

## THE HOBBY SHOP

### FOREWORD

The Hobby Shop is a name which denotes a compact workshop and connotes a group of men composed of both students and faculty who spend much of their leisure time in that workshop. The shop is not officially connected with any department of the Institute, but actually, we are very proud of the regard which both the departments and the corporation have for us, and we sincerely appreciate the many favors they have done for us.

Because we ( I use we to signify the members of the shop who formed the original group) feel that many members of the student body and even some members of the faculty would like to know more about the shop; what it has done, what it is trying to do, and how it is organized; we have compiled this short book which we feel will answer most of the questions which may arise. Anyone who wishes more detailed information has only to call at room 2-051.

Massachusetts Institute  
of Technology  
April, 1939

History and Development

The Hobby Shop is a new Technology activity designed for those interested in hobbies of craftsmanship. The Shop was started by a group of undergraduates in cooperation with the Technology Museum committee with Mr. A. C. Watson. The group first met in the fall term of 1937 to outline plans for the Shop. The main objective was to assemble a shop which could be used for the maximum number of crafts, such as work in wood, metal, glass, radio, photography. The plan was not only to encourage existing hobbies, but, as Dr. Bush expressed it, to "encourage the development of new hobbies."

A room was set aside for the project, and equipment was donated by many departments of the Institute. As equipment was assembled, the members set about building and laying out the shop. Benches were refinished, cabinets and drawers were constructed for the tools, and the machines were set up. The group went out in search of materials which might be salvaged for the shop. This was in keeping with the spirit of cooperation which is characteristic of the shop members -- each one tries to contribute to the shop's improvement. The first few months of the shop's existence the group devoted all its time to the construction of the shop rather than to individual projects.

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The original shop was about 16'x 22'. It contained the bench lathe, wood lathe, circular saw, jointer, jig-saw, drill press and grinder. With this excellent start, it was not long before the loft and tool cabinets were constructed. Prominent parts in these activities were played by the following men: Greenhalgh, Regan, Richardson, Hines, Morrell, Antman, Andrews, Heskett, Taylor, Mandel, Hammond, Glasson, Phillips, Wilson, Newton, Kriz. Soon individual projects were started. Among the first were a mathematical model and a stereoscope for the Technology Museum. The members started constructing various things for themselves, such as a radio amplifier, a model steam engine, a commutator, loom, milling machine, radio cabinet, diving helmet, etc.

All during this period the shop was operated on a cooperative basis. If a member felt that something needed doing, he wasted no time in getting it done. This spirit of voluntary service did much to further the shop. We have tried to retain that spirit.

The growth of the shop was watched with interest by the faculty. Dr. Bush and Dean Burdell, in particular, showed great interest and offered many valuable suggestions. Mr. Watson, of the Museum Committee, devoted much of his time to getting equipment, and on many occasions pitched in and helped with the construction. As head of the Museum movement, he was able to suggest many interesting

projects to those of us who wanted to come into the shop but had no definite project in mind.

By the end of the second term the shop had grown sufficiently to be able to assemble a good sized exhibit for Tech Open House. The exhibit was well attended and attracted much attention.

During the summer, the faculty decided to double the space of the shop and to buy it new equipment. When the members returned they were pleasantly surprised to find they had acquired a fine milling machine, a band saw, and another lathe.

Once again the group went to work changing the shop to take advantage of the new facilities.

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## ORGANIZATION

Within the course of the next few years, all the original members of the Hobby Shop will have lost, through graduation, their connection with the shop. These men realize that the Hobby Shop, as a workshop, will continue to exist after they have left, because the shop helps make life at the Institute more enjoyable. However, we, the original members, also feel that there is a great danger that the "Spirit" in which the shop was founded will cease to exist. We fear that the shop will become a workshop in fact as well as in name.

After long consideration it has been decided that the best way to prevent the gradual loss of the shop "Spirit" is to invite new men to become members, men who we feel have a genuine interest in the future of the shop. To make this enlargement a yearly custom, we have drawn up a set of rules which we feel sure will solve the major problem which may arise in future years, in the course of running the shop.

There shall at all times be two classes of members, and at certain periods there will be three. The two permanent groups will consist of one large group, called the Journeyman; and the Master Craftsmen. New men will be required to pass an initial stage as Apprentices

before they will be admitted as journeymen. To make this explanation as simple as possible, we will explain each classification separately.

At least once a year (oftener if the master craftsmen so desire) a select group of men who have shown interest in the shop shall be invited to become apprentices. They shall remain apprentices for a definite period of time (at present four weeks) during which they will be asked to do six hours work for the shop, and be required to learn the shop rules. At the end of this apprentice period each man shall come up before the board of master craftsmen for vote, and shall be either accepted or rejected. Apprentices are distinguished by a red button; they should wear it regularly. Apprentices are not allowed in the shop on Saturday afternoon.

If an apprentice is accepted by the master craftsmen after the period of apprenticeship is over, he will become a journeyman, and will be distinguished by a white button. The journeyman class will be the largest, since it will comprise all the accepted apprentices, and will be drawn upon only when a vacancy occurs in the master craftsman class. Journeymen will be allowed in the shop at all times during which the shop is officially open.

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The master craftsmen, who wear a blue button, form a small, compact group, numbering only twelve at present. They constitute the Legislature of the Hobby Shop; it being their duty to decide any questions of shop policy, pass, amend, and repeal existing rules, and to take care of the details attendant to the workings of the organization herein described. When a vacancy occurs in their number, one of the journeymen will be selected to fill that vacancy. Master Craftsmen have the use of the shop at all hours, and may obtain the key for work after hours, by application to Mr. Watson.

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SHOP RULES

Every student using the Hobby Shop is expected to cooperate in preserving good order and safety. We have certain policies of shop practice which the members understand and which visitors are asked to observe. The following rules, made in the interest of all, indicate what these policies are.

## GENERAL

1. Machine tools are not to be used until full instructions have been received, and then only in accordance with such instructions.
2. When a job is finished, return to their places and clean machines, benches, etc.

## CIRCULAR SAW

1. Never lift the guard unless absolutely necessary.
2. Push narrow pieces through with a long stick.
3. Don't put your weight against the piece--keep your hands out of the line of the saw.
4. Get help with big pieces.

4. Clean up when through and have the lathes inspected.

MILLER

1. Sign up before using.
2. Have set-up checked by person in charge before starting.
3. Clean up when through and have machine inspected.

Rules Committee:

E. B. Hammond  
J. E. Greenhalgh  
F. A. Regan  
G. A. Morrell,  
Shop Foreman