

The Tyntesfield Lathe

In 2003 a party of ornamental turners and their guests visited Tyntesfield, a country house near Bristol. We were privileged to see the house in the original state in which it was acquired by the National Trust. The house had been about to be sold; the wonderful contents were all labelled with Christies Lot numbers and the sale of these was imminent. Fortunately the National Trust stepped in at the last moment and saved the complete collection for posterity.

William Gibbs (1790 - 1875) was a businessman and religious philanthropist. He made his fortune from importing guano (bird droppings) from Peru. This was a valued product, used as fertiliser, and it commanded very high prices in Europe and North America. By the 1850s the Gibbs firm made profits from this trade amounting to between £80,000 and £100,000 per year, of which William received a share of between 50% and 70%. His great wealth enabled him to buy Tyntesfield, a fine country house near Bristol, which he had remodelled and enlarged. He also bought adjoining land until, at its peak, the estate covered more than 6000 acres.



Tyntesfield (photograph courtesy of the National Trust)

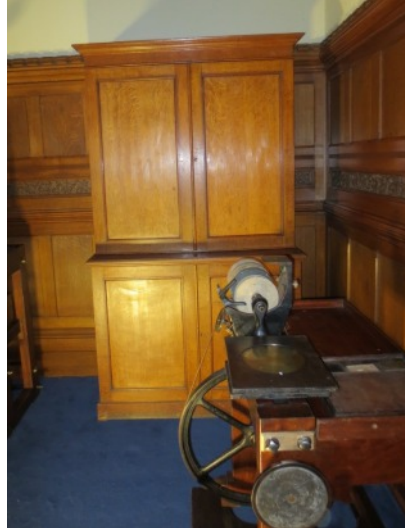
On William's death the estate passed to his son Antony (1841 - 1907). Like many wealthy men of his generation, Antony took up the hobby of ornamental turning and in 1872 he bought from Holtzapffel and Co., London, a pre-owned lathe, Serial No.1890, together with a comprehensive outfit of accessories for the princely sum of £220.-0.-0. (equivalent to about 3 years income for a skilled man). This lathe had been sold originally in 1852 to Count Dunin for £137.-16.-0. It was later returned to H & Co., and resold in 1861 to Sir A. Sterling Kt. It was then returned for a second time to H & Co., completely overhauled and resold again on 5th January 1872 to Antony Gibbs. Antony was a talented ornamental turner as evidenced by several pieces of his work that remain among the collections at Tyntesfield.

On Antony's death the lathe passed to his son, Antony Hubert Gibbs of Pytte, Clyst St. George, Topsham, Exeter, Devon. It was sold eventually at an auction of the Gibbs' estate. There are two conflicting stories here: one states that the lathe was sold from Gibbs's London house in Ealing in 1922 to David Kyle of Brentford and subsequently to John Marsh Burns of Bexhill-on-Sea; the second story is that it was bought at a house sale from Clyst St. George, c.1953 by a Devonshire gentleman. It was later inherited by his son, who subsequently moved the Scotland where it languished for the next 60 years, unused in a store room. It was rescued in 2014 by the writer, who cleaned and overhauled it; and in 2017 it was returned to its former home at Tyntesfield where it would normally have stood in the small Lathe Room. However, to make it more accessible for public viewing it has been placed in the Billiard Room.

The following pages contain photographs of the lathe outfit in its new home, ornamental items turned by the late Antony Gibbs, the lathe in various set-ups, the cabinet with every accessory contained within, the triptych cabinet of hand tools, the treadle grinding machine and a complete inventory of the outfit.



Pride of place in the Billiard Room



Ornamental objects turned by Antony Gibbs



Pair of ivory candlesticks



Ivory Pomander



Pair of blackwood & ivory candlesticks



Ivory Pot



Rhino Horn Pot



Pair of ivory tazzas



The lathe



The cabinet



Accessories



Top tier of the cabinet and three upper drawers.



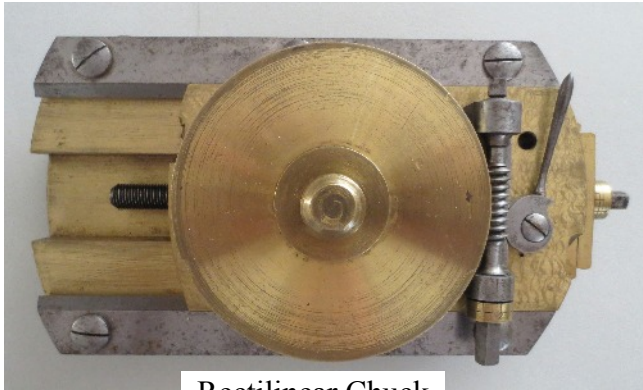
Drawer 1 containing ivory & blackwood off-cuts, test pieces and failures.

Drawer 2 containing small pieces of hardwood.



Drawer 3 containing Saw blade and spindle; bell punch (2); Ring Carrier & Heart Carrier (3) for Driver Chuck; Oilcan and sundry items.

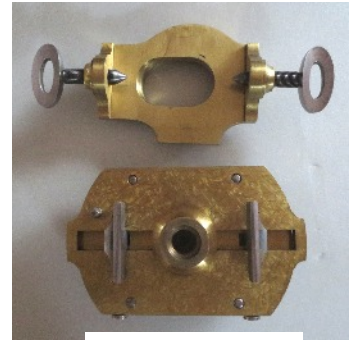




Rectilinear Chuck



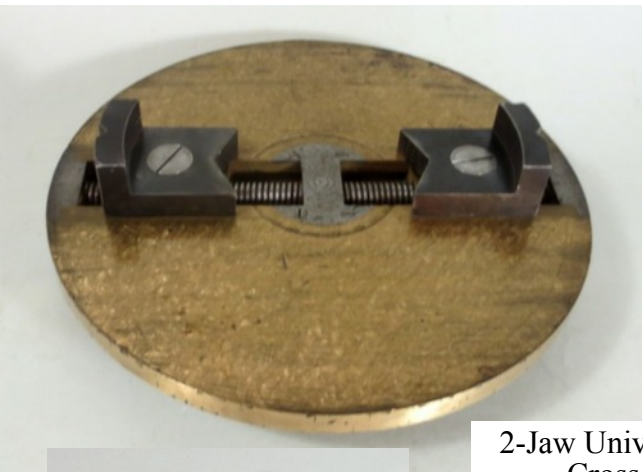
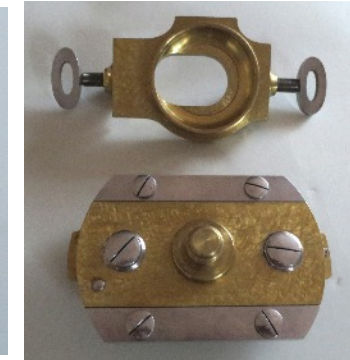
Eccentric Chuck



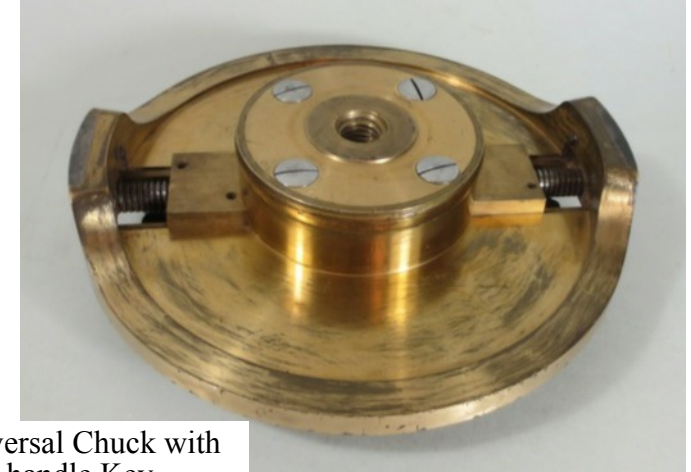
Ellipse Chuck



Dome Chuck



2-Jaw Universal Chuck with Cross-handle Key



Bennett's Die Chuck



Work-holding Chucks:

Cup Chucks (8); Spring Chucks (12); Mandrels (2) & Wire Chucks (3) with screw-hole
 Receptacle Chuck; Driver Chuck; 2-jaw Die Chuck; Prong Chuck; Hollow Screw Chuck with 6
 screws; Worm-screw Chuck (2); Receptacle Chuck (2); Prong Chuck; Square-hole Chuck (3);
 Bayonet Chuck for Boring Bits.



Ring Carrier & Heart Carriers for Driver Chuck



2-jaw SC Chuck



3-jaw SC Chuck



Small 3-jaw SC Chucks (pair).



Large 4-jaw Independent Chuck

Drawer 4 - Boxwood Chucks etc.



Arm-rest



Set of Chuck-making Tools



Ivory & hardwood
test pieces & failures





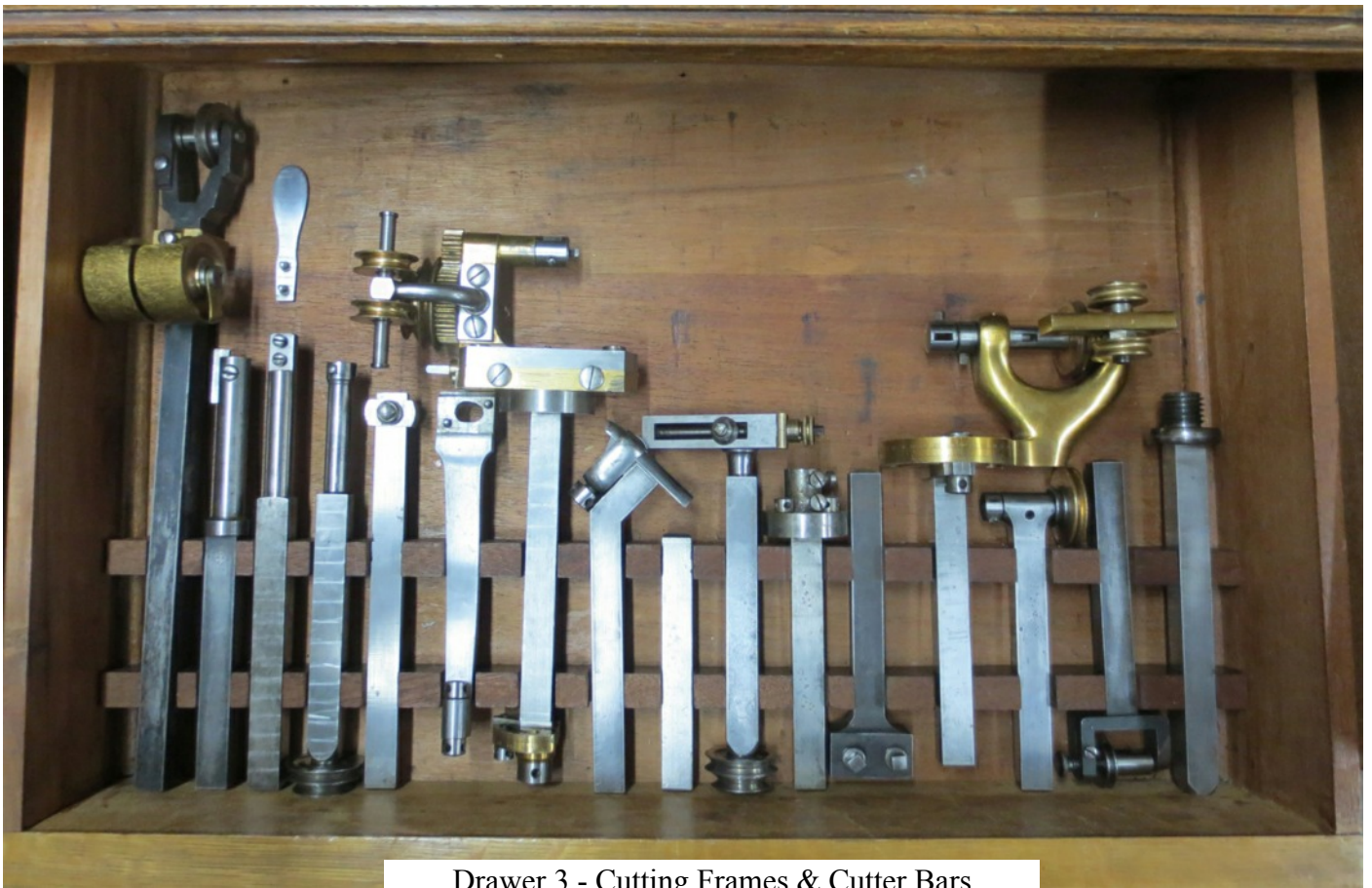
Spiral Apparatus



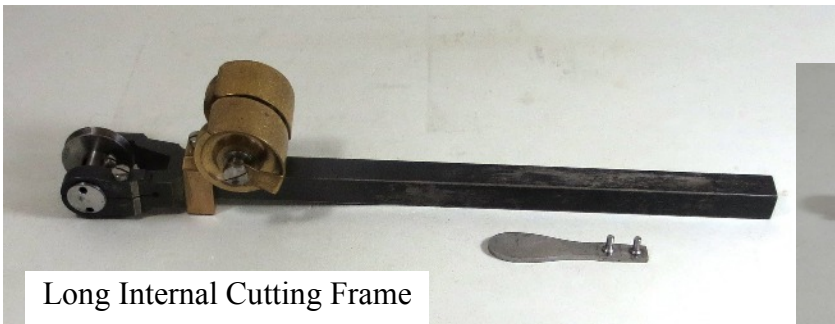
Pedestal & Arbor for Surface Spirals



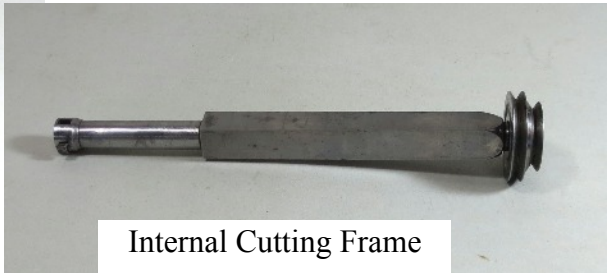
Dividing Chucks, rear and front mounting



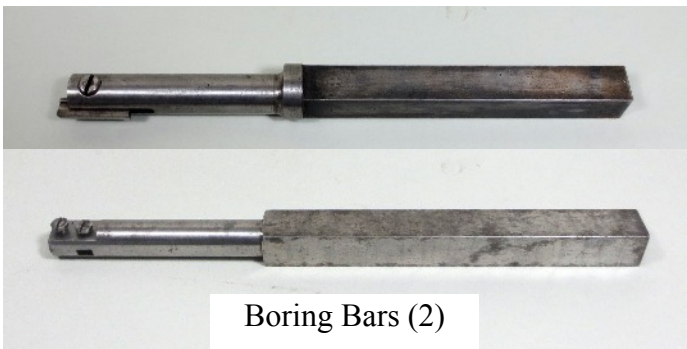
Drawer 3 - Cutting Frames & Cutter Bars



Long Internal Cutting Frame



Internal Cutting Frame



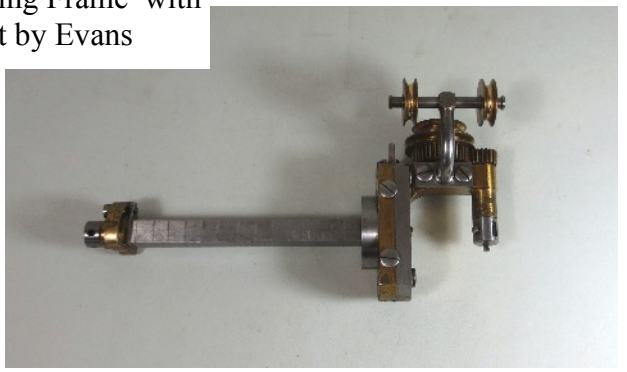
Boring Bars (2)

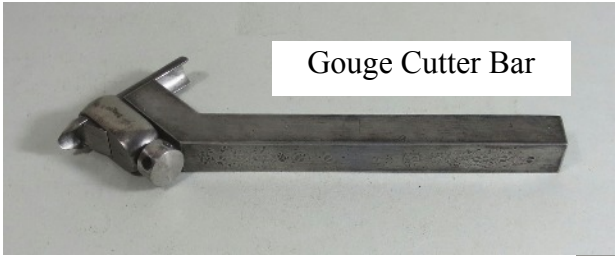


Extension Tool-holder



Geared Universal Cutting Frame with height adjustment by Evans





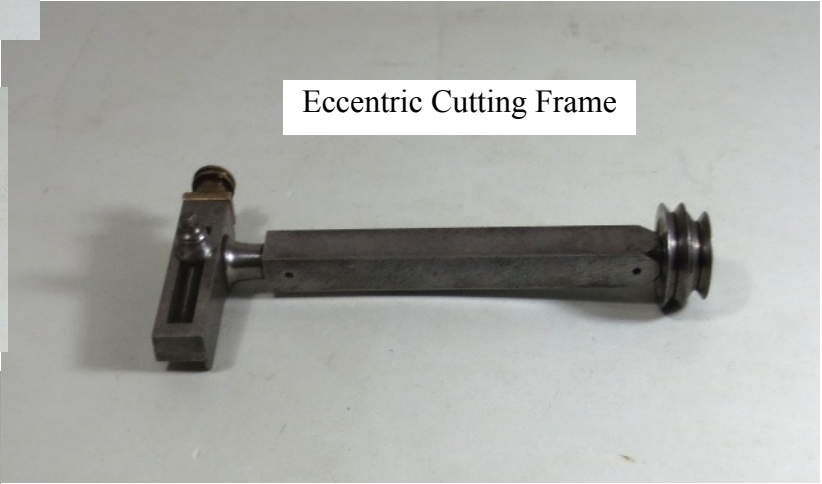
Gouge Cutter Bar



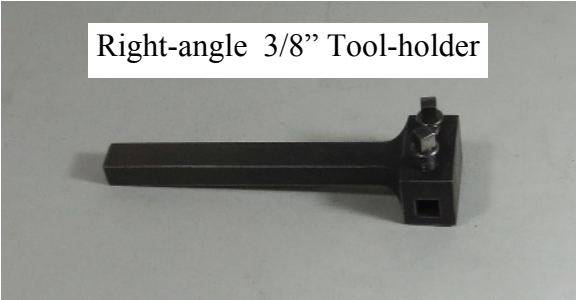
Steel Spacer Plate



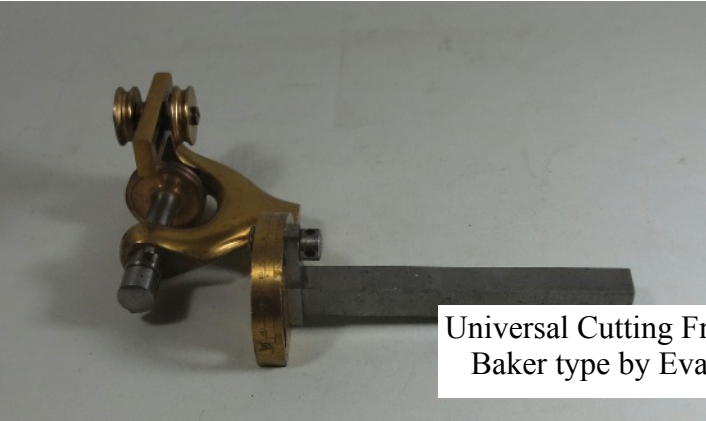
Screw-thread Cutter Bar



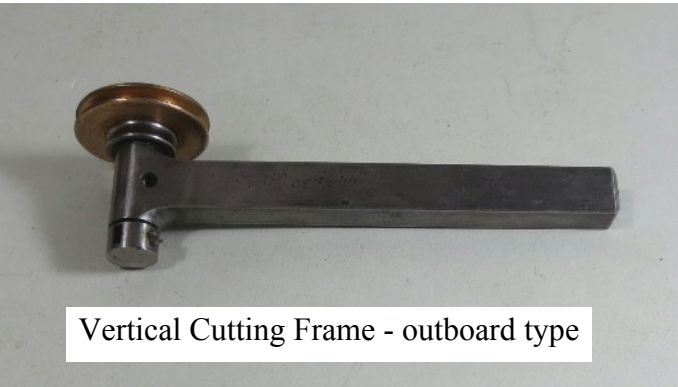
Eccentric Cutting Frame



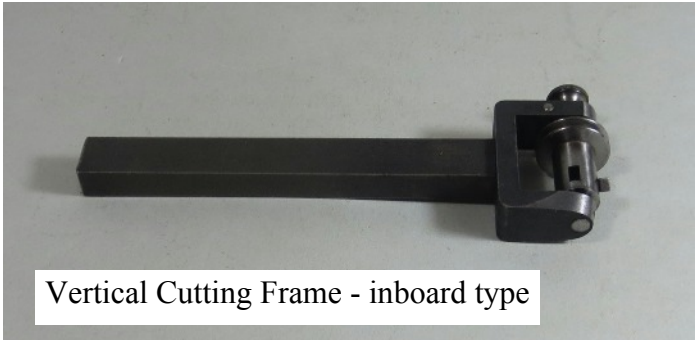
Right-angle 3/8" Tool-holder



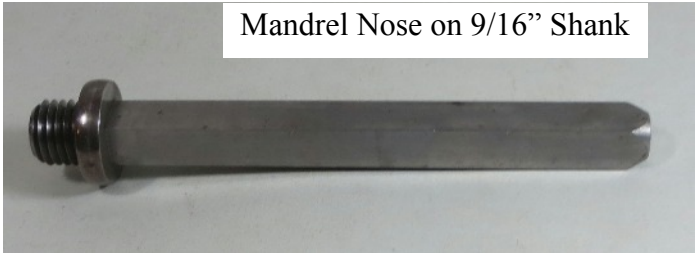
Universal Cutting Frame
Baker type by Evans



Vertical Cutting Frame - outboard type



Vertical Cutting Frame - inboard type



Mandrel Nose on 9/16" Shank

Ellipse Cutting Frame in mahogany chest.



Slope top mahogany chest. of Cutters & drills



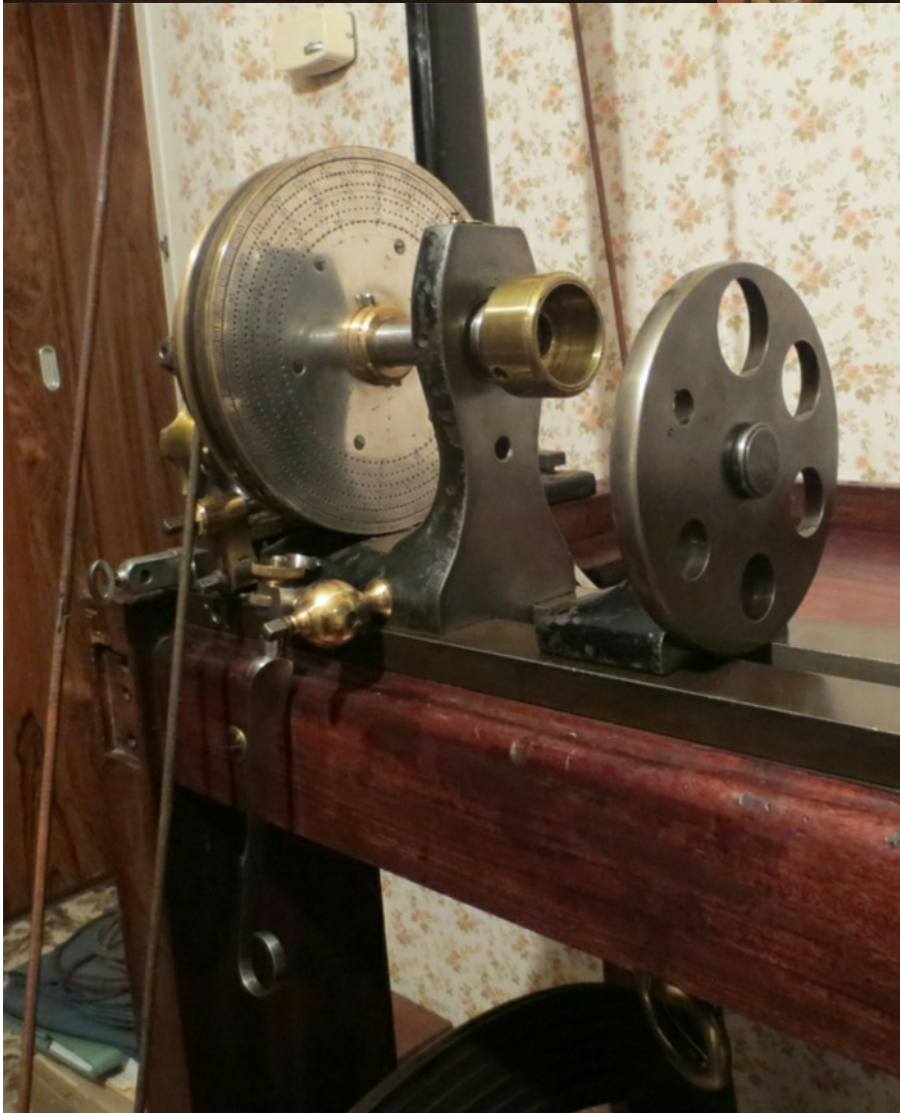
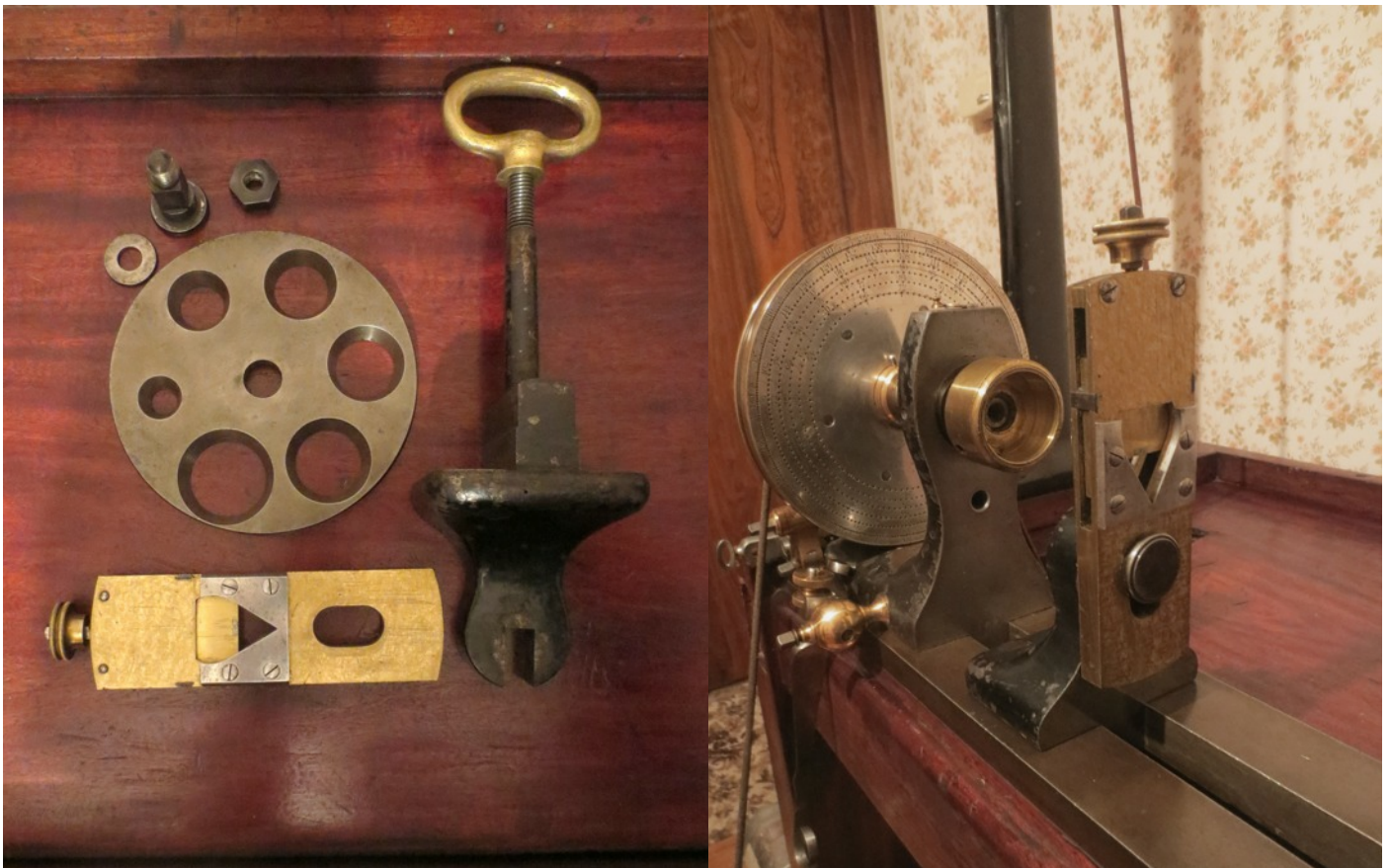
Chest of Cutters & Drills comprising:- 180 Slide-rest tools with honing adapter & right-angle adapter, 137 ECF tools, 26 short UCF tools & 139 drills with matching Drilling Spindle & honing guide, Pad handle and a Scribing Knife.



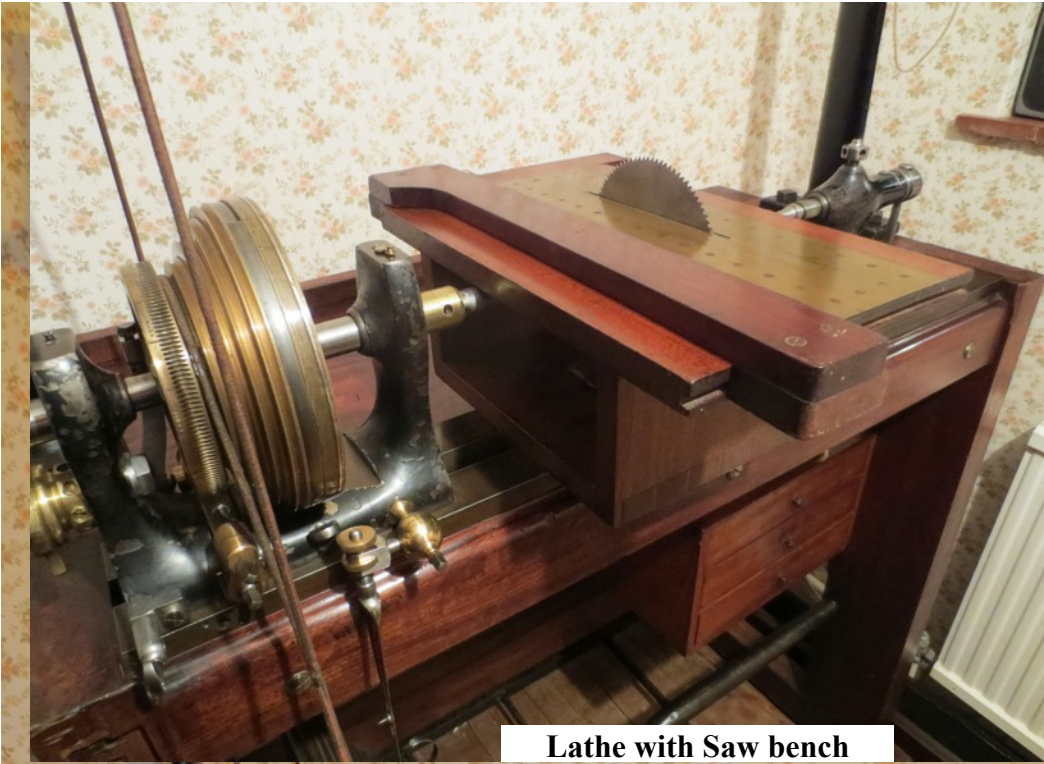
Horizontal Cutting Frame with 3 brass pulleys and set of 36 medium length cutters, in fitted mahogany chest



Drilling Spindle with set of 55 drills & honing guide in fitted mahogany chest

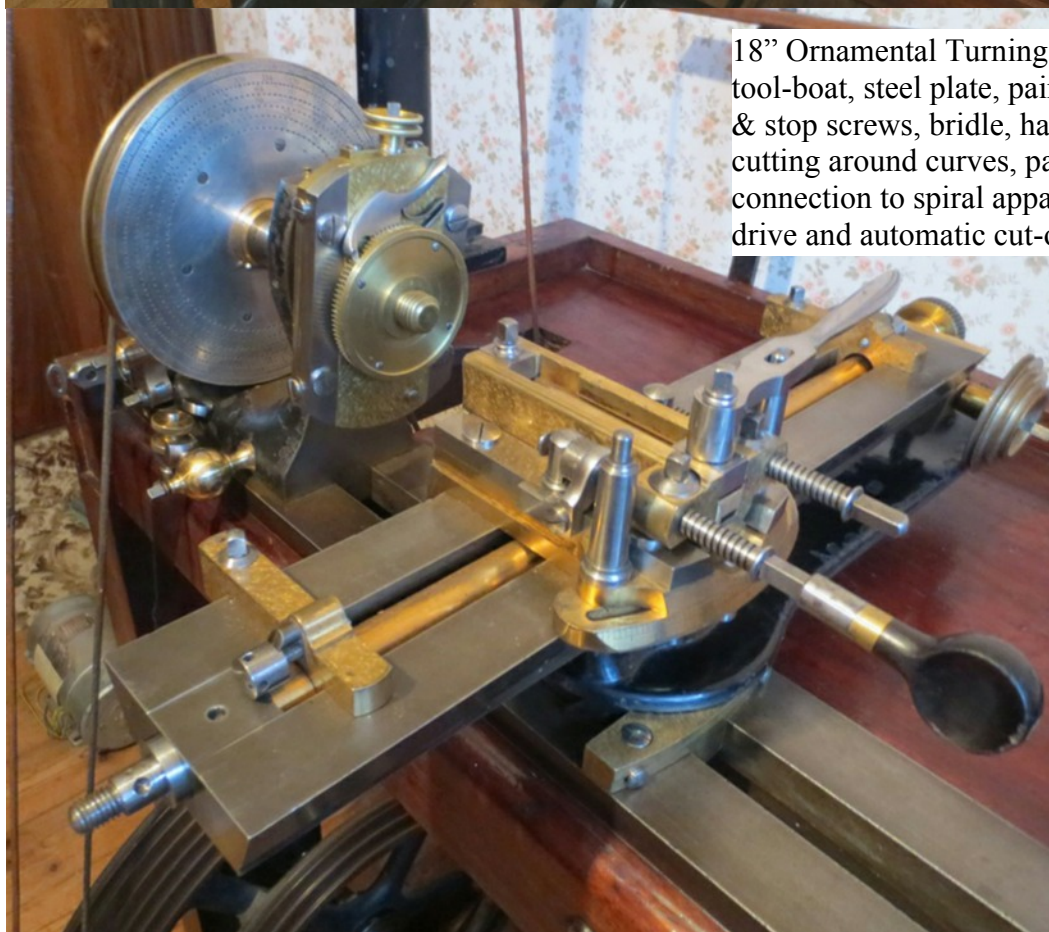


Boring Collar, Slender
Turning Guide & Stand.

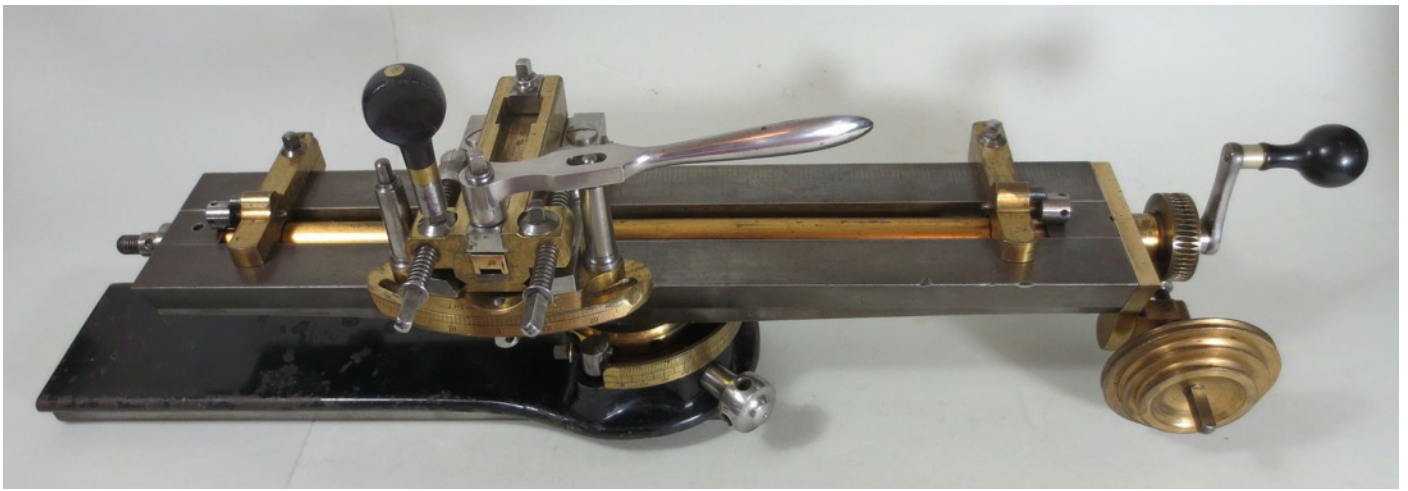


Lathe with Saw bench





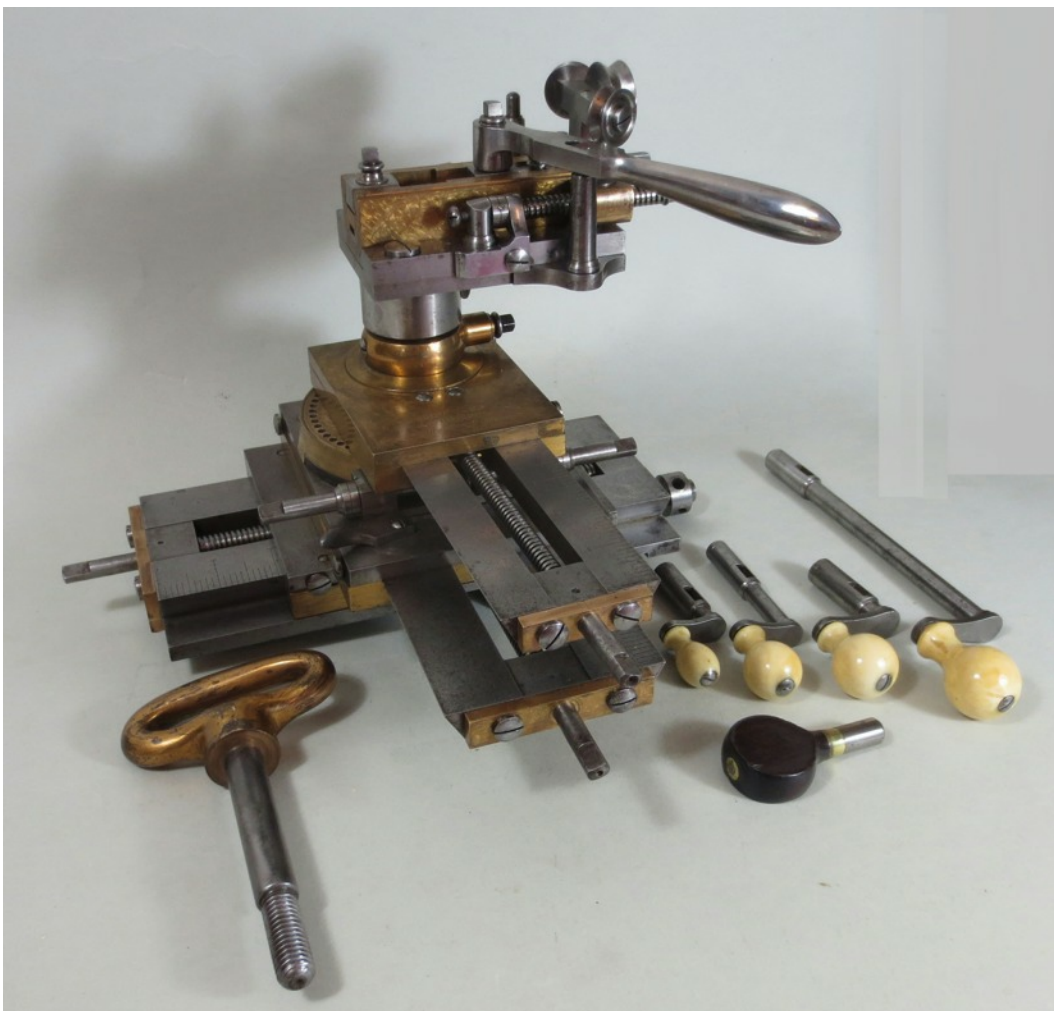
18" Ornamental Turning Slide-rest by Evans with tool-boat, steel plate, pair of tool-clamps, guide & stop screws, bridle, hand-lever, sector plate for cutting around curves, pair of fluting stops, connection to spiral apparatus with overhead drive and automatic cut-out, winch handle & key; Cradle, Clamp & Bow-nut.



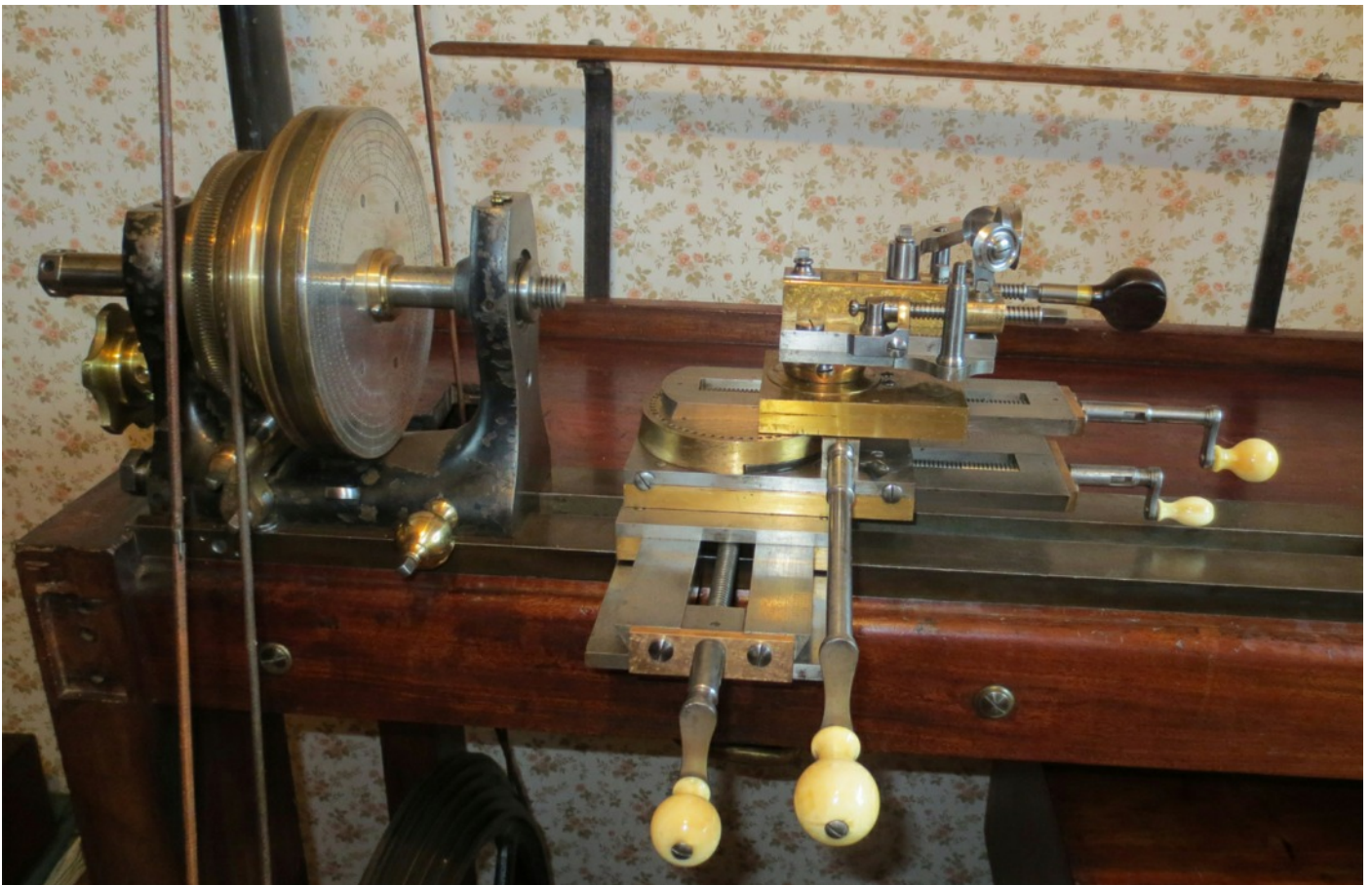
Superior 18" Ornamental Slide-rest by Evans; with sector plate for cutting around curves, tool-boat, steel plate, pair of clamps, guide & stop screws, bridle, pair of fluting stops, key, winch handle and automatic driving gear, Cradle, clamp, bolt & bow-nut.



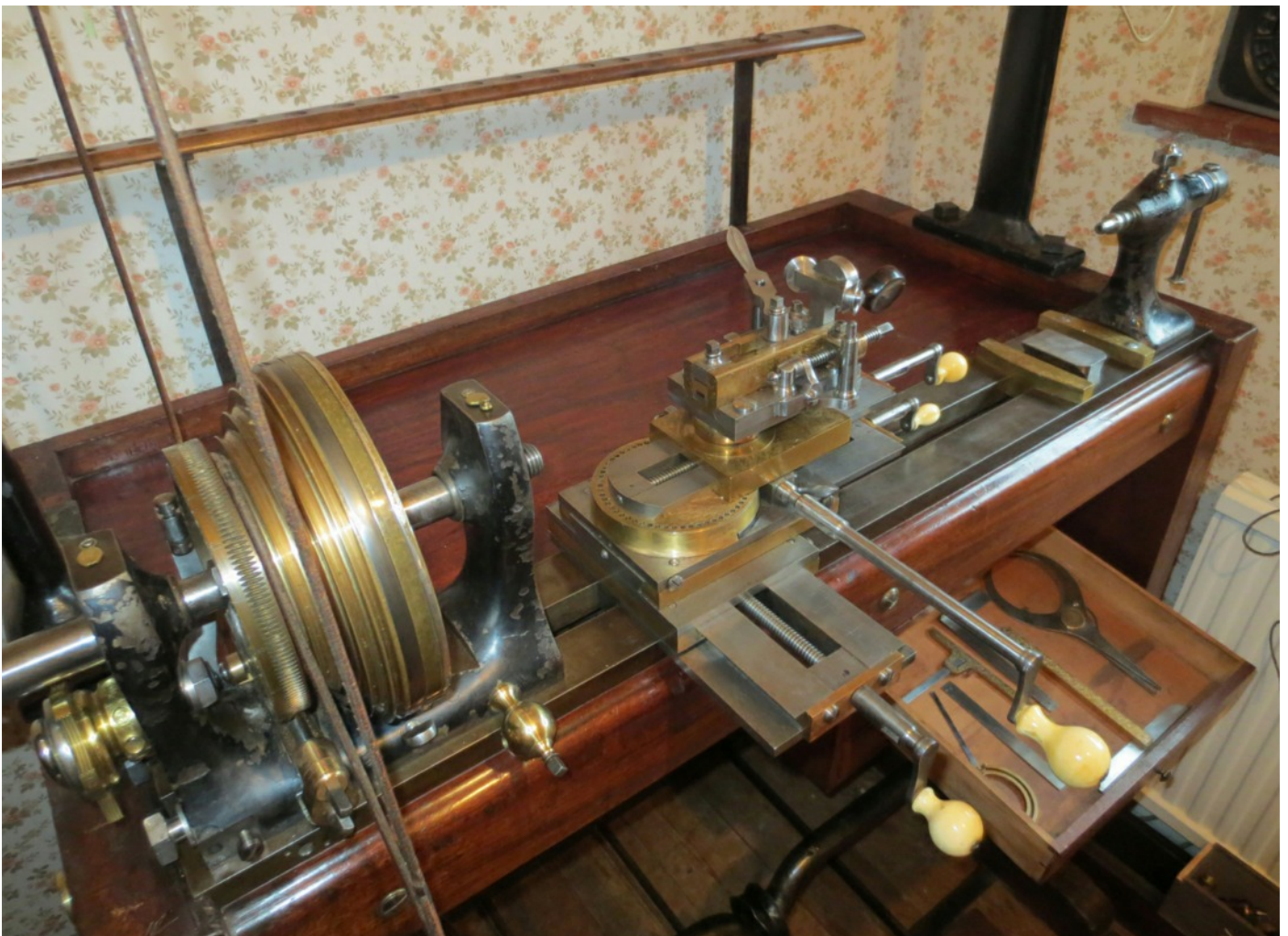
Cradle for O T Slide-rest



Spiral-Spherical Slide-rest made by Evans; with tool-boat, steel plate, set of 3 clamps, guide & stop screws, bridle, pair of fluting stops, key, 4 winch handles, bolt & bow-nut.



The lathe shown here with Spherical Slide-rest by Evans.

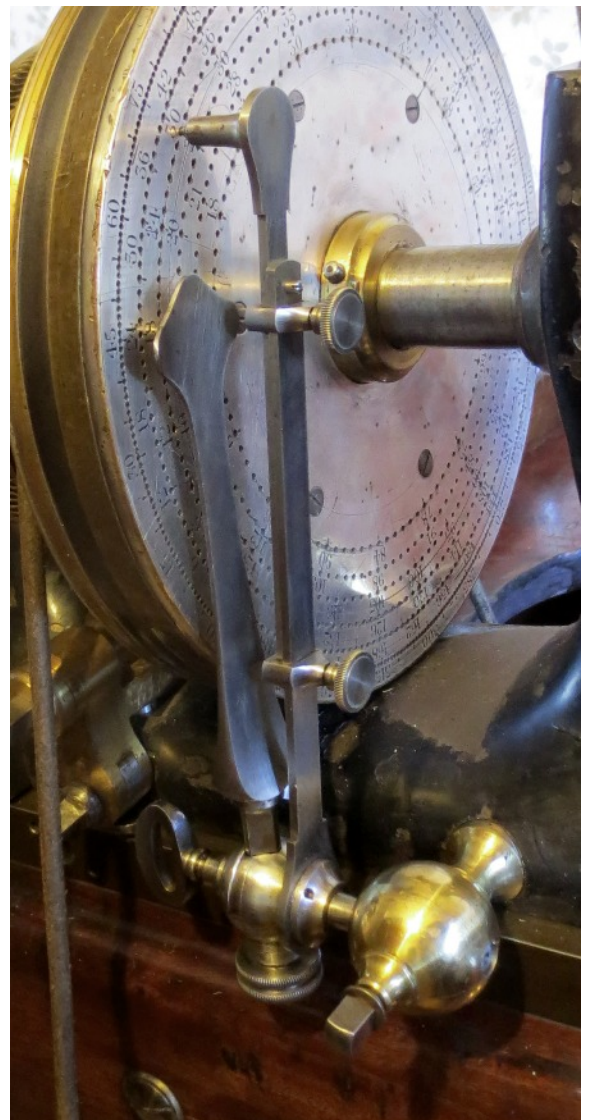




Star-nut & set of 6 Screw-thread Guides



Counting Index

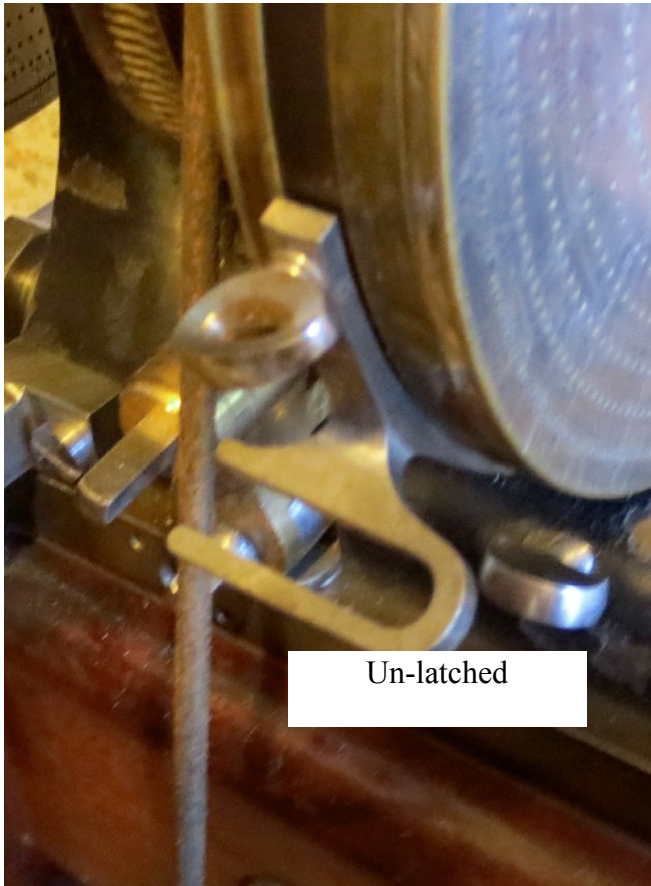
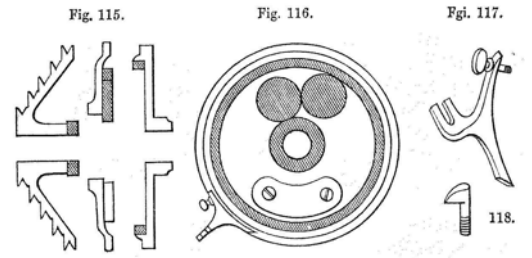




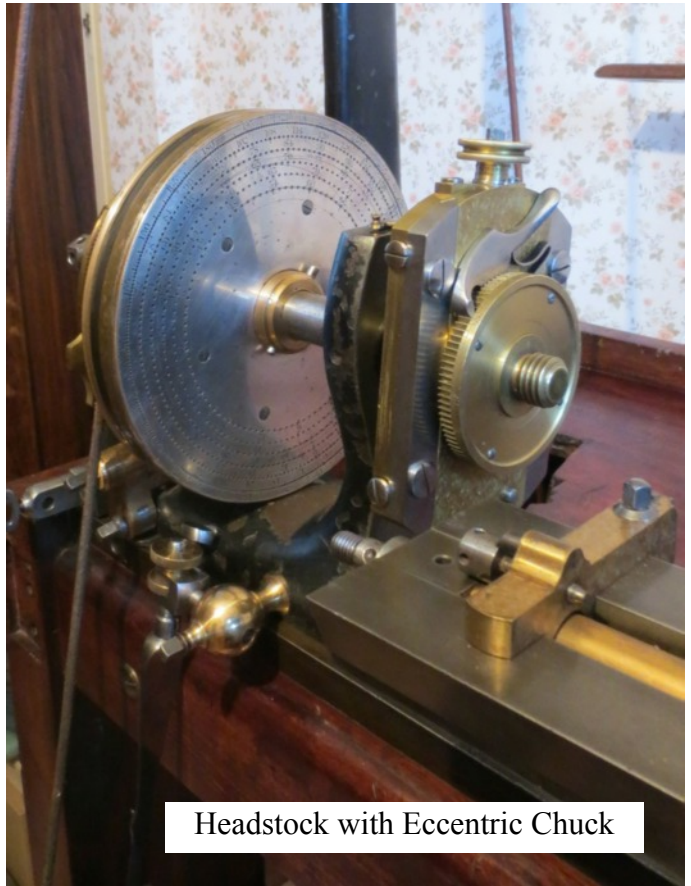
Latched

Rare Screw-mandrel Headstock with internal planetary gears allowing 1:4 speed reduction, with segment wheel & stops, tangent screw and wheel with 180 teeth, adjustable index, counting index, silver-plated division plate with 6 rows of divisions: 360, 192, 144, 112, 96 Star-nut and set of 6 screw-thread guides, fittings for both front and rear-mounting spiral apparatus and fitting for rear-mounting compensating index. Shown here with Eccentric Chuck with ratchet nose-wheel.

Pair of Segment Stop Pins



Un-latched

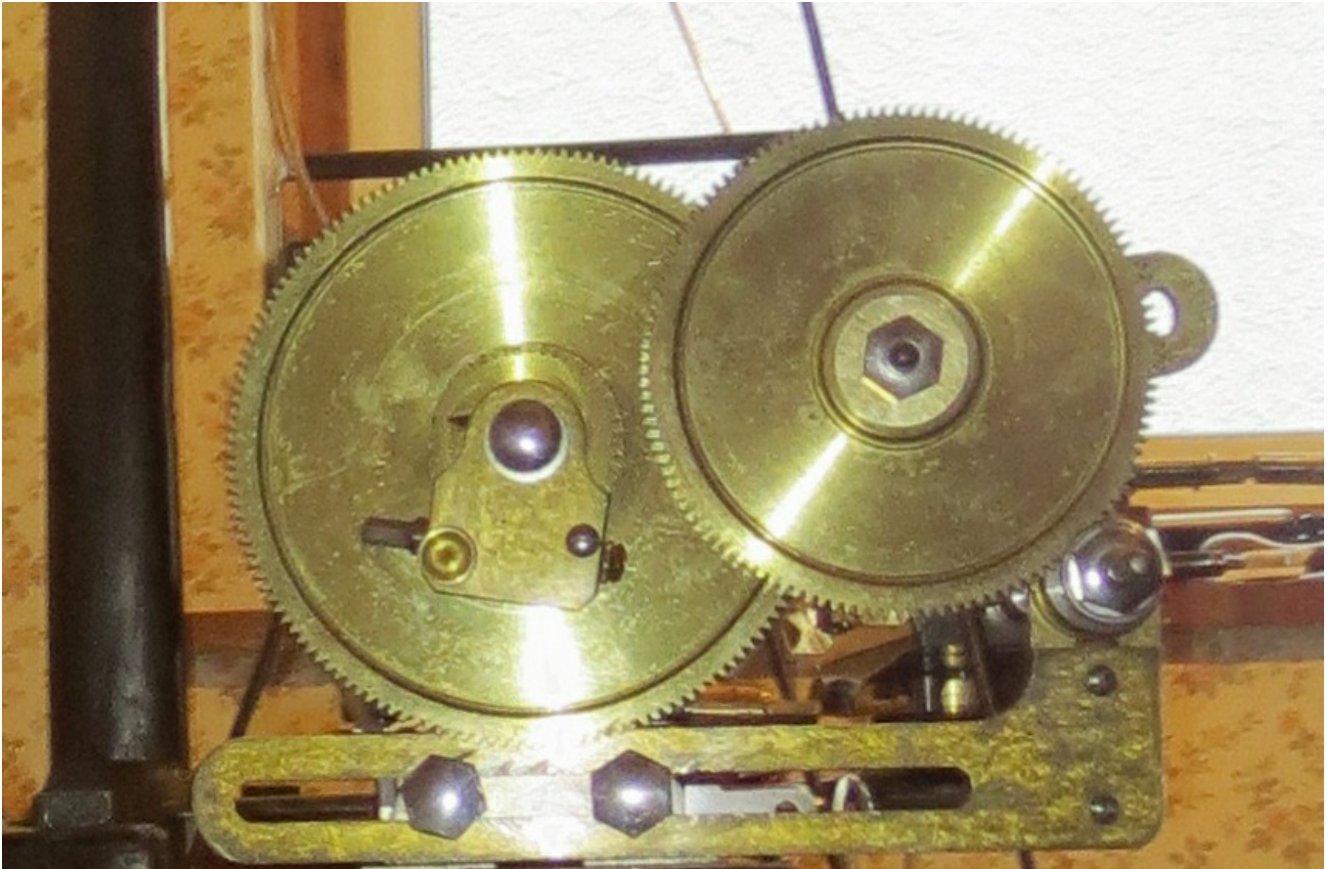


Headstock with Eccentric Chuck

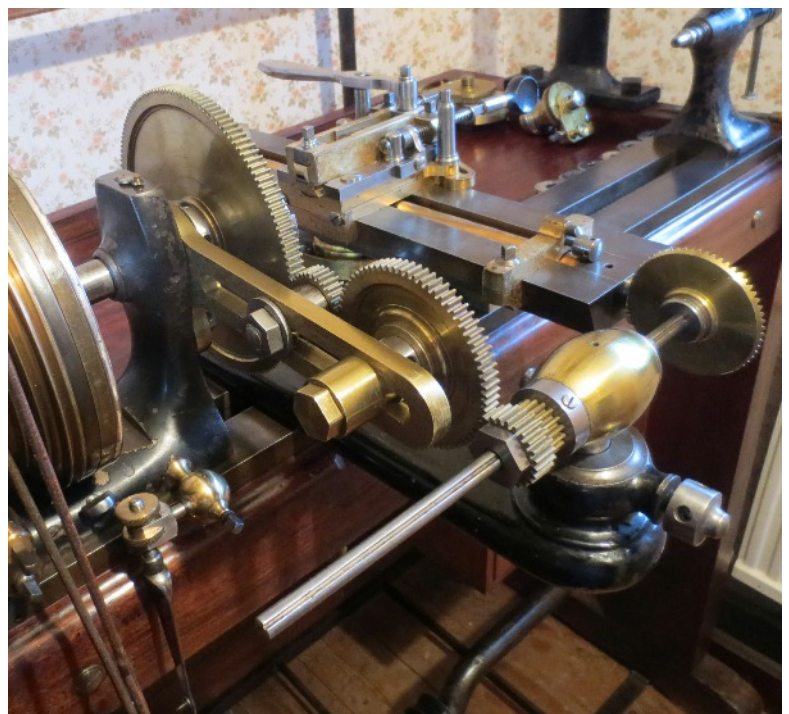


Compensating Index for equal division of the Ellipse. Designed by Evans but this one is unusual in that it was made by Holtzapffel & Co.





The lathe with rear mounting Spiral Apparatus



The lathe with front mounting Spiral Apparatus



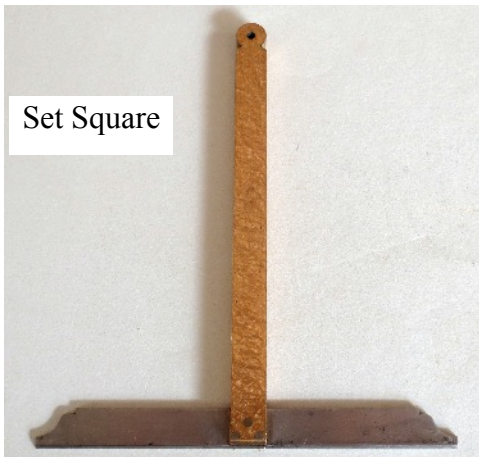
Height Standard.



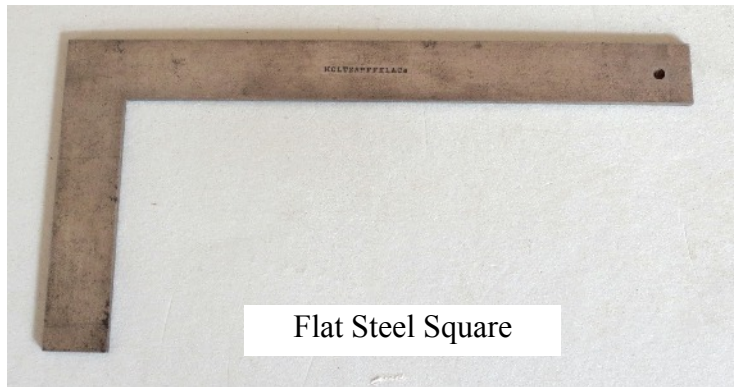
Double-ended Calliper



Set Bevel



Set Square



Flat Steel Square



Backed Steel Square



Tailstock Barrel Ejector

Measuring Instruments etc.



Treadle Grinding & Lapping Machine. Mahogany frame with flywheel, crank, treadle & hook; backboard poppit with cone bearing, spindle with 4 grinding wheels, water trough and tailstock; horizontal lapping machine with 3 laps; Goniostat and Honing Guide for round-nosed tools on honing board with oilstone, brass & iron laps.



Outfit for honing Bead tools in fitted mahogany chest.



Honing Guide for round-nosed cutters.



Goniostat



Mahogany Triptych Cabinet of Hand-turning Tools.



Polishing outfit with 2 (of 3) brushes & abrasive powders for honing cutters



Set of Holtzapffel Taps & Dies in fitted mahogany chest.



Polishing outfit with Dutch Rush, polishes & powders



Inventory of Ornamental Turning Lathe No. 1890 & Accessories by Holtzapffel & Co.,

Iron bed on double mahogany frame with flywheel & treadle assembly

Mahogany under-bed chest of 3 Drawers

Internally-gearred Screw-mandrel headstock 5" centre height with tangent screw on 180-tooth Worm-wheel with segment pillar, stops and stop-pins, adjustable Index, star-nut assembly & set of 6 screw-thread guides

Screw-barrel tailstock with drill-pad, male, female & cutting centres and barrel-ejector

Double standard overhead by Evans with 2 bronze pulleys & Crane

Handrest pedestal & 4 tees

Boring Collar & stand

Slender turning guide

Set of Ornamental Chucks in Fitted mahogany chest:- Rectilinear, Eccentric, Ellipse with Cam-ring & Dome

Compensating Index for equal division of the ellipse in mahogany chest; and **Counting Index**

Dividing Chuck (2); one for front and one for rear-mounting

Spiral apparatus with set of 16 change-wheels, Radial Arm, Long Arm, 3 Arbors, sundry washers & spacers and drive shaft with Universal joint

Surface Spiral apparatus with Pedestal; 2 Round-edge & 2 Bevil gears

Atkinson's Reciprocator

Saw-bench with adjustable fence, square hole chuck, spindle and blade by Holtzapffel

9" Universal 2-jaw Chuck

3-jaw S.C. Chuck - modern type

Pair of small 3-jaw S.C. Chucks

4-jaw independent Chuck large

4-jaw independent Chuck - modern type

Work-holding Chucks: 8 Cup Chucks; 12 Spring Chucks; 2 Mandrels & 3 Wire Chucks with screw-hole Receptacle Chuck; Driver Chuck; 2-jaw Die Chuck; Prong Chuck; Hollow Screw Chuck with 6 screws; 2 Worm-screw Chucks; 2 Receptacle Chucks; Prong Chuck; 3 Square-hole Chucks; Bayonet Chuck for Boring Bits; 27 boxwood chucks;

18" Ornamental Slide Rest by Evans, with guide & stop screws, tool-boat, steel spacing plate, pair of tool clamps, hand-lever, crank handle, key, fluting stops, sector plate for curved work, auto drive from Overhead, curvilinear template bar, 4 templates & rubber (lacking standards);

Spherical Slide Rest by Evans with guide & stop screws, tool-boat, steel spacer plate, pair of tool clamps, hand-lever, key and 4 crank handles.

Cutting Frames:

Horizontal Cutting Frame in fitted mahogany chest with set of 36 large cutters, 3 pulleys & spanner

Vertical Cutting Frame (inboard pulley type) with 2 pulleys

Vertical Cutting Frame (outboard pulley type)

Internal Rotary Cutting Frame

Long Internal Horizontal Cutting Frame

Eccentric Cutting Frame

Universal Cutting Frame (Evans geared type with height adjustment)

Universal Cutting Frame (Evans Baker type)

Ellipse Cutting Frame with change gears for 4-looped figures, in mahogany chest

Right-angle tool-holder for 3/8" square tools

Extension tool-holder

Cutter Bar for screw-thread cutting (with adjustable helix angle)

Turner's Bevil

Turner's Square

Steel Square
Flat Steel Square
Double-ended Callipers
Standard Gauge for measuring Centre height and eccentricity from Centre
set of Holtzapffel Taps & Dies in fitted mahogany box
Slope-topped mahogany chest of cutters containing:- 180 Slide-rest tools with honing adapter & right-angle adapter, 137 ECF tools, 26 short UCF tools & 139 drills with matching Drilling Spindle & honing guide, Pad handle and a Scribing Knife.
Drill Spindle with 55 drills and honing guide in fitted mahogany chest
Mahogany Triptych wall cabinet containing 75 hand tools
Goniostat with honing board and brass, iron and oilstone laps and 3 tins of powders in mahogany box
Honing Guide for round-nosed cutters
Mahogany chest containing outfit for honing bead cutters
Treadle Lapping & Grinding Machine on double mahogany frame with flywheel, crankshaft, treadle & hook; with spindle of 4 grindstones (one with water trough); horizontal lapping turntable with set of 3 laps;
Polishing kit with 5 bottles & 5 tins of lacquers and polishing compounds and a quantity of Dutch Rush in fitted mahogany chest.

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