

# WOLF'S PLUMB BOB NEWS 2015

Issue Q 02 SUMMER May 1, 2015

## PLUMB BOB NEWSLETTER

Author: Wolf Ruecker

www.plumbbobcollectors.info

Dear Fellow Collector,

Dear reader of the PLUMB BOB NEWS,

As always, I am searching for new material and information associated with plumb bobs.

Please feel free to share new photos, catalogs, articles or stories of a personal nature.

I welcome input from fellow collectors!

Wolf

## PLUMB BOB NEWSLETTER 2015- Q 02

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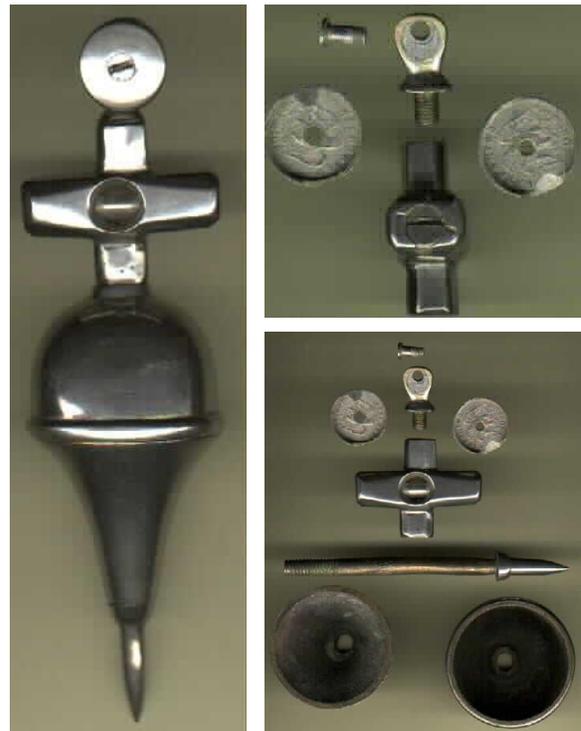
### 1. INTRODUCTION

In this newsletter I will look back until 1998. My friend Riccardo Chetoni in Pisa, Italy is collecting much longer plumb bobs than I do.

He gave me long time ago his archives (stored files) where he saved nearly all EBAY auctions with plumb bobs since 1998. When I started collecting I overtook this work from him, beginning in 2003. I looked at these pictures one by one and selected for you 70 to 100 per year. The problem was to select a few only from up to 4500 pictures/year. This mass of information is too big for showing them detailed. So I made a contact sheet with 35 photos/page and 2 or 3 sheet per year. Hope they are big enough for you to see the shape. **If you want to know more about them or need a better picture, feel free to ask.** Some of these selected (shapes, names or types that I saw not very often or never again) plumb bobs I will present with additional information. For me it was very interesting to look back 15 years because I started collecting plumb bobs later. I found in the EBAY auction plumb bobs that I have seen later in collections of friends. I hope you will enjoy also seeing this wide field of shapes, types and makers of plumb bobs. Perhaps one of these is now in YOUR COLLECTION.

Riccardo, thank you for sharing the information with the plumb bob collector's community.

Below some photos (EBAY) from a combination plumb bob that I never saw again. In the cross on top we find a vial (bubble level).



In addition to this main chapter I will show you in this newsletter some tools and communication from my daily work.

## 2. PLUMB BOBS OFFERED ON EBAY FROM 1998 to 2003 (selection).

Let's start with 1998. Sorry that the titles of the pictures sometimes are too long. I had no time to modify all the given information and files.

In the free space on the pages I show details of some plumb bobs with bigger photos.

Nearly about all of the shown plumb bobs, especially the technical ones you will find more information on my web site [www.plumbbobcollectors.info](http://www.plumbbobcollectors.info)

Visit it!

### EBAY 1998 selection



ornated



P. Leistner



pb%201



plumb with level 1



plumb with level 2



plumb with level 3



plumb1



plumb2



plumbob2



smlb9



smlb10



smlb11



thinplumbbob



tool large



twopoundsbob



6 plumbs



6661225CocoboloEbony



7088388



7681462 Buff



16816424



819 Whitin Machine



21988625 glass



22636903 Micro24



004031 Richard Kell Engla



23064829 7oz



24011281 PLeistner



24472464leadfilled



24478492iron19C



27430353 a



27430353 b



27430353



28394579England



545 Goodell Platt rev



32298118 wooden



33040193

1998 SELECTION



35230860 a



35230860



39253307 Ivory



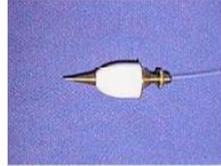
40077975



40250870 Lufkin 589



40250870 Lufkin589



41429094 Ivory



44832425 wooden



45782332 internal reel



47888695L.G.JW.Collins



48005369 reel built in



8313724 Mine Plummet Gurlu



49399930 A



49447254 B



50576173 hand forged



189480321



352282223 a



352282223 c



352282223



414281130



Acorn Top



bronze



C.F. angle



caq27



caq38



caq66



castiron



Large3

This instrument below was used in France by the surveyors to mark the points at the ground.



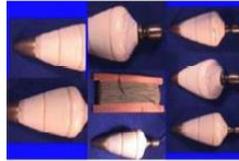
# EBAY 1999 selection



58844557



59885520 Common sense



64956262 ivory



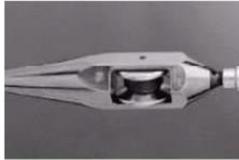
66557559



68724420 wooden



68781217



70631208



74837609 english



74963151 Yanez from Chile



79136060 Beall Tool Co



83919190 Astrup hardware



86588518 Thompson



87207112 Thompson 5



89814832



90037924 K&E reel C



92413667 english



92416480 english



92420408



105627702



107955910 P Leistner



108804571 Wells



110835992 gold b



110835992 gold d



114683727 PERFECTION



116852429 Gurley b



116852429 Gurley



123712599



123915100



124030888 a



124030888 b



124420871a



125766007 anno 1898 a



125766007 anno 1898 b



128059089



130091837 b



Figure left looks like a Canadian HERCULES in a home-made wooden box.  
Set of 4 different sizes of HERCULES see fig. right.



1999 SELECTION



136038025



148740 P.J.R. Sheffield (F.J.)



141200776 b



141639040



145042493



148918984 castle & 3 figures



148918984 castle with 3 fig



1335775 Dominic Micallizzi 19



156052233



164862296



164865002



174467269 Beall Tool co



174740246



176820915 b



176820915 W. Keen



572995 W.T.Marshall Chistch



181944359 b



183919850 Hercules a



183919850 Hercules b



186606154



190040206



195459958



196056650 Leistner a



196056650 Leistner



196100121



196152555



196226780 a



200797192



207147849 Leistner



209023011 medieval



214555067 England



214565622 ERW&S England



215756333



216601523



This plumb bob (fig. left) W. T. Marshall is one of the two (fig. right) that we know from the MAKER in Christchurch CHCH in New Zealand. Shape similar, but other marking and decoration.



EBAY 2000 selection



233470878 Bruning



244490096 Shumfell a



244490096 Shumfell b



244490096 Shumfell



253014733



253028279 English



259716026



263058527 Lunckenheimer



267043560



267043560a



267043560b



267590627 D Wandling



269132214 Lawrie



269344048 Ridgely



278329339 Alfred Shirley



278351672 GoodellPratt



282765082 DOWNIE 1885



285082 Downie Bros Aliston pa



284073331 Munson CM



286990744 F.M. Russel



286998395



296925291



296940976



301855892b



301868011b



301877443



301884544



306573051 J Devitt Design



306574511 J Devitt Design



321921753 W.S. Richard



329451455



337764562



344038641 wooden



740045 Wilkinson & Co Boston



356758961 Rolls Royce

This ROLLS ROYCE RR 299 plumb bob (figs. below) reminds me of three RR marked plumb bobs from the collection of Dick Jones in Wales (fig. right). More see newsletter 2010-06.



2000 SELECTION



367535649



4004059 Carter's Pat May 28



373004059 Carter's



381543808 Sanche 1896



381967297  
5 3/4" tall



402868664



402950537



411853731a



413642640a



413741200 Ken Kutter



427568442



427568442a



427568442b



373 Preston 1 21oz Preston 1.



445018392 McN & HM



45018392 McN&H MFG Co N'



445443389 Buff



447539534 Thompson #6



457223084



457224695



458939422 b



458939422 lamp



458939422



67523361 Victorian Salt Shake



471135816 Roberts Duplex 1



47135816 Roberts Duplex pat 18



473320896



474956022



481850060



481850060a



496374459 NS



529656894 Buff



529756923 Australia



1202551976 pat 1866



1202551976 patented 1866

This patented chalk line (below) from my collection is the oldest patented chalk line in the U.S.A. Pat # US 65057 J.W. CARTER May 28, 1867 (Exactly 147 years ago). Details in my newsletter 2008-11 History of the chalk lines worldwide. Fig. right another from brass.



# EBAY 2001 selection



111216864 PaulHamler



543048329 Boker Germany



543048329 HBoker Germany



547979342 PLeistner a



547979342 PLeistner



547979342 Leistner



548051889 b



552997924



557761998 Torpedo



557761998 Torpedo1



557761998 Torpedo2



1007423674 Buff&Buff 24 oz



1007423674 Buff&Buff 24



08663765 Peacock Oroville C



08663765 Peacock adjust a b



08663765 Peacock pat pendir



08663765 Peacock patpendir



1008699979 a



1008699979 c



1008699979



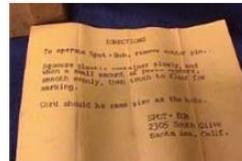
1012144014 Paul Leistner



1012144014 Leistner



1012144014 P Leistner



1016659649 Spot BOB b



1016659649 Spot BOB e



1016659649 Spot BOB



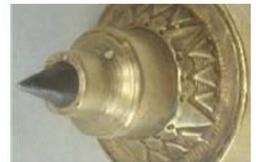
1016659649 spotbob c



1016659649 spotbob f



1017620098 a



1017620098 d



1017620098



1036159066 ivory or bone



92 #352 Leighigh&Finch Zane



6892 #352 Leighigh&Finch Za

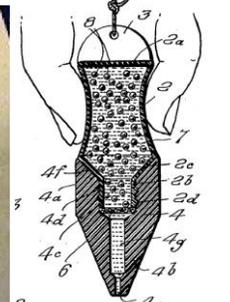


1112226127 a

The SPOT-BOB (fig. below) has patent # US2795053 from 1957. Inventor Robert Wohlstrom, E. Hartford CT



**DIRECTIONS**  
To operate Spot - Bob, remove cotter pin. Squeeze plastic container slowly, and when a small amount of paste appears, smooth evenly, then touch to floor for marking.  
Cord should be same size as the hole.  
SPOT - BOB  
2305 South Olive  
Santa Ana, Calif.



2001 SELECTION



1112336127



1113606831 a



1113606831 b



1113606831



1117212807 a



1117212807 b



1117212807



1122196565 a



1122196565



1122207229 Marples



326364 RitterDental pat March



1130929394 Ritter Dental patc



131281764 Troughton & Simm



281764London Troughton & S



4784 TROUGHTON&SIMMS



1138422695 Pat APD For10



1138422695 Pat APDFor10



1138422695 PatAPDFor10



1152880079 F G Fifield 1895



1152880079 FG Fifield 1895



1152880079 FG Fifield



1152880079 Fifield 11 13 1895



1152880079 Fifield 13Nov95



1152880079 Fifield 1895



1160735227 1800's



1160735227



1164155235



1166237100 2and half lib



1166237100 2and half libs



1180451770 turkish Israel



1418380803 reversible UK



1428823943 c



1428823943 d



1428823943

I could not find a patent for this reel-bob. 11.13.1895 is not a "patent-date" (Tuesday) in the US Patent Office. No patent for F.G. Fifield found. I have no idea why you should use two spools for the line. ☹. Looks like home-made p b.



# EBAY 2002 selection



=860223928



398825327 Byzantine 10.25 in



1056420344 UK 6.5in 40oz



1056983372 Canada



1059322156 BLOSTA GER



059322156 BLOSTA German



059322156 BLOSTA German



1062982411 Australia



1062986938 Australia



63551271 Goodell Pratt 283 4



63551271 Goodell Pratt 283 4



63551271 Goodell Pratt 283 4



1064102688 K & E 32 oz



1064102688 K & E 32 oz



1064102688 K&E 32 oz



1064102688 K&E 32oz



1064102688 32 oz K&E



1064102688 32oz K&E



1064102688 K&E 32oz



1066346968 blanks



1067144704 6.5in 3.5lbs



1067144704 6.5in



1067144704



552493 Mason's 1880 4lbs 8.



552493 Mason's 1880 4lbs 8.



552493 Mason's 1880 8.45 in



9560681 1.45lbs 5.5in dated 1



381 dated 1905 reversibel 1.4'



1069560681 reversible



1073847153 a



1073847153



1076168246 a



1076168246 b



1076168246



1077391419 BUFF



This decorated plumb bob from the UK weighs 40 oz.

2002 SELECTION



1084035639 1.75 lbs



1084129795 2 in NZealand



1084129795 2in NZealand



1084129795 2in



187821366 5.5in Pat July 13 1869



1866 winding mech 5.5in Pat July 13 1869



187821366 winding mech 5.5in



21366 winding mech Pat July 13 1869



1089389224 6in



1089389224 6in



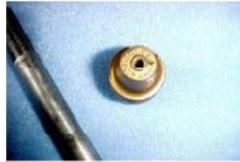
1089389224 6in



1089389224 6in



1089389224



090986594 Leistner 4 lbs 6.5 in



090986594 Leistner 4lbs 6.5 in



090986594 Leistner 6.5in 4lb



10131 marked K inside a diam



2100204392 England 6.75 in



2100204392 England 6.75 in



2100204392



15952 Heimbach not marked



00815952 Heimbach J.O. 6.5 in



00815952 Heimbach not marked



10452 FOSS R.E. Essex 3.5in



2118820140 pat 34836-60



8820140 pat. plumb level marker



2118820140 Plumb bob level



8820140 plumb bob, level, marker



2128932107 9 in 20 lbs



2128932107 9 in 20 lbs



2128932107 9 in 20 lbs



2128932107 9in 20lbs



2132594091 6in 24oz



2132594091 6in



2132594091 24oz 6in

Spool inside is marked with a US patent date July 13, 1869, but nothing to find. Perhaps a marked spool from another machine was used. Usually patent information is OUTSIDE!



# EBAY 2003 selection



3 ball pb 1



3 ball pb 2



3 ball pb 3



387 Fuller Patent Inclinator



387 Fuller Patent Inclinator



387 Fuller Patent Inclinator



387 Fuller Patent Inclinator



387 Fuller Patent Inclinator



887 Fuller Patent Inclinator



7 Fuller Patent Inclinator g



387 Fuller Patent Inclinator



9748756 MAURERLOT mit R



58118081 two miners plumme



58118081 two miners plumme



58118081 two miners plumme



58118081 two miners plumme



58118081 two miners plumme



58118081 two miners plumme



3206128515 Reelbob-1



3206128515 Reelbob-2



3206629829 18th 5 bobs



6629829 18th century engrave



6629829 18th century engrave



6629829 18th century engrave



6629829 18th century engrave



6629829 18th century engrave



6629829 18th century engrave



6629829 18th century engrave



6629829 18th century engrave



207280866 hollow ex mercury



207280866 hollow ex mercury



207280866 hollow ex mercury



207280866 hollow ex mercury



207280866 hollow ex mercury

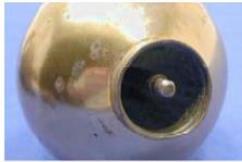


207280866 hollow ex mercury

The FULLER inclinometer level with plumb bob has patent # US 370013 Sept. 18, 1887 and US469132 1892. More information in THE TOOL SHED a Journal of Tool Collecting published by CRAFTS of New Jersey. GRAVITY INCLINOMETERS by Jim Gehring.



2003 SELECTION



207280866 hollow ex mercury



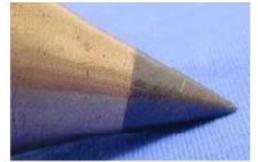
207280866 hollow ex mercury



3207283108 9 pounds fatbob €



3207283108 9 pounds fatbob t



3207283108 9 pounds fatbob c



3207283108 9 pounds fatbob c



3207283108 9 pounds fatbob €



3207283108 9 pounds fatbob t



3207283108 9 pounds fatbob g



3207886162 RIDGELY



3208087941 ASTRUP a



3208087941 PERFECTION w bo



3208087941 PERFECTION w bo



3208087941 PERFECTION w bo



3211092874 ACORN TOP a



3211092874 ACORN TOP b



3211092874 ACORN TOP c



3211092874 ACORN TOP c



391841 Rare 1885 Patent316€



391841 Rare 1885 Patent316€



391841 Rare 1885 Patent316€



391841 Rare 1885 Patent316€



391841 Rare 1885 Patent316€



0263508 brass and lignum vite



0263508 brass and lignum vite



3255230342 LAMP 12 facet 1



3255230342 LAMP 12 facet 2



3255230342 LAMP 12 facet 3 x



3255230342 LAMP 12 facet 3



3255230342 LAMP 12 facet 4



3255230342 LAMP 12 facet 5



3258906289 lead filled 1



3258906289 lead filled 2

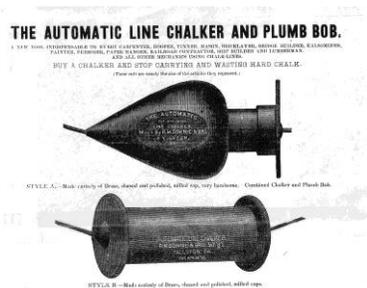


3263441736 lead shot 1



3263441736 lead shot 2

This is a combination tool chalk line and plumb bob. US patent # 316530 DOWNIE and HARDIN April 28, 1885 exactly 130 years ago. More see my Patent Newsletters 2007-21 and 2007-42



2003 SELECTION



3263441736 lead shot 3



3263446188 rare internal 1



3263446188 rare internal 2



3263446188 rare internal 3



3263446188 rare internal 4



3263446188 rare internal 5



3263446188 rare internal 6



bell shaped 1



bell shaped 2



bell shaped 3



commonsense 250 USD



Early 1800s Lead & Brass 1



Early 1800s Lead & Brass 2



Early 1800s Lead & Brass 3



Early 1800s Lead & Brass 4



Early 1800s Lead & Brass 5



English Internal Winding 1



English Internal Winding 2



English Internal Winding 3



English Internal Winding 4



English Internal Winding 5



English Internal Winding 6



HORSEFALL'S ALIGNMENT 1



HORSEFALL'S ALIGNMENT 2



HORSEFALL'S ALIGNMENT 3



HORSEFALL'S ALIGNMENT 4



HORSEFALL'S ALIGNMENT 5



miners plummet a



miners plummet b



miners plummet c



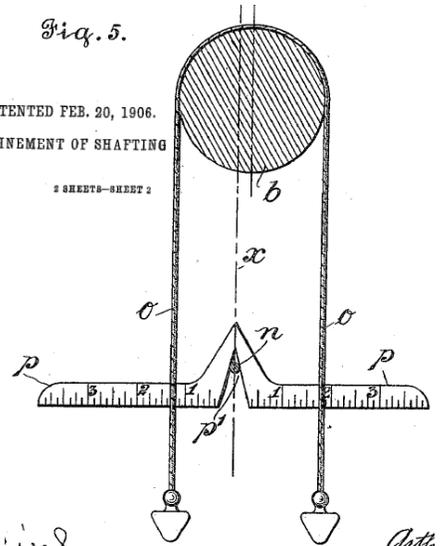
miners plummet d



miners plummet HELLER BRIGHT

No. 813,003.  
A. E. HORSEFALL. PATENTED FEB. 20, 1906.  
APPARATUS FOR ASCERTAINING ERRORS IN THE ALINEMENT OF SHAFTING  
AND FOR LIKE PURPOSES.  
APPLICATION FILED AUG. 14, 1905.

Fig. 5.



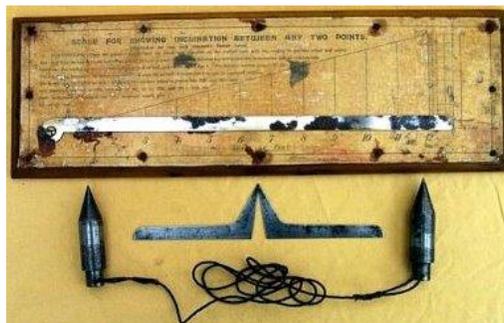
2 SHEETS-SHEET 2

WOLF

Auth

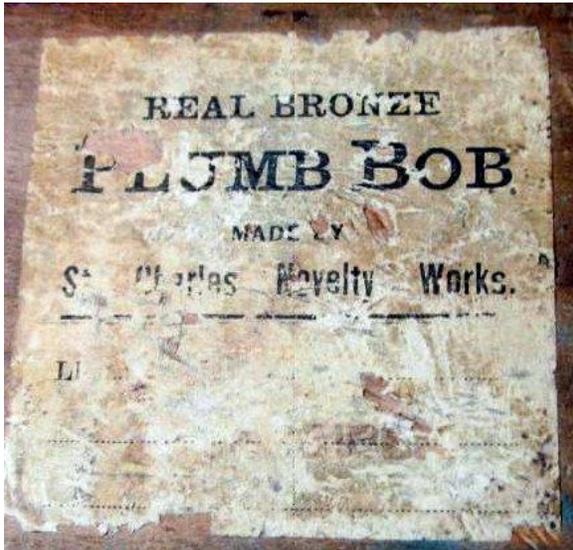
I found the HORSEFALL'S patent US 813003 Feb. 20, 1906 ALINEMENT OF SHAFTING. The function of the two plumb bobs you can see in the patent drawing right.

[plumbbobwolf@t-online.de](mailto:plumbbobwolf@t-online.de)

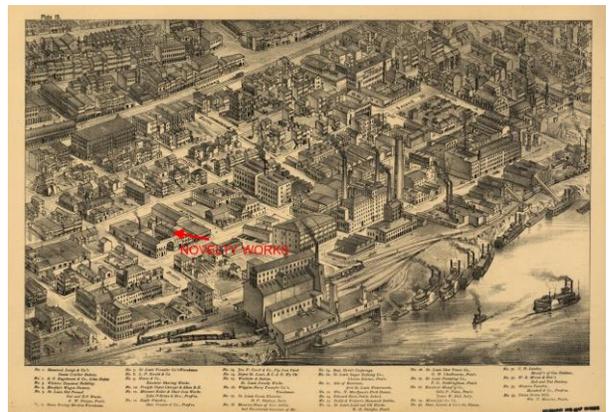
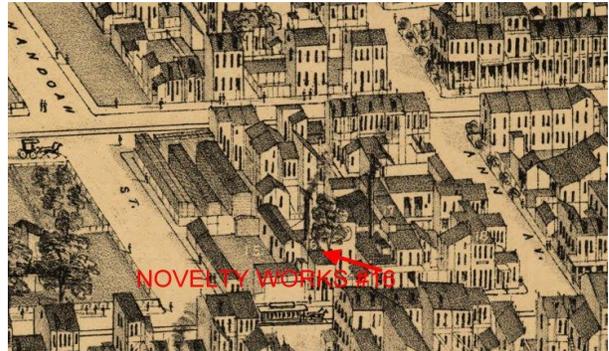


### 3. HEIMBACH PLUMB BOB by NOVELTY WORKS

Recently was sold on eBay from New Mexico for \$1254.00 a HEIMBACH PLUMB BOB in a wooden box, produced by NOVELTY WORKS in St. Charles. It was a hard fight between two bidders. The third one was bidding just \$420.00. The label was UNDER the wooden box (as usual).



I know from the collections of some friends several Heimbach plumb bobs sold with the NOVELTY WORKS label. We think that Novelty Works sold (marked and unmarked) Heimbach plumb bobs after the Heimbach production was finished (1904) from a remaining stock with the Novelty Works label. On maps from St. Louis, Novelty Works is shown on two addresses at different times. (The full Leistner / Heimbach plumb bob story you can read on my site on sub-page "Leistner & Heimbach")



#### 4. Oswald GRINER Kansas City MO



Last time we saw an O. GRINER & sons, Kansas City, MO plumb bob in 1999. Now I could buy one (fig. above) that looks better (it is not polished) from St. Louis MO, U.S.A.

This was the 1999 picture (fig. right):

Oswald Griner was an Italian immigrant and founded his business in 1910 as we can read on the actual site of GRINER and SCHMITZ where I also found the logo of Griner's Garage (with a plumb bob under the "R" and surveying instruments).

Do YOU have one in your collection or do you know more about GRINER?



#### 6. REMARK

DEAR READER OF THE PLUMB BOB NEWS,  
DEAR FELLOW COLLECTOR,

This is an article of the regularly published WOLF'S PLUMB BOB NEWS that is sent on demand as PDF-file attachment by email. FREE.

You can see all former publications on the website [www.plumbbobcollectors.info](http://www.plumbbobcollectors.info) on sub page "download publications".

Remarks and contact by email: [plumbbobwolf@t-online.de](mailto:plumbbobwolf@t-online.de)

Enjoy it

Wolf Ruecker

*PS. This NEWSLETTER is also available in GERMAN /DEUTSCH.*

#### 5. SOMETHING TO SMILE ABOUT

"Glass plumb" bob leather protected. ☺

In several newsletters I wrote about items offered as "glass plumb bobs". Recently on eBay was offered for \$175.00 from New Hampshire: "Vintage rare hard to find old plumb bob hand blown with rough top spouted incased in fancy decorated leather case. Leather has ware and scuffing down to the glass in spots."

Even when it looks very nice with the decorated leather cover, IT IS NOT A PLUMB BOB, but a glass bottle for perfume or other expensive liquids or similar. Now it is in a collection in NJ.



Logo of the IPBCA  
INTERNATIONAL PLUMB BOB  
COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION.  
For us THE WORLD TURNS  
AROUND THE PLUMB BOB