

# WOLF'S PLUMB BOB NEWS 2016

Issue Q 02 Summer August 1, 2016

## PLUMB BOB NEWSLETTER

Author: Wolf Ruecker

[www.plumbbobcollectors.info](http://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 2016- Q 02

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Every two years since 2006, we have held an international plumb bob show. Given the expense and time to travel to the various locations where we have held our semiannual plumb bob collector's meeting, we typically draw only about a dozen plumb bob enthusiasts, who have originated from countries like Turkey, Greece, Italy, Germany, France and Canada. However, there are benefits to holding such small gatherings, which make our annual meeting much more flexible and easier to adapt to last minute changes in the program. Unfortunately several attendees who had committed to attend had to cancel their trip just before the event. Our host this year in Hamburg was Ulrich Biber, who did an excellent job setting-up sightseeing tours of museums and other key locations in the greater Hamburg area and securing hotel accommodations for all attendees, Ulrich was supported by Henning Homann, who helped us book rooms for various presentations in the Altonaer Museum. All attendees at the 2016 annual plumb bob collector's show appreciate the efforts of both Ulrich and Henning in organizing the event.

Our Sixth Annual Plumb Bob Collector's Meeting notice is presented in the figure to the right.

Details of the long weekend are provided below.

### 6. Intern. SENKLOT-SAMMLER-TREFFEN

### 6<sup>th</sup> International PLUMB BOB COLLECTORS MEETING

June 9, - 12, 2016

HAMBURG, GERMANY



[hamburg.de](http://hamburg.de)



[www.plumbbobcollectors.info](http://www.plumbbobcollectors.info)

[www.senkloete.eu](http://www.senkloete.eu)

Tagungshotel: **Baseler Hof, Esplanade 11 Hamburg**

## 2. 6<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL PLUMB BOB COLLECTORS MEETING IN HAMBURG, GER

Senklot-Sammlertreffen / Plumb Bob Collectors Meeting  
9. – 12. Juni 2016 in Hamburg, Germany

Tagungshotel: Baseler Hof, Hamburg, Esplanade11

Phone: 040-359060 or +49 40 35 90 60  
Program

Thursday, Juni 9, 2016 :

Arrival

7.00 pm: evening meeting to an informal dinner at the Hotel Baseler Hof (please ask at the information desk for the location)

Friday, Juni 10, 2016:

Sightseeing-Tour City and Harbour of Hamburg

7.00 pm: Official „Collector's Dinner“ on the museum's ship „MS Bergedorf“ (Tel.:040-397383) in the museum's dock Ovelgönne. We go all together from the hotel.

Saturday, Juni 11, 2016:

The morning is for your disposal: Shopping etc. The inner city is only few steps from the hotel. Or you visit the very interesting „Altonaer Museums“

2.00 pm: meeting in the entrance of the „Altonaer Museums“, Museumstr. 23,

22765 Hamburg

2.30 pm to 5.00 pm: Presentations by Fellow Collectors

In the evening: meeting, talking, eating and drinking

Sunday, Juni 12, 2016: Departure

Our meeting venue was slightly different than the large annual collectible conferences in countries like the US. Given the small size/limited number attendees who originate from different nations across Europe, Canada and Turkey to attend, most of whom secured flights into Hamburg, it is difficult to bring examples from our various plumb bob collections for display, due to flight baggage restrictions. Unfortunately, plumb bobs must be declared as "dangerous tools" in carry-on luggage due to their sharp tips, so there are no large trade shows where we can display the impressive collections of many of our attendees. The meeting was very flexible, allowing many attendees to add additional days to their visit to learn more about Hamburg or visit relatives in the general Hamburg area. Unlike many other who took airline flights into Hamburg, I travelled this time by train, visiting the coast along the North Sea during my trip to Hamburg. Travel by train allowed me the luxury of bringing some of my smaller plumb bobs and



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

several examples of printed booklets containing past copies of my newsletter, "Wolf's Plumb Bob News." A few examples of my newsletters brought to the annual meeting are displayed below. I will spare you the typical convention photos which display members and their families who attended the three day event and focus solely on our table setting prior to dinner Friday evening! ☺



### WHERE WILL BE THE NEXT 7<sup>th</sup> MEETING?

Our discussion for a city and venue for the next annual Plumb Bob Collector's meeting in 2018 did not yield a specific destination, although Amsterdam was one favorite frequently mentioned. Hopefully we can locate a Dutch plumb bob collector who can suggest a good hotel and establish some key sights/attractions in Amsterdam to visit during a meeting in 2018. Organization of a sightseeing tour in Amsterdam should be no problem.

Remark:

During our tour of Hamburg, we noticed all cars have a license plate with the prefix HH. HH stands for Hansestadt Hamburg. The Hanse was formerly a strong community of merchants, due to their impressive location on a water port which connected to the North Sea by the Elbe River. More information about the history of Port of Hamburg and the city's current attractions can be found at the sites below written in English::

<https://www.hafen-hamburg.de/en/portofhamburg>

### 3. SIGHTSEEING TOUR WITH OPEN DOUBLE - DECKER BUS

Our Friday was completely set-aside for sightseeing tours. We began the morning with a two hour tour on one of the red double decker buses that started directly in front of the hotel.



Passing the tourist attractions in St. Pauli.

The tour included the famous quarters of Hamburg such as St Pauli, the Speicherstadt in the historical warehouse district and interesting buildings like the Elbphilharmonie, a concert hall under construction in the Hafencity quarter of Hamburg, Germany. The new construction sits on top of an old warehouse building and is designed by Swiss architecture firm Herzog & de Meuron. When completed, it will be the tallest (and most expensive??) inhabited building of Hamburg. This was of special interest to the architects of our group.



Modern architecture



One of the red brick buildings in the warehouse district that was rebuilt after the WWII. In this building you can find a huge model railway. (Modelleisenbahn Wunderland).



Our host Ulrich and the two Canadian collectors David and Archie sitting in the bus.



The sign of the famous police station Davidswache in St. Pauli.

#### 4. HARBOR TOUR BY BOAT

Later a similar tour was conducted on a boat through the famous Hamburg harbor. We passed very close to big ocean liners, container ships, ship yards and docks. That was a point of view that you don't have every day.

Hamburg is situated nearly 90 miles (145km) from the coast of the North Sea, connected by the river Elbe, that arrives from Czechoslovakia and is 1091 km long (Of this, around 870 km are navigable.). Ships with a maximum draft of 12.80 m (14 yard) can arrive and leave the port irrespective of river water depth at any time. The North Sea and the Elbe are tidal waters. In other words, the water level varies between low and high tide. Tidal range, or the average difference between water levels, amounts to a mean 3.66 m (4 yard). Water level rises with the flood tide for six hours from low to high water. In the next six hours the water level falls with the ebb to low water again. We could see the result of this tide during our tour.



The Queen Mary 2 from the Cunard Line was in this dock for 3 weeks for an extensive refit-program. Modifications, repairing and 50 new cabins for nearly 50 Mio €



This container ship CSCL VENUS was built in 2011 and carries 14000 containers. To bring 1 container off the ship it costs only 2 or 3 minutes!



**5. THE OFFICIAL PHOTOS**



The building behind our group is the car-elevator to bring cars and people down to the tunnel under the river Elbe to the other side of the harbor.



## 6. COLLECTOR'S DINNER

Friday evening we went again by ship to a ship museum's port some miles down the river Elbe in the suburb Altona. One of the ships in this floating museum was a



modified ferry boat that brought the workers to the shipyards. Because of its shape this type was called "Bügeleisen" (tool for ironing). Now it is used as an restaurant and for us it was the base for our traditional Collector's Dinner.

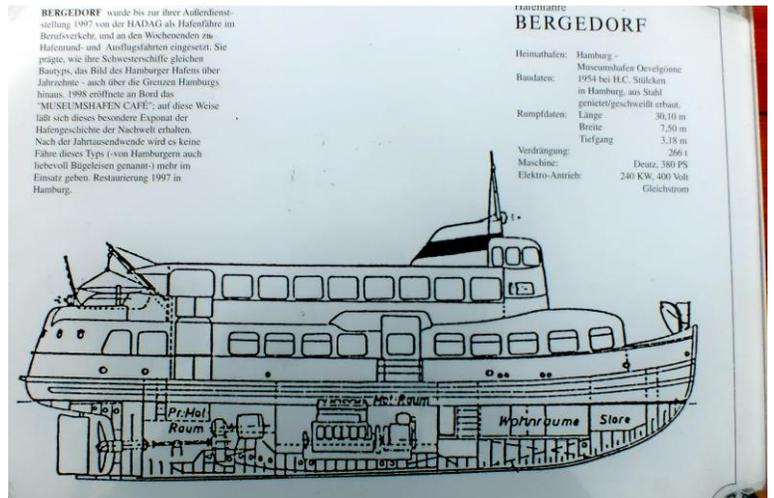
The city of Altona is now a suburb of Hamburg.

But until the 1860s Altona was a part of Denmark and the border ran between Altona and Hamburg.

The citizens are still proud today to be from Altona and not from Hamburg!



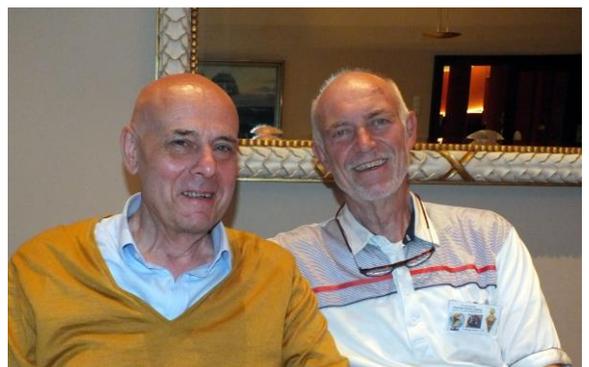
A red lighthouse in the museum's port.



This is the kitchen, waiting for our orders



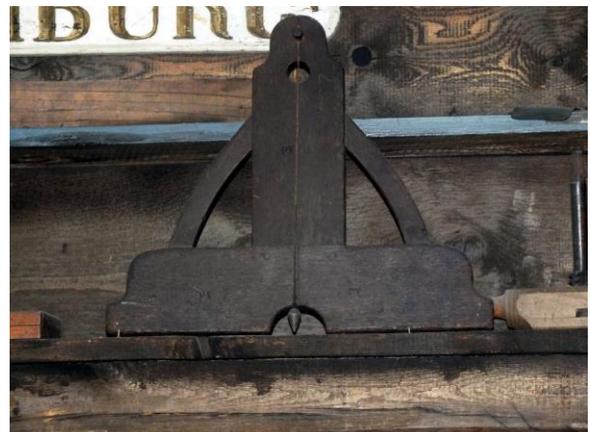
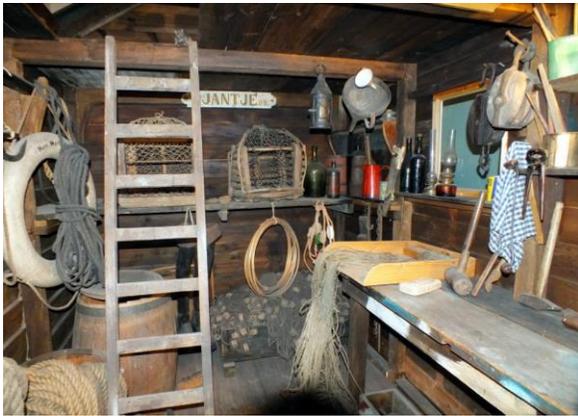
Tired and hungry collectors.....



2 really good friends since 2002.  
 Riccardo and Wolfgang

## 7. WALK THROUGH THE MUSEUM OF ALTONA

The museum of Altona features many examples of ship models and early sailor tools. These tools included sounding weights, various examples of nautical equipment and even a plumb bob level with a plumb bob. See figures below.



## 8. PRESENTATIONS BY COLLECTORS IN THE MUSEUM OF ALTONA

Following our visit to the Altona Museum, several members of our group took the time to present information regarding plumb bobs. The museum generously provided us the opportunity to use their room for our presentations.



I started with a **review of the last 5 meetings** in Istanbul 2006, Paris 2008, Cologne 2010, Athens 2012 and Pisa 2014.

**Istanbul 2006** the very first meeting:

The "Lucky Seven" – the first participants:



3<sup>ème</sup> RENCONTRE INTERNATIONALE  
des COLLECTIONNEURS DU FIL A PLOMB  
à COLOGNE / KÖLN Allemagne  
Samedi 2 Octobre 2010



4<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL  
PLUMB BOB COLLECTORS MEETING  
OCT. 5. - 7, 2012 ATHENS, GREECE

CONTACT: WOLF RUECKER  
plumbbobwolf@t-online.de  
www.plumbbobcollectors.info

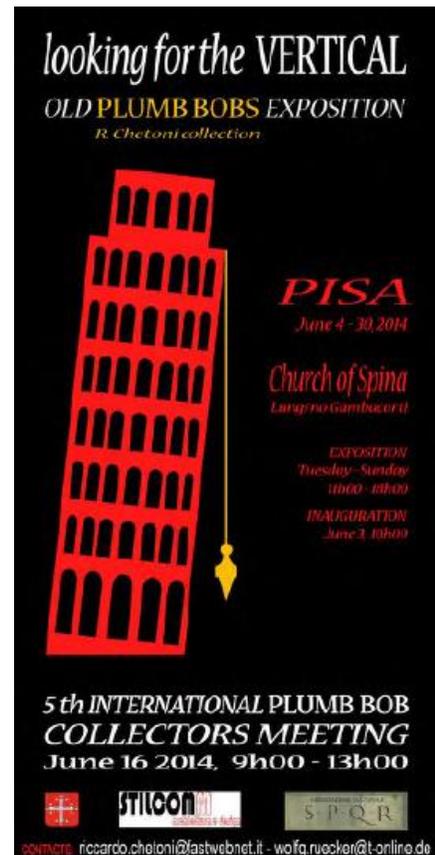
COLLECTORS DINNER  
PRESENTATIONS  
SIGHTSEEING



2<sup>nd</sup> INTERNATIONAL  
PLUMB BOB COLLECTORS MEETING  
May 2, 2008 BIÈVRES PARIS / FRANCE

In collaboration  
with LADO  
Les Amis De l'Outil  
Bièvres/Paris

CONTACTS: rcheton@tin.it - plumbbobwolf@t-online.de



looking for the VERTICAL

OLD PLUMB BOBS EXPOSITION  
*R. Chetoni collection*

**PISA**

June 4 - 30, 2014

Church of Spina

*Lorenzo Gambacorti*

EXPOSITION

Tuesday - Sunday

10h00 - 18h00

INAUGURATION

June 3, 10h00

5<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL PLUMB BOB  
COLLECTORS MEETING  
June 16 2014, 9h00 - 13h00

CONTACT: rccardo.chetoni@fastwebnet.it - wolf.ruecker@t-online.de

Since we are in Hamburg, I also discussed the so called **Hamburg plumb bob**....

The signs on the plumb bobs we found also during our harbor tour and in the city of Altona.



The HAMBURG style plumb bob



From the collection of HTSCH

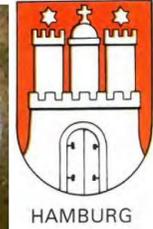
The HAMBURG style plumb bob



From the collection of HTSCH



The HAMBURG style plumb bob  
I found that the seal from 1246 of the City of Hamburg, GER and the heraldic sign of Hamburg look very similar to the engravings on the plumb bobs.  
If anyone has other information, please let me know. Thanks



The HAMBURG style plumb bob



36, 454, 455

The HAMBURG style plumb bob



Johannes Thiele, Leipzig, GER: similar type. Marked HAMBURG



The HAMBURG style plumb bob



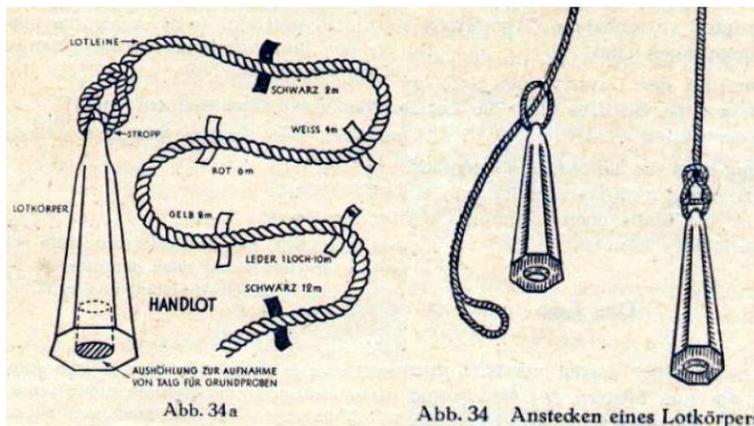
One of Nelson's plumb bobs was sold as IC13-217 in a Martin Donnelly auction for \$ 775

Very special for the "Hamburg style" is the tip that can be unscrewed upside down to protect the iron sharp tip.

I recently located a **pilot badge** on eBay which was from Övelgoenne, located near Altona. On this sign of the pilots is shown a sounding weight. In Germany it is called Handlot. That means a “plumb bob” that is thrown by hand into the water to know the depth of the water under the ship. In the line are knots and markings to know the length. The lower part of this – usually from lead – piece is caved so that you can put in there tallow. When the Handlot (weight) touches the ocean floor, the tallow on the bottom of the weight comes into contact with sand and other stones on the ocean floor, letting the sailor know he has reached the bottom (see figures below and to the right).

Such a badge is also in the museum of Altona. Unfortunately we could not see this “badge” in the museum. It was in the storage rooms and not in the showcases. ☹

The “**PILOT BAGDE of Övelgoenne**”



The “**PILOT BAGDE of Övelgoenne**”



Sounding weights (German: Handlot, Bleilot) were used to know the depth under the ship.

The “**PILOT BAGDE of Övelgoenne**”



Badge offered on eBay 2015

Drawing from the web site of the Lotsenbruderschaft (brotherhood of pilots)



**Elias Zacharopoulos** showed new photos of his special theme: **Ancient plumb bobs and tools on grave stones and old drawings.**



Agiassos, Lesvos, Greece



Agiassos, Lesvos, Greece



Edirne cemetery, Turkey



Balukli Greek cemetery, Istanbul



Buider's votive offer, Benaki museum, Athens



**Dogan Basak** told us news about a medal of Herzog von (Duke of) Württemberg Karl Eugen 1728-1793 with a plumb bob and divider.



NEC CITRA NECULTRA/Neither here, nor there  
doctarum premia frontium



Zinn-Preis-Medaille o.Jahr - 1772 - (v. J.M.Bückle) der Hohen Karlsruhule für Zivilbaukunst (Brustbild nach rechts // Geöffneter Zirkel, durch dessen Mitte ein Senkblei). Kl./Ra. 296a. Mit Kupferstift, 70,8mm,95,0gr.,

**Archie MacKinnon** from Canada presented photos from **some plumb bobs of his collection** (below a selection only) and we talked about these interesting pieces.





**Riccardo Chetoni** gave us an overview of **his excellent books about plumb bobs.**

Contact him for more information:  
[riccardo.chetoni@fastwebnet.it](mailto:riccardo.chetoni@fastwebnet.it)



**Informations about**

**Riccardo's  
new PLUMB BOB  
books**

Hamburg - June 11, 2016  
6th PLUMB BOB collectors meeting



Riccardo Chetoni

a little of history....

**My first book:**

**Les FILS A PLOMB français**

Paris, 2008

2nd plumb bob collectors meeting

Language: French

95 pages

277 pictures

No more available



**My second book:**

**/ FILI A PIOMBO italiani**

Koln, 2010

3th plumb bob collectors meeting

Languages: Italian, German,  
English

125 pages

300 pictures

Still available



**My third work:**

**(Not a book but a Cd )**

**French PLUMB BOBS**

Athens, 2012

3th plumb bob collectors meeting

Abandoned and no more available

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

**My 4th book:**

**Cercando la verticale  
Tra arte e tecnologia**

**Looking for the vertical  
between art and technology**

Photo-book of the PLUMB BOB exposition in Pisa, June – July 2014

Made after the 5<sup>th</sup> Plumb bob collectors meeting

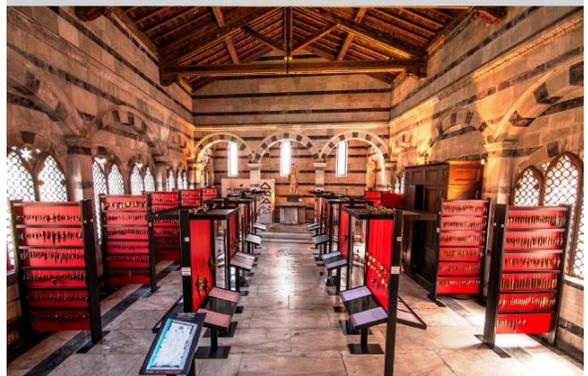
Languages: Italian, English

Size: 25,7 x 36,4 - Pages: 102

**LA CHIESA DI S. MARIA DELLA SPINA**



**The set**



25. IL SENSO COMUNE DEL PIOMBO  
E L'ECCELLENZA AMERICANA

25. THE COMMON SENSE OF THE PLUMB  
BOB AND AMERICAN EXCELLENCE

ESPOSITORE 25, dall'alto in basso e da sinistra a destra:

- piombo reversibile
- 10 altri piombi reversibili
- piombi detti "di senso comune"
- 3 piombi Heimbach, 1 St. Charles Novelty, 3 Leister

DISPLAY 25, from top to bottom and from left to right:

- reversible plumb bob
- 10 reversible plumb bobs
- 4 common sense
- 3 Heimbach, 1 St. Charles Novelty, 3 Leister

LA DOPPIA VITA DEI PIOMBI REVERSIBILI  
THE TWO-FACED LIFE OF REVERSIBLE PLUMB BOBS



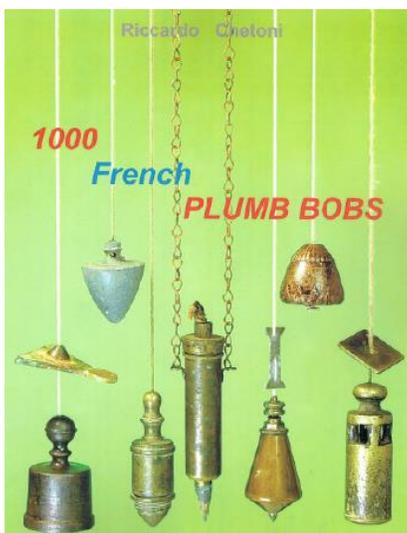
My 5th work:

1000

French

PLUMB BOBS

Hamburg, 2016  
6th plumb bob collectors meeting  
Language: English  
333 pages  
*evolution of the 2014 CD*  
*more than 1000 pictures of french plumb bobs of every trade*



My next book:

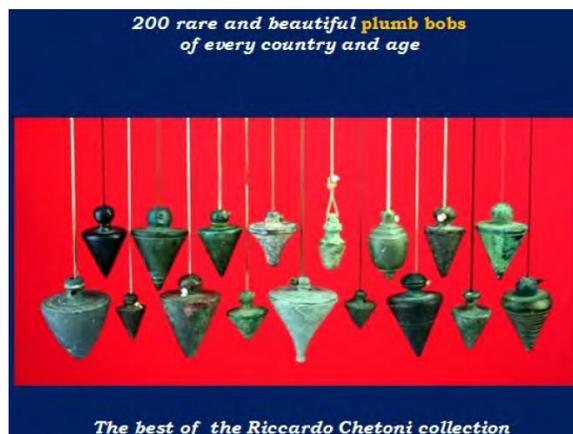
200

beautiful

PLUMB BOBS

*The best of the Riccardo Chetoni collection*

Ready on September, 2016  
Language: English



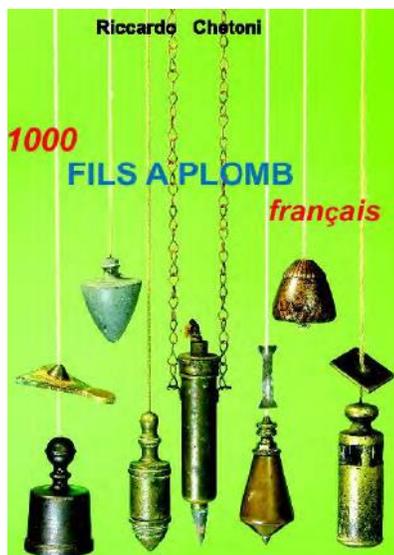
My 5th/a book:

1000

FILS À PLOMB

Français

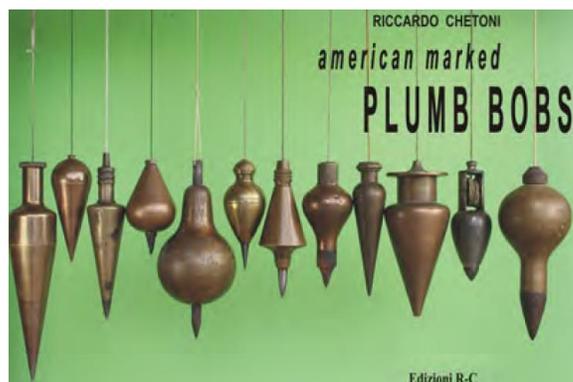
French version of **1000 French PLUMB BOBS**  
Ready. Will be printed on July, 2016



my dream ....

a very long and complicated work  
to classify more than 650 differently marked  
American plumb bobs

.... probably ready on 2018



Please wait with patience !

## 9. SOMETHING TO SMILE ABOUT



When our tour group passed a large ship during our tour of the harbor, our guide joked, "No need to panic-if the anchor falls down and you catch it, you are allowed to take it home with you!" Fortunately it did not fall - I do not have the room in the maritime corner of my small personal museum at home to display such a large ship anchor. ☺

## 10. 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 subpage "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.*



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