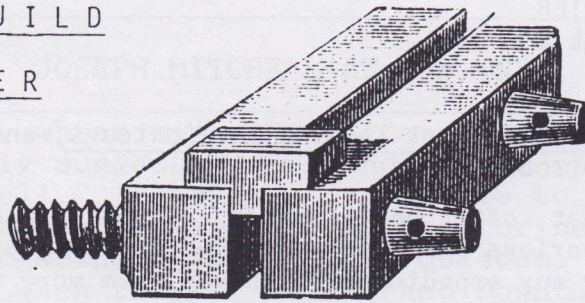




BOOK REVIEW - *BOOKBINDING FOR AMATEURS* by W. J. Eden Crane (*Being Descriptions of the Various Tools and Appliances Required and Minute Instructions for Their Effective Use*), illustrated with 156 engravings; L. Upcott Gill, London, 1885 (according to Brenni; there is no date in the book), 184 pages, including index. The price was 2/6 (whatever that means) and it looks like a book published about 1885. It is covered in medium brown, heavily coated linen, and is stamped in gold and black on both spine and front cover. There are no headbands.

First an aside comment: engravings are fun! There was a time when virtually all books with non-photographic figures or pictures employed engravings. This was especially so with engineering books, and since I have all my father's there are plenty with illustrations. Draftsmen who drew the figures were very careful and detailed about what they did. A prime example is cylindrical parts such as shafts; engravings usually show them with a series of fine "detail" lines running parallel to the centerline, and densest at the edge of the shaft and none in the middle. The effect is of seeing a rod; it looks curved. (Today a shaft is just blank, and is much more difficult to visualize if the drawing is at all complex.) So, if I tend to give Mr. Crane higher marks for figures, you will have to understand that I am fond of the technique. He gets them right where the associated text is, too.

From the Preface:

"There are many good reasons for commending this craft to the attention of amateurs, amongst which we will enumerate a few. First, it does not require any great strength or mechanical aptitude. Secondly, the plant is not expensive. Thirdly, it can be pursued anywhere. Fourth, it is of unquestionable utility: how far preferable it is to have your cherished books in handy accessible volumes, instead of in heaps of disorderly parts or numbers, almost mere litters, in which we can never find what one wants! Fifthly, and by no means the least important, well-bound books form an ornament to any room, and are satisfactory to show one's friends. All amateurs are fond of, and proud of, exhibiting specimens of their handiwork to admiring friends and visitors; and what better than books? Fret-cutting, turning, illuminating, etc., are so very common now, that they are almost 'played out.' Bookbinding is not so, and if the amateur becomes a good finisher, the amount of varied and interesting ornamentation that he can produce is infinite."

The Table of Contents is shown on page 5. A two-page index follows Crane's text; then a Catalogue of Practical Handbooks (19 pages) and finally advertisements for Spratt's foods for dogs, chickens, poultry, or cage birds. The Catalogue of Practical Handbooks contains such intriguing titles as: Practical