

(Front Cover)

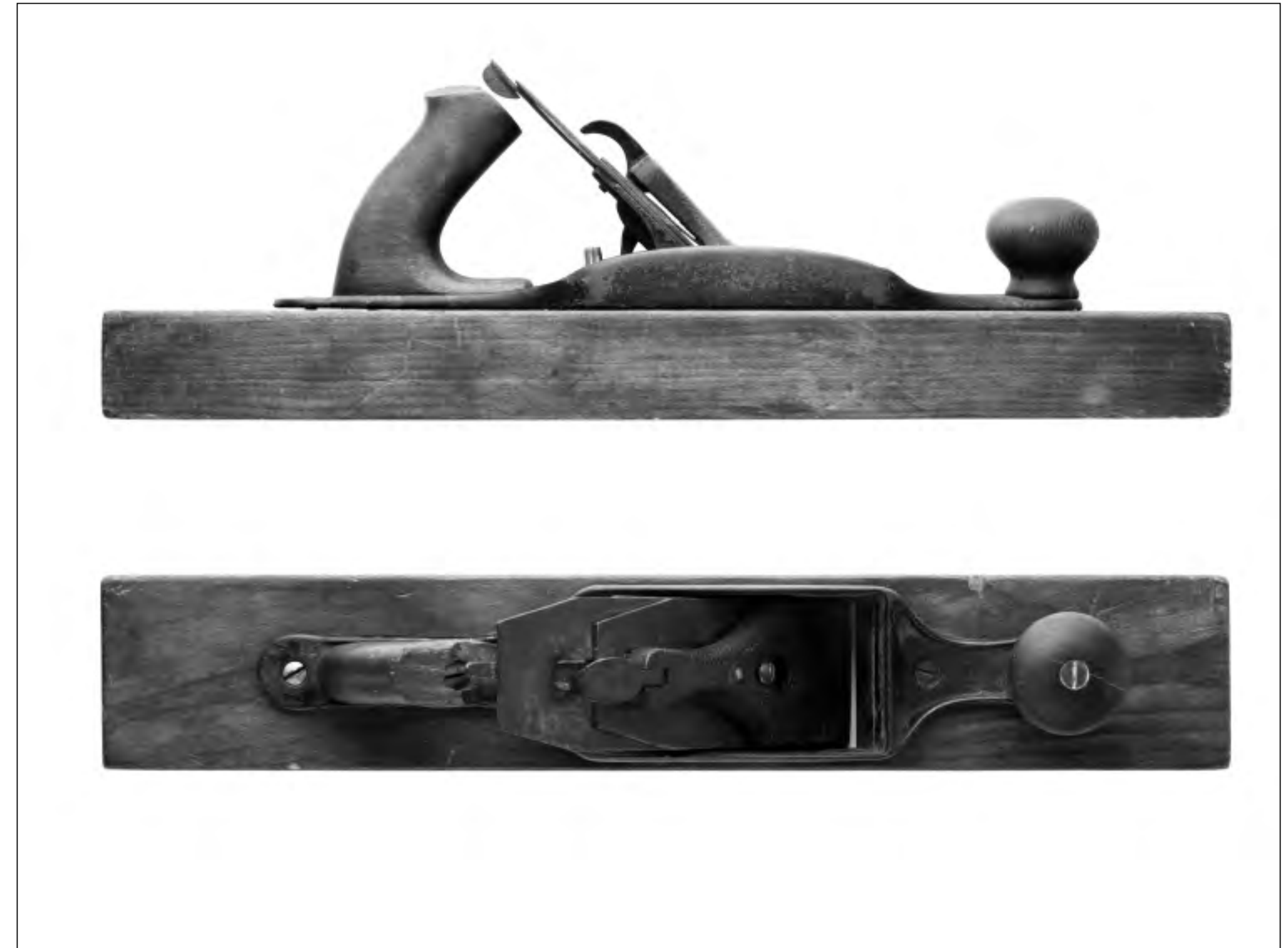
Compass Cutter

This tool has an encouraging feel. I couldn't resist picking it up and gently, because it is part of a museum collection, scribing a faint arc in the air above the surface of my woodworking bench. Despite its size, weight, and crude appearance, it felt remarkably comfortable in my hand as it telegraphed feelings of precision, confidence, and ambition.

Stanley Transition Plane

"Transition" connotes the manufacturing style which is the stage between all-wood body planes and modern all-metal construction. I bought this plane at a tag sale in Putnam Valley, NY for five 1988 dollars. Stanley manufactured this model from around 1870 to 1920. I believe this one was made prior to 1915.

Its last day of paying work is impossible for me to guess. The frog (the mechanism holding and aligning the blade) needed some tightening where it joined to the wood base and I spent some time dressing and sharpening the blade. I found that the throat (the opening in the base for the blade) had worn open slightly more than I would prefer, and the bottom of the block had seen a lot of abrasion. I used it to smooth the top of my workbench along with a few dozen other chores and I found that the wood base seemed to have better inertia with less weight than my newer all-metal planes.



This is a book of fine art prints.

It was produced by the artist in a numbered, dated, and signed limited first edition of ten books.

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Hayloft Pulley

It came from the same old barn cleanout as the sharpening clamp, but there was no mystery to this artifact's use. This pulley was probably attached by the ringbolt to a timber coming out of the barn above the hayloft door. The wheel and chassis are made of cast iron, unlike later and cheaper models made from stamped steel. My attempts at a brazed repair of the crack in the top spoke, a few years after the photo session, were a complete failure.

