



NEWSLETTER IN A KNUTSHELL



- ✓ Pearl Handled Knives
- ✓ Kukri Fakes
- ✓ OKCA Application

Our *international* membership is happily involved with "Anything that goes 'cut'!"

Oh, Those Glorious Nacre Knives!

Dave Schultz



Mother of pearl, or nacre, is the iridescent, "organic-inorganic" material formed by a number of marine and fresh water mollusks, including a number of different gastropods, oysters and abalone. The material is formed to line the inside of the shell to protect the occupant from invading parasites and other threats to their well being. Many types of mollusks produce a coating that is not iridescent and will appear more like smooth porcelain. Mother of pearl will always show a nice iridescence, running the entire color spectrum. They

will all show varying degrees of iridescence or "fire" when held at different angles to the light.

Most of the mother of pearl used on knife handles comes from the South Pacific. Fiji and other islands are regularly mentioned as prime sources for some of the best.



I have seen the fishermen's homes in the south of Thailand where the piles of shells dwarf the houses!

October 2019

Mother of pearl has been used for knife handles or decorative inlays on knives, swords and scabbards for about as long as men have been making knives. It is a stable, strong material that lends itself very well to carving, cutting and drilling for use as inlay and handle material. The only drawback that I know of is that it is a bit on the brittle side; and you do not want to strike or drop it, otherwise it will develop the dreaded crack or just be completely destroyed.



The knifemakers in Europe, Great Britain and the United States used a great deal of mother of pearl for knife handles. There are beautiful examples from the middle 1700s to present day. Generally the earlier makers used white mother of pearl of various grades. The grading of the pearl seems to be pretty much determined by the iridescence and lack of imperfection in the shell.



During the early 1900s and into the 1930s, the United States makers began to offer quite a number of exotic and unusual varieties of mother of pearl. These included "Oriental," black

Continued on page 6

Kukri Notebook No 6

Kukris You Do Not Want To Collect

Ted Fitzwater

This paper was written following the display I did at the April 2019 Knife Show. It is my hope, by the end of this paper, you will have been educated in some of the pitfalls of collecting kukris and how to maneuver around them.

We had The Antique Bowie Knife Association collectors at our last Show; and if you sat down with one of the collectors and asked him about fake Bowies, he would have a story or two to tell on how good Bowie knife fakes can be. Kukris have not reached the kind of value as Bowies, but they may sometime in the future.

World War I Military Kukri Fakes

Military kukris of this period have increased in value, along with the introduction of fake WWI kukris made available by unscrupulous dealers and collectors. As a serious collector you will develop a wish list of the kukris you would like to obtain. At the top of my wish list for several years was a WWI military kukri, no particular style, but a true WW1 piece. (Picture 1)

I was surfing for kukris on eBay and spotted kukri #3 in picture 1. It was advertised as a 1916 dated British Gurkha Army kukri. The asking price was \$75.00 + shipping. I did find it odd that no one was bidding on it, and the price was so reasonable. I waited until the last minutes before the auction closed and made my bid. I GOT IT! I was thrilled, and I did a war dance around my computer. I could not wait till it was in my hands. When my kukri came in, I went to the International Kukri Research and Historical Society (IKRHS) and posted my prize. To my horror, they told me it was a fake; I just about threw up. I was despondent for days until my wife finally slapped me up along the side of the head and told me to get over it, and I did. Go to Picture 1. There are three kukris; the top, #1, is also an out-and-out fake. Both #1 and #3 are marked as WW1 Mk.2's. The real Mk2 kukri is #2 in the center of Picture 1. Do kukris #1 and #3 look anything like kukri #2? I THINK NOT! Also #1 has brass fittings; brass fittings did not come into use until the 1920s. I knew #1 was a fake when I got it, but I have seen this very style of kukri go on eBay for several hundreds of dollars. So ignorance is not bliss: buyer beware. (Diagram A)

Fake Markings On Kukris

Added markings on kukris really give me heartburn. You have an out-and-out lowlife who wants to make a few extra bucks by adding markings to increase the value of the kukri that he is trying to sell. The examples that I have are shown in Picture 2.

The top kukri is stamped with a 1914 date in front of the handle on the blade. I got this off eBay; it was listed as a British WW1 Gurkha kukri knife. Again I posted in on the IKRHS website and was told it was an original kukri, and a nice one at that; but it was made in the 1930s, not 1914, and had a fake stamp. Okay,



Picture 1)

Both 1 and 3 are out-and-out fakes. They are marked WW1 Mk.2. Number 2 is the original WW1 Mk.2. You can see for yourself there is a substantial difference between the original and the two fakes. Also, as stated in the article, on fake number 1, brass on kukris did not come to use until the mid 1920s. I have never seen brass used on original Mk.2 military of any time period.

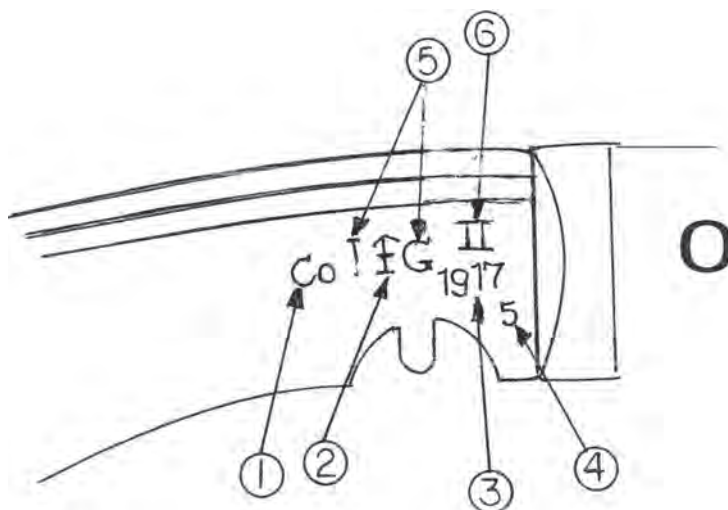


Diagram A) Here shown is one of the most common of WW1 Mk.2 markings. Both fake #1 and #3 have similar markings. These markings are identified as follows:

- 1) Co is the manufacturer
- 2) Broad arrow
- 3) year of manufacture
- 4) inspector's stamp
- 5) Indian government
- 6) Mk.2 style of kukri.

Picture 2)

Sadly these are two faked WW1 marked. I purchased both in good faith and got stabbed for it. Thankfully this is not the norm.



Continued on page 4

Details on Mini Show

The December Winter/Mini Show date is December 7. This one day Show on Saturday has become an expected event. We usually have between 75 and 100 tables. It is a casual event that has proven to be fun for all. The history of this event has seen weather of all variations which I find rather baffling. All weather conditions from rain, snow/ice and flooding. First of all, an Oregonian does not predict Oregon weather. But the Show doth go on. So rather than procrastinate, put your \$40.00 in an envelope and pay for your table for this event. Doors for members/tableholders opens at 7:00AM, and the Show is open until 4:00PM. All tables will be open until this hour. For those unfamiliar, the event happens in that round building at the Lane Events Center. Admission is free unless you mention my name, and then you will pay \$5.00 to the OKCA.

This event will let you meet up with friends, maybe buy or sell something that goes cut, learn about things that go cut, renew your membership, pay for your April table and just enjoy yourself amongst friends. You might even donate a toy to the Toys-4-Tots. A new, unwrapped toy for a boy or girl.

An Application form

for the April 2020 Show can be found in this *Knewsletter*. The right of first refusal for 2019 table-holders will be December 15, 2019. From the success of the last Show, I suspect that this momentum will carry over; so early requests for tables should be considered post haste. Like now. We already have a waiting list of individuals who are anxious to attend our Show as a table-holder. Don't forget to up your membership also.

Display Award Knives...

Gene Martin has distributed the Seax knife blanks in 1095 steel which will be finished for the 2020 Show. These are the knives that are presented to the winning displayers that will be at the 2020 Show. The individuals that have these blanks

are as follows: **Brion Baker, Great Falls MT - Peter Bromley, Spokane Valley WA - Gary Dekorte, Sequim WA - Theo Eichorn, Grants Pass OR, - Gary Griffin, Bend OR - Cameron House, Salem OR - David Kurt, Molalla OR - Gene Martin, Williams OR - Glen Morris, Vancouver WA - Jeff Murison, North Plains OR - Bryan Wages, Eugene OR - Harlan Whitman, Portland OR - Gene Martin - Williams OR - Event coordinator**

The Seax knife....

Gene Martin selected this pattern due to its historical significance. In the March



issue there is a synopsis on the seax knife and more is coming. Since seax knives do not fall out of trees in any condition, it was noted by B. K. Brooks that a co-theme might be in order. His suggestion was military knives, which could foster many nifty displays.

The theme for the Show

in April will be military knives. Displays of military knives will be encouraged. We wrestled with trying to pigeon hole a certain category of military, but specializing in one group did not make sense. There are way too many categories so we will encourage creativity on this subject. One of our members we know could take from his collection and have 20 displays of all different types of military things that go cut.

Articles this month....

are from **Ted Fitzwater, David Schultz, Little Orphan Annie and Auggie Schmirtz**. There is some great reading this month which is truly educational. I must remind our membership the *Knewsletters* are available on line, and the Google bots pick up on the articles.

That makes these words available worldwide. You are an expert on your specific collecting interests, be they antique or custom, so let us hear from you and do an article for us.



Some be easy

and some be not so easy. This be the monthly OKCA *Knewsletter*. You could make it easy for us by contributing your words to the *Knewsletter*.

In this *Knewsletter*

there are a few articles which might cause you to want to look into your Funk and Wagnall dictionary. There are some words that caused a look up like synopsis, enep, yatagan, nacre, mollusks, bacterious, arsenious and unobtanium. Or maybe these words are insegrivious to you.

Make your room reservation

soon for the April Show. The Valley River Inn has been our partner for many decades. As properties sway and swing with new owners, the same holds true for this place of lodging. We have hit a few lows in accommodations at the VRI, but a meeting this last May seemed to convince me that the new management is getting their act together. They have extended the hand of partnership to the OKCA and provide the first class rating that they held for so many years. The phone number for reservations is (541)743-1000. This is the number for the local VRI which should be better able to answer any questions and process the order more quickly. Make sure you mention the April Knife Show. Please contact us if you have difficulty.

The Sizzler...

Don't forget our monthly meeting at the Sizzler Restaurant. It is the third Wednesday of the month, which makes it **October 16, 2019**. I always look forward to this gathering so mark your calendar and come be with us. Come smile with us with your latest purchase or that which will educate us. It is always nice to see my fellow knife enthusiasts that are a cut above. ↘

Kukri Notebook No 6 Kukris You Do Not Want To Collect continued from page 2

another one bites the dust. There is one other by-product of this 1914 stamp. The value of the kukri with a bogus 1914 stamp is now around \$50.00 on a very good day; whereas, without the stamp, in original condition, it would be worth \$125.00 to \$150.00 (so much for the stamp increasing the value).

Kukri #2 in Picture 2 has some interesting marks also, and most true collectors are very skeptical about those markings. They were sold by a well-known dealer who I will not mention here. The kukri is stamped with a 1916 date and has a British broad arrow stamp above the date. It could very well have been made in that period. But I have never seen one of this type with various supposed WW1 markings, and this leaves me wondering. (Diagram B and C)

One thing I want to emphasize is, if the date is not on a standardized military kukri, such as Mk.1, 2, or 3, it should be questioned as to its authenticity. I have never seen a 100% non-standard kukri that has a stamped date on it. (Picture 3)

Reproduction Kukri Socket Bayonets

Kukri socket bayonets are like some mythical beast that everyone has heard of, but no one has ever seen. Picture 3 has two reproductions. Number 1 has been the most common variation of reproduction that I have seen. It has been sold as a reproduction and as a real deal.

Socket bayonet #2 has been called a kukri but truly is not; it is more of a yatagan style blade. A number of the originals have been imported from Nepal for sale to collectors.

You can tell the reproductions from the original. (Pictures 4 and 5) On the original all the work on the bayonet is done by hand and is very crude. The socket is knurled and is done by hand and is very crude. The reproduction is done by modern machine. The slot on the original is also done by hand, whereas the reproduction is done by machine. The original socket bayonet is forged from one piece of material for the socket and blade, but the reproduction is one piece and the blade is another. The two are welded together. I have seen the reproductions doctored up and sold as originals; so buyers be forewarned, do your homework.

I wanted to throw Picture 6 in. It shows a socket bayonet for sale in the Golden State Arms World Of Guns And Other Weapons, copyright 1958. Is it the mythical beast? Well, we may never know.

The Mark 3 Military Kukri

This is perhaps one of the most well known of the military kukris. They were made by the thousands and may still be an issue item in the Indian Army. But true WWII Mk.3's are very hard to come by. There were a few imported by the International Military Antiques and Atlanta Cutlery. They are now long gone.

If I see a MK.3 at one of our Knife Shows, the first thing I look for is marking. One of the most telling marks is a SA stamp.

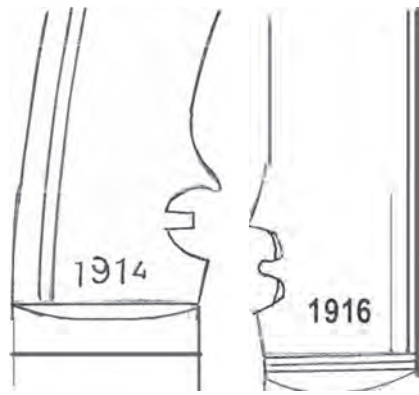


Diagram B) This shows up close the added markings to kukri 1 on the left and kukri 2 on the right. If the date stamp is on a non-standard military kukri, it should always be questioned.

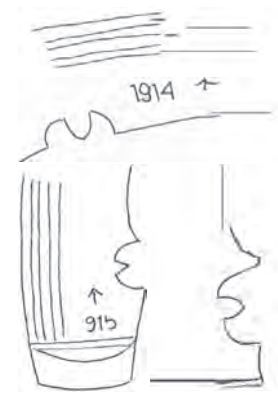


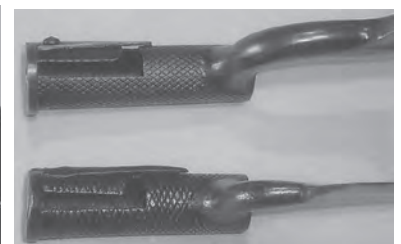
Diagram C) Additional diagrams of markings in picture 2 are similar to those found on kukri 2. The broad arrow stamp on the lower right I question. It would appear to me a modified stamp was used. When you see things like this, it should raise questions.



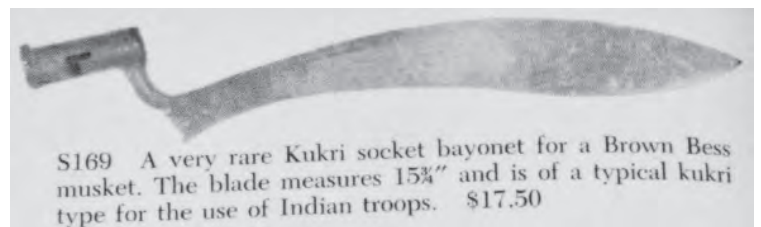
Picture 3) Two of the most common reproduction socket bayonets. Number 1 was purchased at one of our Shows as a reproduction, and number 2 was purchased from Atlanta Cutlery as a reproduction.



Picture 4) Sockets of the yatagan bayonet. The top is the reproduction and the bottom the original. Note the difference.



Picture 5) Socket style yatagan bayonets. The top is a reproduction; the bottom is the original. Note the difference in the slots of the reproduction and the original.



Picture 6) Is this the mythical beast of kukris? We will probably never know.

Continued on page 8





OREGON KNIFE COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 2091 • EUGENE, OR 97402

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND SHOW TABLE CONTRACT

PLEASE RETURN THIS ENTIRE PAGE or a photocopy. DO NOT CUT IT UP!

email: okca@oregonknifeclub.org

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Eve (_____) _____ Day (_____) _____ Date _____

Collector Knifemaker Dealer Mfr./Distrib. Other _____ Email _____

OKCA membership includes knewsletter, dinner/swap meetings, free admission to OKCA shows.

____ Start/ ____ Renew my/our OKCA membership (\$20 individual/\$25 family) \$ _____

45TH ANNUAL OREGON KNIFE SHOW • APRIL 17-19, 2020 360 — 8'x30" TABLES

Exhibit Hall, Lane Events Center and Fairgrounds, 796 West 13th Ave., Eugene, Oregon.

For Information Contact Show Chairman: Dennis Ellingsen, (541) 484-5564

AUTOMATIC RESERVATIONS: If you had a table at the 2019 Show, you have an automatic reservation for the same table in 2020, but THIS RESERVATION EXPIRES DECEMBER 15, 2019. You may still apply for a table after this date, but we cannot guarantee a table after December 15. NO RESERVATIONS HONORED OR APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED WITHOUT FULL PAYMENT! Note to NEW exhibitors: your table(s) will be assigned after 12/15/2019.

ALL TABLE-HOLDERS AND VISITORS agree to abide by the OKCA Show rules and to hold the OKCA, its officers, and the Lane Events Center harmless for any accident, loss, damage, theft, or injury.

ANY QUESTION OR DISPUTE arising during the Show shall be resolved by the Show Chairman, whose decision shall be final.

THIS IS A KNIFE SHOW. All tables must be 90% knives or knife related items (e.g. swords, axes, edged tools, edged weapons, knife books, knifemaking supplies). If in doubt, check with the Show Chairman ahead of time. The OKCA reserves the right to bar any item from display or sale. No firearms may be sold or shown at this Show.

ALL EXHIBITORS are required to keep their tables set up throughout the public hours of the Show: 8 AM Saturday to 3 PM Sunday. ANY EXHIBITOR WHO LEAVES OR COVERS THEIR TABLE BEFORE 3 PM SUNDAY FORFEITS FUTURE RESERVATIONS AND WILL BE DENIED TABLES AT FUTURE OREGON KNIFE SHOWS.

DISPLAY TABLES will be around the perimeter of the room. Displays are eligible for display awards, which are hand-made knives donated by members and supporters of OKCA. Display judging will be by rules established by OKCA. Special category awards may also be offered. **NOTHING MAY BE SOLD FROM DISPLAY TABLES.**

SALE/TRADE TABLES Sharing of tables will not be allowed. Exhibitors must comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws. Oregon has NO SALES TAX.

BADGES: Each table-holder is entitled to one additional Show badge. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

KNIFEMAKERS who are present and are table-holders at this Show may enter knives in the knifemaking award competition.

FOR MORE INFORMATION on categories and judging criteria in the display and hand-made knife competitions, contact the Show Chairman.

SHOW FACILITATORS will be provided by OKCA from 10AM Friday until 4 PM Sunday. However, exhibitors are responsible for watching their own tables. Neither the OKCA nor the Lane Events Center will be responsible for any loss, theft, damage, or injury of any kind.

CITY AND COUNTY REGULATIONS require that there be:

- No Smoking within the Exhibit Hall at any time;
- No alcoholic beverages consumed within the Exhibit Hall during the public hours of the Show;
- No loaded firearms worn or displayed at the Show;
- No swords or knives brandished or displayed in a provocative manner.

Violators of these safety rules will be asked to leave.

NOTE ON SWITCHBLADES AND DAGGERS: In Oregon it is legal to make, sell, buy, or own switchblade knives. However, it is **ILLEGAL** to carry a switchblade knife, a gravity knife, a dagger, or a dirk concealed on one's person, or for a convicted felon to possess a switchblade or gravity knife. Most other states have banned switchblade knives. Under federal law, it is **ILLEGAL** to mail, carry, or ship a switchblade or gravity knife across state lines.

The Oregon Knife Collectors Association is not responsible for force majeure.

EXHIBITOR CONTRACT: PLEASE ENCLOSE FULL PAYMENT WITH THIS FORM. Full refund granted if reservation canceled by February 15, 2020. **DON'T GET LEFT OUT!!!**
MAIL THIS PAGE AND YOUR CHECK TODAY. A signature is required.

Type of knives on your tables _____

Name for second badge _____ (two badges per table-holder)

Qty _____ Club Dues (Total from above)\$ _____

Qty _____ Sale/Trade table(s) @ \$120 each (members only).....\$ _____

Qty _____ Collector Display table(s) **free with sale table:**.....# _____

Qty _____ Collector Display table(s) w/o trade table @ \$100 each.....\$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED (make check payable to O.K.C.A.)\$ _____

I have read and agree to abide by the OKCA Show rules as set forth in this contract, and to hold the OKCA, its officers, and the Lane Events Center harmless for any accident, damage, loss, theft, or injury. **Signature and date required.**

Signature _____ Date _____

SHOW SCHEDULE

Friday, April 17, 2020.

10am - 7pm set-up; open ONLY to table-holders and members of OKCA.

Saturday, April 18, 2020.

7am-8am set-up. 8am-5pm open to public.

Sunday, April 19, 2020.

8am-9am set-up. 9am-3pm open to public.

Tables that are cancelled will revert back to the OKCA. Subcontracting tables is not permitted.

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www.oregonknifeclub.org



lip, gold lip, "Peacock" and both inside and outside cuts of abalone. They also offered "smoked" and other colors of dyed pearl. Be careful with these if you ever decide to "clean-up" and polish them; the color is only skin deep and will generally go away under a buffing wheel. And "yes," I have found this out the hard way.

The high grade pearls, especially the "black lip" pearl with its rainbow of colors, is one of the most gorgeous things to look upon in the sunlight. It reinforces the fact that God has a real wide paintbrush and gave us so many wonderful things to enjoy and to reflect His Glory!

Most of the pearl handle knives were small and made especially for use as men's vest pocket and ladies' purse knives. Some are very ornate with fluting and carving to enhance the iridescent quality of the material. In the "trade" they seem to be known as "Sunday Knives" in general. The dandy little piece of pocket jewelry you might carry for church and other special social occasions.

There were also a great many beautiful silver bladed "Fruit Knives" made, especially in England and France, in the old days before the introduction of stainless steel in 1914. They were pretty useless in reality but were quite the social status ornament for m'ladies tea time.

I have found that carrying knives in a pocket with other things like car keys and change is a pretty sure recipe for destruction and always suggest the use of a small slip case to carry the knife. Scratches and small dings can usually be lightly sanded and buffed out of mother of pearl, but it is much nicer to NOT have to do that. I usually coat my mother of pearl (and other natural handle materials) with mineral oil, once I have them cleaned up; and they are ready to carry or display. This is a bit of insurance against drying out and edge flaking, sometimes encountered on older neglected specimens. It also seems to increase the luster and color of the material, though that may be a bit of wishful thinking from this somewhat biased individual! You can contact Dave at davemaryann@comcast.net. 🐦



The Seek-Re-Tary Report

elayne

The September meeting was held September 18, 2019, at the Sizzler Restaurant. There were 35 present. It was the first meeting of the new Show year. Thank you **Bernard Levine** for your emails to our members to encourage them to attend.

We have not made the decision regarding the 2020 Club knife. However, it will be a Great Eastern. **Roy Humenick** is coordinating the choice. When we have the information, we will post the information on the website as soon as it is known. We hope to have a decision by the December Winter/Mini Show. We also have a dream that we might have a sample knife available, but that may not be a possibility.

If you are interested to purchase a table for the December Winter/Mini Show, please forward payment in the amount of \$40.00. You do not need an application for the December Show. Just a note on the payment that it is for the December Show. The date of the one day Show is December 7, 2019. The hours are 7:00AM to 4:00PM. We usually have 80-85 tables. The tables are not assigned. First come-first serve. Bring a toy for donation to Toys-4-Tots. **Bryan Christensen** has again volunteered to coordinate this event.

You can include it with the payment for your renewal of membership. Your membership expires on December 31, 2019. You must be a current member to enter the April Show on Friday, April 17, 2020, which is members-only and set up day. We must have receipt of your payment for new or renewal memberships by Wednesday, April 15, 2020. We do not accept any new or renewal membership on Friday, April 17, 2020. We reserve the right to offer entry to individuals who have supported our organization during the year and not those who want last minute specials.

If your address information, phone number or email address is changed, please contact me. It is very costly for us if a *Knewslettter* is returned. Your information is not shared with

anyone who is not a current member of the organization. If we receive a request from a non-member, we ask for their information and contact the member ourselves. Your privacy is very important.



The deadline for first right on your 2019 table for 2020 is December 15, 2019. The December Winter/Mini Show will be an opportunity to pay your money. We have been receiving payment for the 2020 Show. We do have a waiting list for tables. There is a table application and membership application in this *Knewslettter*, as well as an application on our website. If you have difficulty downloading the form, please call; and I will mail one to you.

A confirmation of your table reservation will be mailed after January 1, 2020. At that time we will also mail the 2020 membership cards which were not picked up at the December Winter/Mini Show.

Please note the section for the second name requested for the table-holder badge. We limit the table-holder badges to two per table-holder. The badges have the individual's name (company name if available) and city and state. Because of the work involved to print the badges, we must limit them. It also reduces the number of people behind each of the tables. The table-holder badges are picked up at the Show in the lobby of the Exhibit Hall on the day of the Show.

We have flyers available for the December 7 Winter/Mini Show and for the April 17-18-19, 2020 Show. The flyers will be mailed to you when requested. Please help us advertise our events. We must now start to generate the enthusiasm for the 2020 OKCA April Show that is required to have a successful event.

Overnight RV parking is allowed at the Lane Events Center. The vehicle must be self-contained, since there is no electricity available. Also there are no restroom facilities available after the buildings are closed. Payment is at the LEC office, which

is the building north of our Show.


We have an arrangement with Valley River Inn for reduced rate for rooms at their facility. We have been offered two tiers of rooms, river view and non-river view. There is a link on our site map to the VRI on our website. If you have any problems with reservations, please contact us. The phone number for reservations is (541)743-1000. This is the number for the local VRI which should be better able to answer any questions and process the order more quickly.

We thank all of the members who have contributed to our *Knewslettter*. This publication helps to bind our group together. If you have words to share but do not type, handwrite the article; I will type it for publication. We all have a want to share our knowledge and interests.

Our Facebook page is constantly receiving requests for inclusion by individuals interested in our "world of cut." Anyone may join our Facebook page; however you must be a current member to advertise on our page or be linked to our website. Check out our page. Go to the OKCA website, and you will find the link. Thank you, **Lisa Wages**, who monitors our Facebook page throughout the year.

If you attempt to contact us by phone, (541) 484-556, and reach the answering machine, pretty please leave a message. Cross our heart your call will be returned in a timely manner. Please accept my apology if I appear curt when I answer. As you are aware, we (everyone) are being plagued by robocalls and scammer calls. We do not want to lose a call from an individual who wants a table or membership and must answer all calls.

If you ship an item to us, please use our shipping address: OKCA 3003 W 11TH PMB 172 EUGENE OR 97402. The mailing address for memberships, renewals or new, table reservations, or knife orders is OKCA BOX 2091 EUGENE OR 97402.

See you at the meeting, October 16, 2019, at the Sizzler Restaurant, Gateway Blvd, Eugene/Springfield OR. 



The SA is a British-Indian Army stamp that stands for Small Arms. As far as I know, it was not used after 1947, the year of India's independence from England. The SA stamp may be found on the handle or on the blade, just in front of the handle. The manufacturer's stamp, if it has one, is normally found just in front of the handle. Some collectors have thought that it was the broad arrow mark alone that was the key to the Mk.3 authenticity; but it must also have the SA stamp and, in most cases, a manufacturer's markings. (Picture 7 and Diagram D)


The Lion Head Kukri

This is a classic tourist item. It has been made by the thousands, if not millions. It gets its name from the pommel cap. It is cast in the form of a lion's head. (Picture 8) It is thought that this came from the English officer's sword that had a lion head pommel. They generally have very little value to the true collector unless they have specific provenance. If you walk around our Knife Shows, you may see a number of them. They come in all kinds of sizes and shapes. (Picture 9) Some of the early ones date to the 1920s. What is the value of a lion head tourist kukri to a true collector? Very little. (Picture 10)

Kukri Look-A-Likes

There are a number of large knife types that are often mistaken for kukris. I have two. The two examples I have are one which is seen throughout Southeast Asia. It is called an enep. It is similar in appearance to the kukri. It has the prominent forward curved blade. The other is often called a Philippine bolo. The design is very similar to modern kukris I have seen on eBay. (Picture 11) Always do your homework. Know what you are getting.

I want to add one more bit of information on questionable kukris. These are very ornate kukris coming out of Pakistan, India and other countries in that area. There is currently a buy-it-now, very ornate, kukri on eBay. The asking price is well over \$500.00. I have seen a number of kukris coming out of the aforementioned areas with mother of pearl handles and Damascus blades. Really cool looking. They appear really well made. This is another buyer beware. Do your homework whenever you are thinking of spending this kind of money.

This concludes my paper. As time goes on, more information may become available on kukris. It would appear they are becoming popular. If I get any additional information on authenticity, I will make it available to you. 



Picture 7) Mark 3's: number 1 and number 2 are reproductions and over runs sold on the surplus market. Number 3 and 4 are original WWI Mk. 3 and number 5 is not a Mk.3 but a Mk.4 One of the rarest of the military.

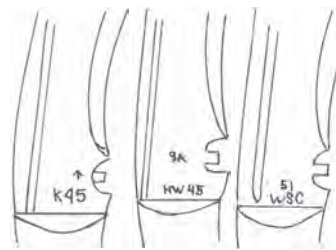


Diagram D) Mk.3 markings far left. K45 stands for made in 1945. Note the broad arrow above, the SA stamp is on the handle, middle HW is the manufacturer, 45 is the year of manufacture, SA stamp is above. The far right is a Mk.4 made in 1951 with the WSC being the manufacturer.



Picture 8) Lion head tourist pommels.

Picture 9) Lion head tourist kukris come in a vast number of variations and sizes.



Picture 11) Large knives are, at times, mistaken for kukris. Number 1 is a modern enep from Southeast Asia with its sheath below. Number 2 is a Philippine bolo also with its sheath.



Picture 10) Grob Kukri. One of the largest lion heads you might ever see. It has an overall length of 46-1/2 inches, a blade length of 3 feet. It has no true historical value. It is classified as an oddity or fantasy piece. The two boys holding it are my grandchildren, Samuel on the left and Steven on the right.





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Loveless Style Sheaths: made to order. Call or text Zac & Sara Buchanan (541)815-2078.

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Buying OKCA Club knives for my personal collection. Looking for the 1998 Wayne Goddard with the wood beaver handle. I would consider buying other Club knives and Wayne Goddard knives. Also looking for Spyderco Kopas. Call or email Jordan (310)386-4928 - jgl321@aol.com

For Sale - Recon, turquoise, lapiz and coral. I will trade for knives, Damascus or parts. This material is used by D-alton Holder, Randy Lee, David Yellowhorse and many other famous makers. Perfect for scales, full handles, jewelry and wood inlay.- Elliott Glasser - Hiltary Industries - Scottsdale AZ (602)620-3999.

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Wanted: Western Wildlife Series etched knives as follows: 532 bear, 532 eagle, 521 eagle, 534 antelope. Will pay fair price for any. Call Martin at (406)442-2783 leave message.

Knives For Sale: Antique, custom & factory, pocketknives, folders, fixed blades, dirks, daggers, bowies, military, Indian, frontier, primitive & ethnic. Other collectibles also. Current colored catalog - FREE. Northwest Knives & Collectibles (503)362-9045 anytime.

Wanted: 2012 Case XX USA medium stockman #6318 PU CV jugged bone w/punch w/signature of Skip Lawrie. Nuno Sacramento (916)682-9305.

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Mosaic pins and lanyard tubes by Sally. See at www.customknife.com, email at sally@customknife.com. (541)846-6755.

Blades and knifemaker supplies. All blades are ground by Gene Martin. I also do custom grinding. See at www.customknife.com, contact Gene at bladesmith@customknife.com or call (541)846-6755.

Useful reference books on blades. Collectible knives, custom knives and knifemaking, military knives, swords, tools, and anything else that has an edge. Email for a list. Quality Blade Books C/O Rick Wagner P O Box 41854 Eugene OR 97404 (541)688-6899 or wagner_r@pacinfo.com.

Knife Laws on-line. Federal, state, local. Bernard Levine (541)484-0294 www.knife-expert.com.

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