

INSPIRATION & FRUSTRATION

Peter Lowe

When Gerald Young asked me to write a short piece on the direction of my woodturning, I had to really sit down and think what to write about. There are several issues that are affecting my direction at the moment. Firstly, I've decided to give up the production of my range of platters. This was not an easy decision to make as they have been very successful, particularly in the corporate gift market and earned me a significant percentage of my turning income. However, this had to be weighed against the problems associated with being a production turner. Standing behind my lathe all day turning out the same item again and again was finally getting to me. So much so that I found myself thinking of turning as a job for the first time in my life.

It took a recent holiday to South Africa to get me relaxed enough to look objectively at where I was heading in my turning career, and it didn't take too long to work out that I had been chasing the dollar too hard and not enjoying what I was doing.

What I have always enjoyed is the design challenge associated with woodturning and particular the combination of carving with turning. Therefore, for the next couple of years I'm going to forget about the head and go with the heart for a change. Once the decision was taken it was like taking a weight off my shoulders and hopefully the creative juices will start flowing to justify the decision.

Having said all that, I now find myself with no room to "turn!". After spending all of last year turning at the School of Wood in Dwellingup, I have realised how much the turning environment affects my attitude to turning. It was wonderful down there with lots of natural light and a nice clean area to work in. On returning to my dark little garage was a big come down and didn't help my enjoyment of the craft.

Therefore, I've decided to invest in a purpose-built studio (ok, so that's a fancy name for a workshop) with lots of natural light, lots of space and lots of sound proofing. The last item is obviously very important in an urban environment if you want to get on with your neighbours (I've learnt a couple of lessons from Gordon Ward). Anyway, in a couple of months I will have a new workspace and a new direction.

Then the hard work begins trying to keep up with the amazing amount of talent there is out there in the turning world.

Made by Peter Lowe who was a North of the River WAWA group member. A wonderful example of world class turning.

This magnificent Perpetual Platter is given to the Swan Group yearly winner to stand tall in their home for a year. Donated by Ted Stewart-Wynne.



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KENWICK GROUP WEEKEND WORKSHOP MARCH 1996

Members and visitors were ready to be enlightened by **Peter Lowe** on the art of making and decorating closed forms and platters. Peter took us through all the stages of turning the items, with hands-on opportunities at particular stages of the work. It was especially interesting to see the way he uses the router to remove the bulk of the waste wood before carving the details of the design. The use of colour followed by carving through the paint layers was most effective.