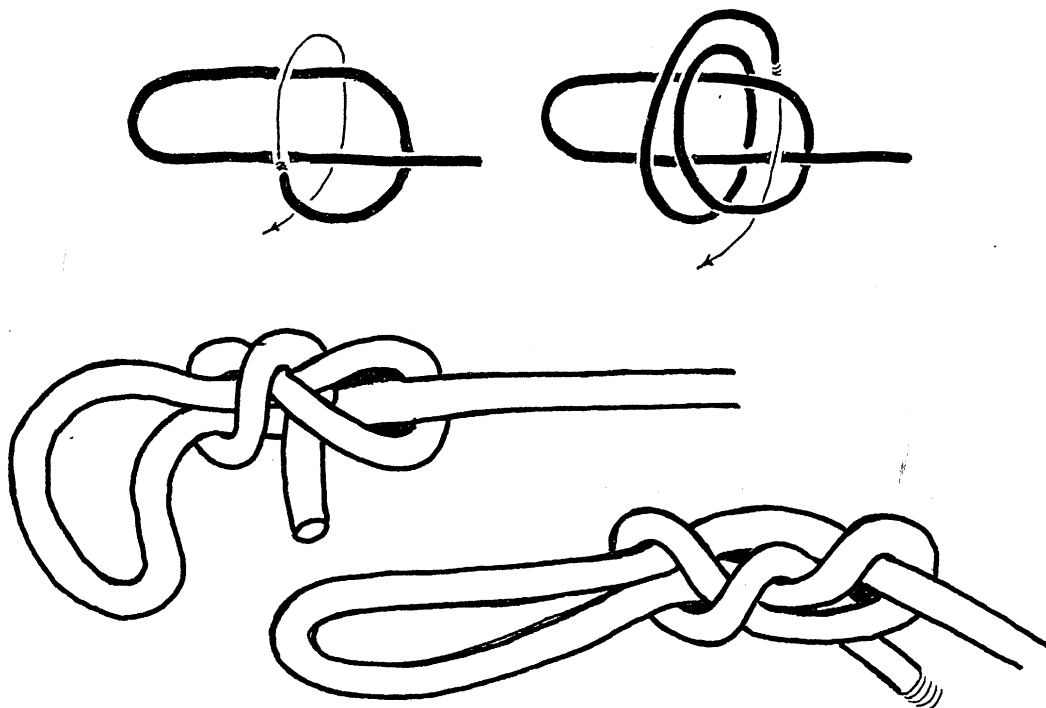
Knotting was triggered in him when he was 12 by the sight of a bellrope in his Sea Scouts troop hut. He sent to The Scout Shop (Buckingham Palace Road - remember?) for Chas. L. Spencer's "Knots, Splices & Fancywork" which was his sole tutor until, patrolling a Mayfair beat aged 20, he discovered a second-hand 'Ashley' in a smart antiquarian bookseller's window. The other great influence upon his knot-tying came through his friendship with Jim Nicoll (see 'Knotting Matters', issue No. 2). Geoff believes that his own original contribution to knotting may yet prove to be concerning the forensic investigation of knots preserved from scenes of crime and he corresponds with law enforcement agencies worldwide on this topic.

The man is married to Barbara, a swimming teacher, and they have two daughters. He is, himself, an accomplished distance swimmer of open water lakes and sea who (when 40) was still completing 14 miles front crawl each week in 50-odd deg's F...Brrr!! When younger he twice completed the arduous Devizes-to-Westminster (125 miles) canoe race, and has returned to canoeing hoping to embark upon sea expeditions. He has a rare collection of antique toy spinning tops, yo-yos and diabolos.

New(?) Knot

from I.G.K.T. member
Dr. Brooks A. Mick, M.D.,
910, North Main Street, Findlay,
Ohio 45840, U.S.A.

(phone 422-8561)



Over the years I have invented three knots, two of which, unfortunately, were previously invented by others. A diligent search of knot-tying literature of which I am aware has failed to result in the discovery of a prior example of my most recent invention, a type of slipping loop knot, which is readily tied, tightens easily, semi-locks in position when tightened, and yet is easily released even after it has been under considerable strain. The only snag is a slight bulkiness compared to other slip knots, especially when tied in larger line, but this has not proved to be a problem.

The knot is especially useful when quickly fastening to a rod-like or cylindrical object or pole. It does not require multiple turns, as some of the other knots do, and yet does not tend to slip longitudinally along the cylinder.

The important part resulting in the semi-locking ability and the easy-untie features is the lever effect across the final tuck. This "auto-pinching" also allows easy untying by sliding the two turns apart.

Perhaps members could advise me whether any such knot has ever been previously described.

Brooks. A. Mick.

MACRAMÉ PLUS

Proprietor: Mrs. Glad Findlay
(I.G.K.T. Member)

7a Madrid Road
Guildford Surrey
GU2 5NU
Tel: Guildford 571799



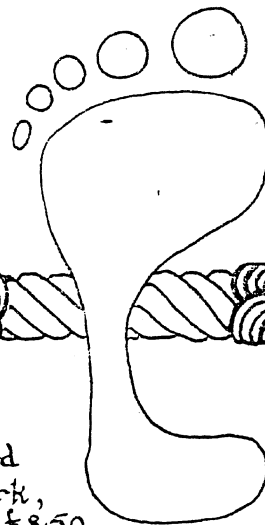
'MACRAME PLUS' stocks well-made original macramé creations, both decorative and practical...ideal gifts for any home. Kitchen or bathroom, bedroom or nursery, there's something you'll like. Or buy Glad's patterns and make them yourself. All your macrame needs supplied; beads, rings (some plastic coated), rods, ceramics; also I.G.K.T. work charts and some books.

FOOTROPE KNOTS

Des & Liz Pawson
501 Wherstead Road
Ipswich, Suffolk, IP2 8LL

Knotting Books, Tools, Materials

SAE. for full list



EXAMPLES :

Hard laid flax & cotton line · Loom cord
Well illustrated books from Denmark,
Kaj Lund's 'Tovværks Kunst' (Rope Art) £8.50
'Måtter & Rosetter' (Mats & Rosettes) £7.50
12' Hardwood Fids £3.25 · Serving Mallets £7 & £8

Obituary

JAMES NICOLL was not a Guild member - it came too late for his active involvement - but he was a knotting craftsman, inventive and unsurpassed. Some specimens of his work exist in the Thames Police Museum at Wapping; and, but for his knowledge generously shared in earlier years, it is highly unlikely that the Guild would have been created at all. He died, aged 81, on Tuesday, 8th. May, 1984, after a short illness bravely borne and is sadly missed by those he befriended.

Letters

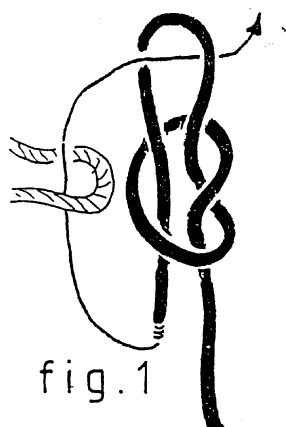
Dear Geoffrey,

Thank you very much for the seventh excellent issue of "Knotting Matters". It arrived on board yesterday and has been getting a good coat of looking-over ever since.

I think that the "unknown" knot on page 4 is called a "Panama Bowline" and is used by the boatmen in the Panama Canal to bend their heaving lines to the shore mooring wires in the locks there. This is what I was told by the man who showed it to me but it is so long since I was last in that part of the world that I don't know whether they do or not, although it is certainly quick enough to tie and secure enough for the job.

To tie the knot, a marline spike hitch should be made about a yard from the end of the line and the end passed through the bight in the hitch where the spike would go, after having been passed through the eye of the wire, etc. When it is pulled up the knot will tip over and change from the form shown in fig. 2 to that in fig. 3.

There may be another name for this knot and if so I would like to know what it is.



It is worth noting that when this knot is tied in stiff new line it may not tip over, but remain as a marline spike hitch with the end stuck through it; it would almost always be tied in softer well-used line.

Yours sincerely,

Ian MARSON

M.v. "Doris 1"
London/Harlingen
25 May 1984

(Now it can be told...I was given a photocopy of this knot by a Parisian who was married to a Russian; and he called it a 'Mongolian Knot' because that's where in the U.S.S.R. the copied publication originated - G.B.)

Dear Mr. Budworth,

My interest in knots started when I was serving my time as an apprentice marine engineer. I learnt some knots then for the purpose of slinging bits of machinery. I also used to watch the riggers splicing and making Turks heads, and sometimes during the lunch hour used to practise these on spare bits of rope and from memory.

Unfortunately, having been ashore about 30 years on the admin. side, the only knots I have had to tie are with my shoelaces, and so would like to renew my acquaintance with knots and anything else to do with ropework.

.....All success to the Guild.

Yours sincerely,

Liverpool
W.O.WILLIAMS

4th. November, 1983

Dear Des,

Re. 'Knotting Matters'...in Issue No. 5, page 16, an L.F. Osborne sent in a "No-name Knot" said to be a quick-release knot for tying down aircraft, circa WWII. He might have been told a bit of "folk etymology", since it's difficult to apply tension with this knot, so aircraft tetherers are more likely to use some form of trucker's hitch. I learned this knot (the "No-name") as the 'Cavalry Hitch' for tethering horses, the non-winged kind, and the knot works very well for that application since it is quickly made and more resistant than most quick-released knots to spilling from repeated jerks. It's also good for tying up dinghys. Note: like Mr. Osborne, I learned this knot in Washington State; could it be that some mysterious stranger is on the loose there, making up semi-credible stories and laughing at knotters' eager gullibility?

So long,
Brion TOSS

7/3/84

Dear Geof,

I'm at sea at the moment writing this under the light of the chart table light swinging round the anchor off the North coast of Scotland in pretty lousy weather - Might one day let you have a description of the so-called seamanship up here - but there's not a lot of knots used in a job done mainly with a cold chisel,

4lb hammer & crowbar; and in fact other than shoelaces the only knots that ~ seen lately are the bowline and the clove hitch~L In fact, clapped a Matthew Walker in a rope the other day and I think the crew were about to have me burnt at the stake for a witch!!

Yours knotably,
Mike EATON

Plymouth
Devon
March, 84

Quotation

"We tore the tarry rope to shreds With blunt and bleeding nails;"

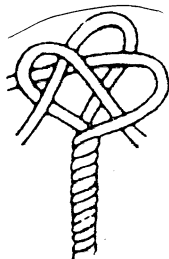
('The Ballad of Reading Gaol' by Oscar.Wilde)

Oddments

Matlock's 'Heights of Abraham' in the Derbyshire Dales are the site for Britain's first true cable-car. Limited space compelled the chief engineer for Grenoble-based firm Pornagalski to splice the nylon-cored 22-strand cable in a U-shape as it ran through the base station. This splice extended over 11.0 metres. The max. working load will be 15t although the breaking load is calculated at 120t.

Chatham's Royal Naval Dockyard, idle for a year since the Navy withdrew, is producing hemp rope again. A commercial firm is using the 150-year-old ropemaking machinery together with modern equipment and materials... and visitors can watch. 11 million of government money will go to renovate the listed Georgian buildings, creating a "living museum" of sailmaking, flagmaking, etc. The 1/2km long ropery itself gets 2.5 million. The enterprise will be run by the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust whose fulltime Chairman is Lt. Gen. Sir Steuart Pringle.

THE ROPE SHOP stocks a vast range of natural and synthetic cords and ropes, of all sizes and colours; and also supplies knotting books.



The Rope Shop

26HighStreet
Emsworth
HantsPO10 7AW
Telephone-Emsworth 2642

Proprietors: John & Veronica HOLLISS
(I.G.K.T. members)

If you can visit the shop you will find cordage of every description, as well as a miscellany of beads and rings, tools and all those other things beloved by knotting enthusiasts There are also knotted items for sale. Prices are reasonable, so - if you're in the area - do come and see us. We cater for everyone, from the local fishermen to London-based craftswomen!

Alternatively, send a large s.a.e. for our latest mail order Price and Book Lists. The Book List includes over 100 titles of macramé books, booklets and pamphlets; as well as -a number of good knot books. The Price List too is mainly intended for those doing macramé. As Lt is NOT possible to send out samples of all available-cords, knotters attempting more complicated work should write explaining their requirements as fully as they can (including a sample of cord if possible) and we will do our best to find the right thing.

Knot Gardens

from data supplied by I.G.K.T.
member Bill MARSHALL

Guild member Tom MEDDINGS created The Giant Knot Garden in South London at Rotherhithe beside the River Thames. It is not really a garden but a public open space. His inspiration came in part - I understand - from Sir Michael Tippett's opera The Knot Garden and the composer's inspiration seems to have been a labyrinthine plot.

For knot gardens were grand square or rectangular geometric designs like complicated knots. Influenced by the Italian Renaissance, the knots were outlined in miniature hedges using low-growing plants or perhaps brick, tile or wooden boards. The lines appeared to weave over and under each other. The design was in-filled with flowers or coloured earths. This Tudor or early 17th. century horticultural fashion lasted 100 years, proving popular with yeoman farmers, prosperous weavers and royalty. Henry VIII had one created at Nonesuch Palace, Surrey.

Spring must have been the knot garden's most colourful seasons Gervase Markham wrote "...it shall appear like a knot made of divers coloured ribbons, most pleasing and most rare." By the late Summer most of the flowers had finished. Humbler souls could make little knots from clipped lavender or some other easily grown herb. Knot gardens were superseded by topiary and other devices.

No original Tudor knot gardens now exist but at Hatfield House the Marchioness of Salisbury has designed and laid out a most delightful reproduction one in the courtyard of the Old Palace. A smaller knot garden at Cranborne Manor, Dorset, gives an idea of what could be achieved in your own garden. St. Mary's Church, Lambeth, now run by the Tradescant Trust as a museum of garden history, has the start of a small knot garden.

Designs - some authentic - appear in a reproduction of 'The County Housewife's Garden', pub. (1983) by Breslich & Foss, price 2.50p. Establishing a knot garden is a lengthy process not to be lightly undertaken; and at 15th. century Helmingham Hall, Suffolk, an imaginative scheme is taking nearly 1 1/2 years to reach the planting stage. The problem also remains that the display is largely over by July due to the lack of late-flowering plants...but the knot garden's quiet charm persists until Spring returns.

Jump Knots

The jumping knot is a circular wire coil contained in a flat envelope. Remove it and it jumps out into a 3-D ornamental form of knot.

The puzzle is to collapse it and return it to the envelope (without forcing the wire).

Send for the set of 3 - Figure of Eight Knot (easy), Mathematician's Loop (moderate) and Chinese Button Knot (hard) from 'WHY KNOTS', Box 635, Autos, CA 95003, U.S.A.

Book Reviews

'THE BOOK OF ROPE AND KNOTS' by Bill Severn, pub. in New York (1960) by David McKay (orig. 'Rope Roundup') Co. Inc. Price - \$3.95

Bored with knot manuals? Then Mr. Severn's book will delight you. It's almost an historical, romantic novel with rope as the central character. There are tales about the old time ropemakers, bridges and tightrope walkers, cowboys and magicians, oil rigs and gliders and Missouri keelboats; and the text is given further appeal with drawings by Yukio Tashiro. Some knot-tying is included but that isn't why you will enjoy reading this book.

'NAUTICAL TERMS UNDER SAIL - The Country Life Book of...' pub. by Country Life Books (1978) Price - £15.00p

An encyclopaedic illustrated guide to the language of the great sailing ships and the men aboard them, this excellent work reveals the origins of much modern Navy parlance. Hundreds of pages and thousands of illustrations include many evocative old photographs and reproductions of paintings. It's a browser's banquet. There are substantial sections on all aspects of knotting and cordage, masts, spars, sails and rigging, reeving and bousing, capstan, windlass and cables, slinging and cargo stowage. Chapters and paragraphs are clearly laid out with decimal numbering and there is a full, clear index. I found this book being "remaindered" at half-price.

'THE CENTURY GUIDE TO KNOTS' by Mario Bigon and Guido Regazzoni, pub. in G.B. (1983) by Century Pub. Co. Ltd., translated from the Italian. Price - £4.95p.

The gamut of working knots - both utility and decorative - has been photographed in bright colours. A helpful touch is the inclusion of the hands doing the tying in all the pictures. With nearly 250 pages between hard covers this seems to me good value and it is certainly recommended for beginner and improver.

'INDIAN BASKETRY' by George Wharton James, pub. by Dover Publications Inc. (New York), General Pub. Co. Ltd. (Ontario), and Constable & Co. Ltd. (1972) in the U.K. Price - £1.75p.

This is another of those splendid Dover re-publications unaltered and unabridged of an old book, in this instance originally published in 1909. It traces the origin, development and fundamental principles of Indian basket design in the Southwestern United States and Pacific Coast. Whether you read this book as an artist, designer and craftsman or woman, or as a historian, ethnologist or scholar, you can learn something about making Indian baskets (which are now collectors' items).

Supplies

SUPPLIES

The Guild is accumulating many items to sell to members and the following things can be obtained at meetings or by post from the Hon. Assistant Secretary (Supplies):

Mrs. Ivy Blandford, Quinton House, Newbold-on-Stour,
Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 8UA (Tel.Alderminster 257)

Knot Charts

Details of the range of fifty charts then available was given in 'Knotting Matters' no. 6, Winter 1984. All are still available. Six more charts have been added:

51	Multiple bowlines
52	Cable whipping
53	3-lead, 4-bight Turks head
54	Bead puzzle
55	Rosenthal Zeppelin knot
56	Hunter bend

Charts cost 10p each, 6 for 50p, 12 for 1.00 or 56 for 4.70. Please add something for postage and packing: 16p for up to eight, 20p for up to fifteen or 42p for fifty six. If you order after the next expected increase in postage, please allow for that.

Binders are available, consisting of printed front and a back flexible card, with a slide-on plastic grip. One binder will just about take forty charts. Price: 25p plus 16p postage.

Badges

We now have a round enamel membership badge, with the name and the same knot emblem as on the magazine cover on a blue background. Price: 1.50. We pay postage.

Ties

We have obtained what may be the last stock of those attractive ties with a pattern of white knots on a blue background. While stocks last - price 3.50 plus 15p postage.

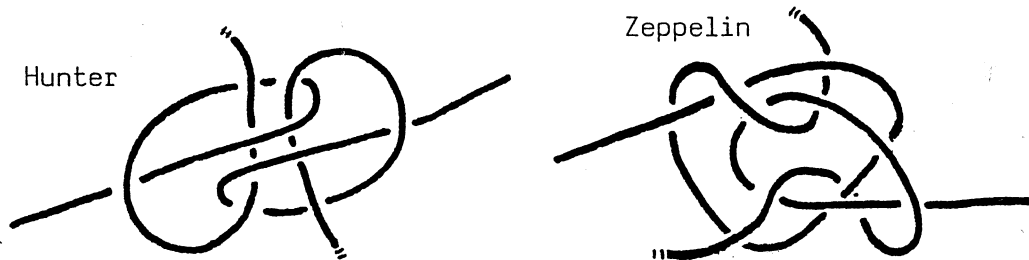
The profit margin is small, and what there is goes to the-Guild. If you pay by cheque, please make it payable to The International Guild of Knot Tyers.

Crumbs!

Baker Jack Maurer has claimed a world record by plaiting 1,000 loaves in 1 hour 53 minutes and 17 seconds at his shop in Prestwich, Manchester, England.

When Dr. Edward Hunter produced his Hunter 'Bend in 1978, it was quite rightly acclaimed as a new knot. It is interesting to compare it with another knot I have unearthed, which does not seem to have made the knotting books. *

This is the Rosenthal Zeppelin Knot, which was the only knot permitted to be used by American naval airmen for joining mooring lines for rigid airships and blimps, until they went out of service in 1962. Authority for the use of this knot came from Admiral Rosenthal, although we do not know if he devised the knot. Why did he not permit one of the more usual joining knots? The Zeppelin Knot can be released after being under load by pulling in opposite directions the bights that come over standing parts.

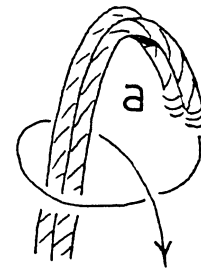


If the two knots are compared, at the stage before tightening, both will be seen to be interlocking overhand knots, although the methods of linking are different. What are comparative strengths? Maybe someone will do some tests, but I guess that in a test to breaking both will not slip, but will fail where a standing part enters the knot - as happens with many knots.

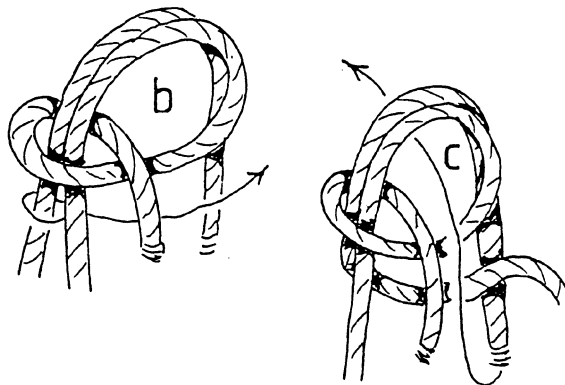
*POSTSCRIPT

The Zeppelin Knot is discussed in 'The Knot Book' by Geoffrey Budworth. Charles Rosendahl is said to have insisted that the U.S. airship 'Los Angeles' was moored with this bend (back in the 1930s) when it was claimed superior to the Carrick Bend, Bowline and Sheet Bend.

Desmond Mandeville discovered it for himself in 1961 and in his 'Alphabend' (Issue 4, page 2) it's his 'Poor Man's Pride' (with an acknowledgement to Rosendahl).



A snag with Commander R's favourite bend seemed to be that we couldn't tie it as slickly as Hunter's Bend (Phil D. Smith's Riggers's Bend) until Ettrick Thomson came up with this very neat solution (fig's (a), (b) and (c)).



ROPES AROUND LOUGHBOROUGH

That feeler put out by Penny Bodger about any expressions of interest in a ropeworking visit in the Midlands resulted in a party of twelve spending a very full day going around firms concerned with ropework, all within a few miles of Loughborough, Leics. Besides those on the spot there were members from London, Woking and Stratford-upon-Avon. The weather was good and we assembled at 10 am, which meant an early start for some.

The first visit was to Pritchards' Ropeworks. They share premises with the world-famous Taylor's Bell Foundry, which is appropriate as the work for which they are famous is making bell ropes. We had a conducted tour, which included watching a bell rope being made and the red, white and blue wool sally being built in. This is the part which is handled and pulled in use and is made by putting a great many short strands of pure dyed wool through the rope, which secures them as the lay is tightened. Further treatment includes carefully combing and trimming the sally, then a final stretch of the rope.

The firm also does one-off canvas jobs and a large range of customers appreciate this specialized treatment. They also run a shop selling rope, cord and associated products. Some members had to be levered away from this with their purchases. Pritchards have been in the rope and canvas business since 1820 and they have a tradition of loyal family members amongst their employees - a father and one son were making rope, while another was finishing sallies.

Penny had arranged lunch at a ridiculously low price at a pub alongside the River Soar in the village of Zouch

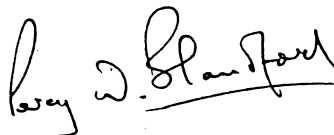
Suitably fortified we moved on to Ellis's Ropeworks in the village of East Leake. This was in what had been a railway building when there was a railway. They also make bell ropes and the ropewalk occupied the length of the building, which may be extended for even more rope, but as it is - like Pritchards - they can make 90ft. bell ropes.

Bell ropes are traditionally flax and the yarn - which is getting scarce - mostly comes from Belgium. One development at Ellis's is the splicing in of synthetic rope. Besides economising on flax, this is more durable at the points of wear. The splice is done at the yarn stage in the ropewalk, so is a manufacturing process; not any traditional splice. They also showed us experimental rope made from some unlikely materials. Ellis's also make all kinds of canvas goods, including the marquees they hire or sell. Again members stocked up with attractive cordage for macrame etc. and the car for Woking set off with an enormous free bag of wool offcuts for stuffing toys.

From there we moved on to Shardlow to Dobson's Boatyard, where we watched a craftsman making rope fenders for a canal narrow boat. A rolled piece of car tyre tread forms the mould.

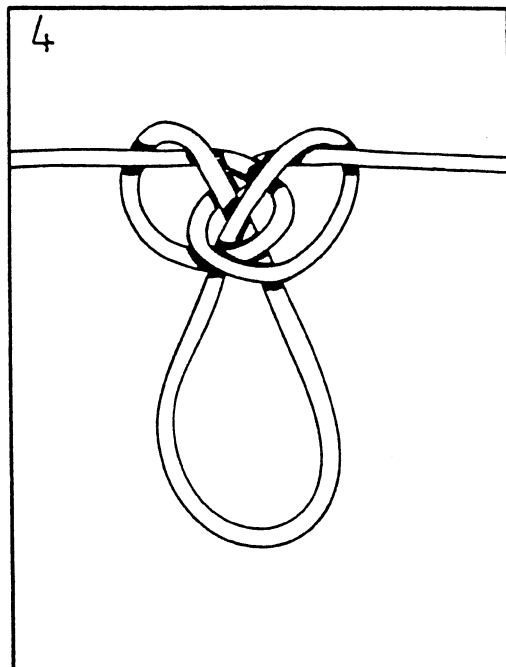
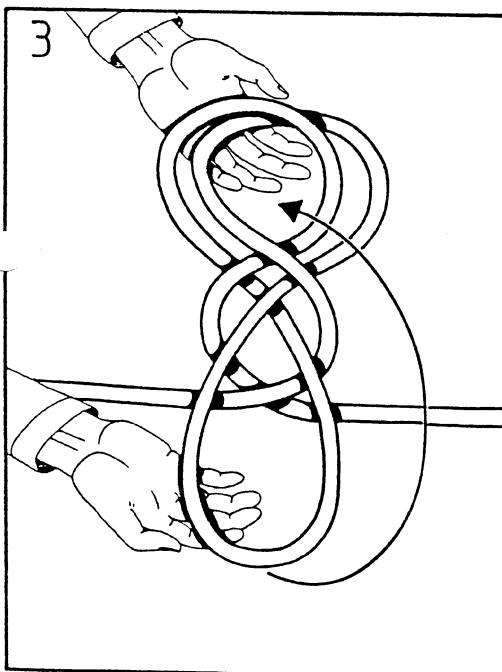
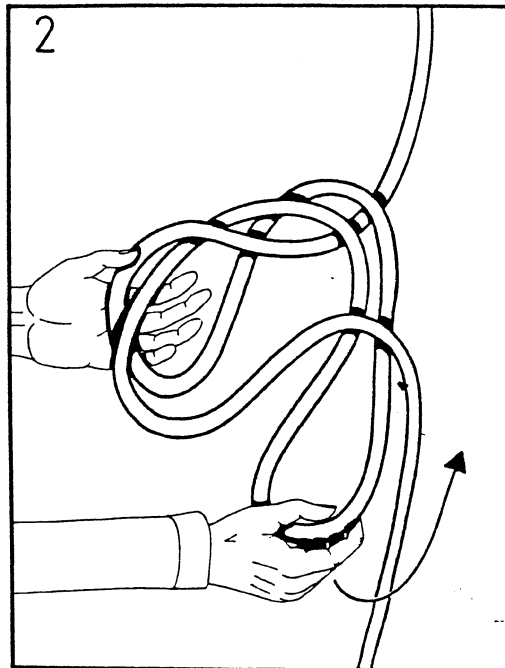
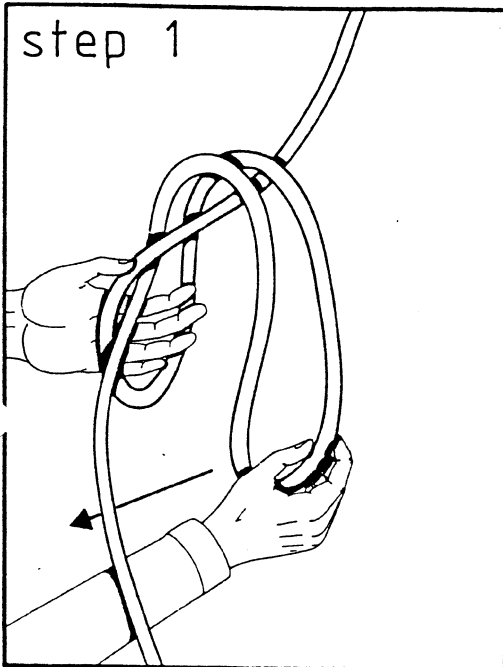
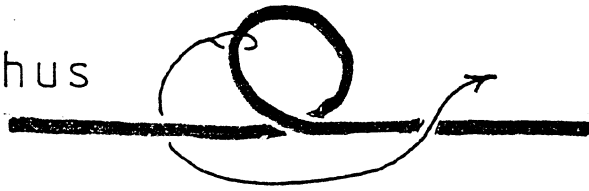
With all this interest along the way, the programme inevitably ran late. We were to have visited the Canal Museum at Shardlow, but there was just time before closing to see their shop. Maybe another time! This is certainly a day out (27 June) to be repeated.

Thanks Penny

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Penny Bodger', written in a cursive style.

Start

thus



Climbing guide (and I.G.K.T. founder member) Rob CHISNALL in Canada together with climbing friend Jean-Marc Filion have discovered this neat way to tie the Alpine Butterfly.