

# WR PLUMB BOB NEWS

# 2008-02  
Jan. 28, 2008



## Information for plumb bob collectors

Edited by Wolfgang Ruecker Germany

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

### PLUMB BOBS on STAMPS, COINS and as MONUMENTS

Today we have a look into the collection of stamp- and coin-collectors. Here we also can find interesting information about plumb bobs or plumb levels. The reasons for the issue of the pieces are anniversaries of institutions or birthdays of famous architects etc. Often the stamps are printed with a freemason's relation. Sometimes the plumb bob is a monument or a part of a monument, especially in America.

Thanks to Dogan Basak from Istanbul for sending me some pictures in excellent quality from his stamps.

#### 1) Stamps and coins

A 4-piece sheet from **URUGUAY** tells of the French Revolution and its symbols **Uruguay**.  
Published in 1989.



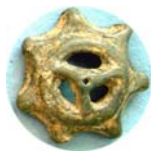
Very clear we can see on one stamp a plumb level.





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Some examples from the freemasons:

Offered on Ebay from India: Block of three stamps 55 Cent **Österreich / Austria**

The seller of the stamp from India wrote:

Plumb Line, Masonic Stamp,  
MNH, Austria



**Rosenau Palace:** The most important discovery during the interior restoration were the decorated rooms on the first floor in the southern part that once had been a freemasons meeting place. This unique find with its signed frescos prompted the association to set up a Masonic museum in the rooms in which a Lodge had met in the 18th century. The most basic indication to the existence of the Lodge is the arrangement of Masonic symbols such as square and compasses. One exit from the Lodge room leads directly into the oratory of the castle chapel creating doubt upon the very existence of a Lodge. However at a time in Austria's history, freemasons and clergy could and did coexist in harmony, indeed as they have always done in many other parts of the world.

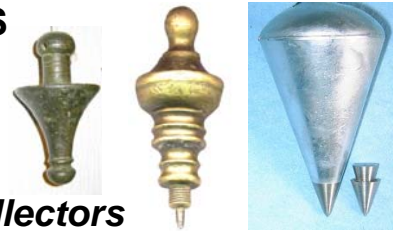
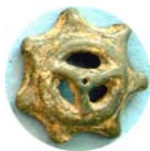
A 4-piece-sheet from **Brasilia** also tells about the tools of the freemasons.





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Two more freemason's stamps from **France** and **Philippines** for the centenary of a freemasons lodge with the symbols.



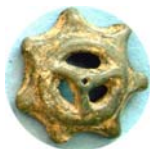
- Stamps from **Sri Lanka** ( 100 years Institution of Engineers) ,
- **India** ( 25 years ISI Indian Standard Institutions ; Buerau of Indian Standards since 1947) :..... like other countries India also started work for standardization in the field of library and information science by a selection committee of Indian Standard Institute now called Bureau of Indian Standards since January 1947 and
- **Mexiko** (SALUD MENTAL). In all these cases there is not a real picture of the plumb bob, but a simplified presentation.





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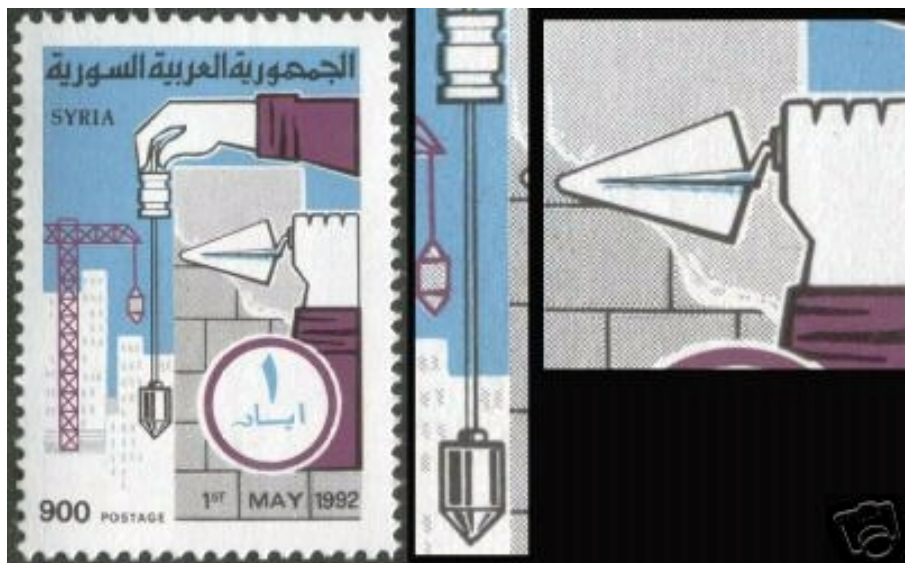
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From Egypt a stamp from 1995 with a plumb level published by "The Egyptian Society of Engineers".

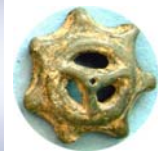


From Syria issued on Mai 1, 1992 (labour day) Notice the spacer used by the mason.



Canadian stamp in two languages: Strength through education. For the trade we find 2 tools: plumb bob and pliers.





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Let's come from the stamps to the monuments by showing a coin, published for the 225<sup>th</sup> birthday of a famous German Architect: Karl Friedrich Schinkel

#### The transcription of the competition says:

1st Price: Axel Bertram, Berlin

The picture page consists of two elements: A man holding a plumb level over a cube wall. The inscription in Antiqua with the words:

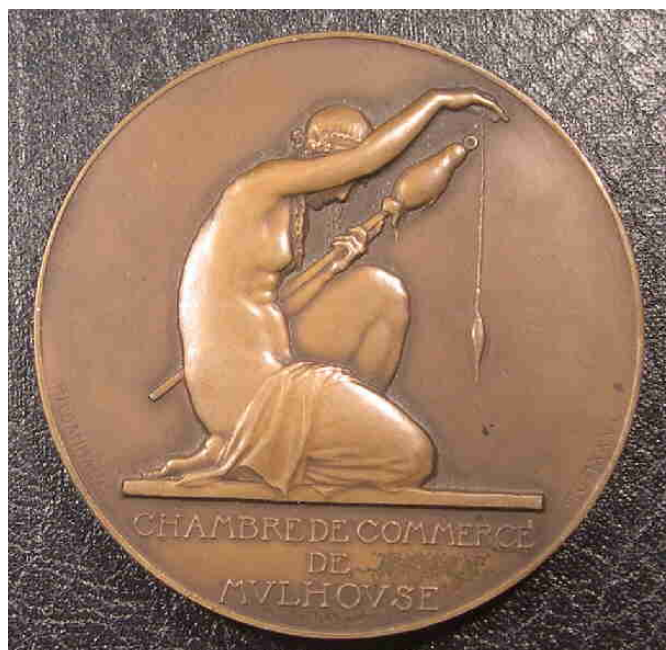
KARL FRIEDRICH SCHINKEL 1781 - 1841.

The figural motifs side of the image comes from Schinkel's relief panels of the Berlin Building. It depicts Schinkel program of education for architecture

Overall, this is a very good draft. It encourages the viewer to the self-examination of the work of Schinkel. The artistic and technical presentation is excellent.



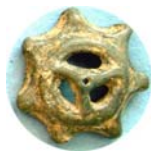
The piece shown on a French medal 1926 from the Chamber of Commerce in Mulhouse /France is **NOT A PLUMB BOB**. A girl is **spinning** and at the end of the twine hangs a spool or a spinning weight. This medal sometimes was offered as "woman with plumb".





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## 2) *Monuments*

In the U.S.A. we found some monuments containing plumb bobs:

“Plumb Bob in Janus head Denver Colorado USA”



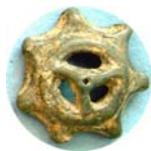
“CIVIC CENTER Denver Colorado”





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University of St. Thomas Minnesota  
2115 Summit Avenue ·  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55105 · USA

*The Plunge*, by Janet Lofquist, is a sculpture of painted steel and granite (1997). Popularly referred to as "The Plumb Bob," it is one of several pieces of artwork commissioned for the Frey Science and Engineering Center.



A monument for **Spain**:

AL GREMIO DE LA ALBANILERIA

#### Esculturas de Palma

- Título: **Al gremio de albañilería**
- Autor: **Sarasate, Miguel**
- Fecha: 2005
- Material: Acero
- Localización: Camí Vell de Bunyola

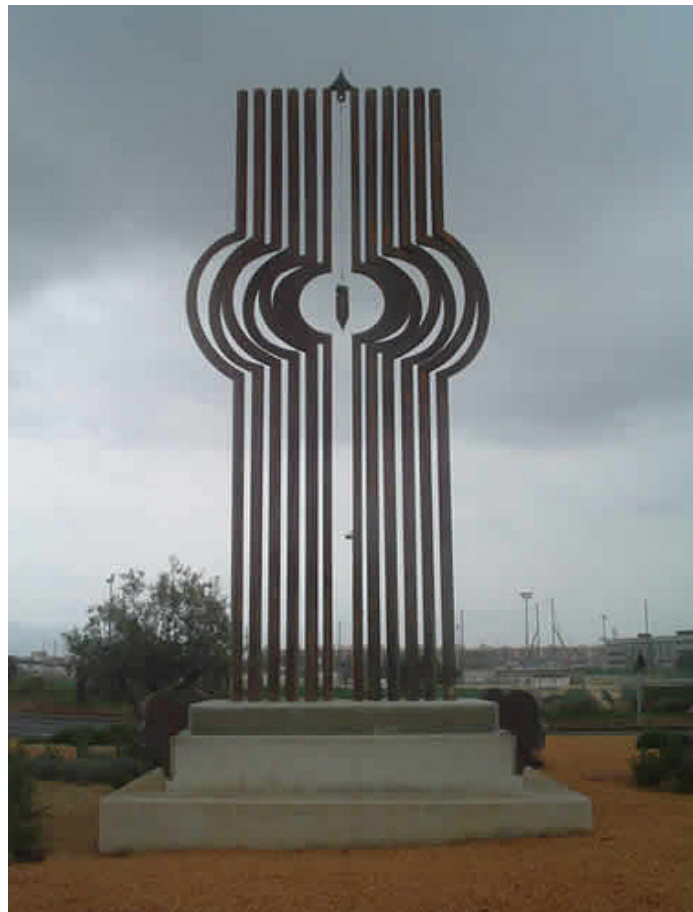
Una placa recuerda la fecha en la que pone:

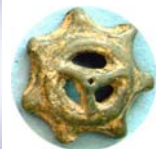
*600 anys*

*Asociación de constructores de Baleares*

*1405 – 2005*

*10 octubre 2005*





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In opposition to the French medal shown before, this relief project of the Architect Schinkel shows a plumb bob.

Friedrich Tieck nach einer Zeichnung Schinkels:  
Mädchen mit Senklot. *ca. 1835*  
Rahmenplatte, Probebrand, Original ursprüngl. am linken Portal.  
53,5x33 cm. Gebrannter Ton. Berlin, Staatliche Museen

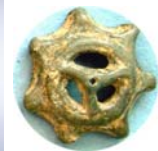


Terrakotta plate  
Girl with plumb bob

Düsseldorf/ Germany  
Building at the market-  
place near the guild-hall.  
Plumb Bob 1956  
Thanks to Georg for the picture







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MASS-INDUSTRIE G. m. b. H., REICHENBACH i. V. und WERDAU i. S

Fabrik-Ansichten



REICHENBACH i. V.

Geschäftsprinzip:

*Vom Guten  
das Beste!*

Plant of the factory MASSI in Reichenbach/Vogtland / Germany. They produced measuring tools and a lot of different plumb bobs. The building still exists. At the front side you can the relief with a surveyor's level, plumb bob and a divider. The picture left is a page of a catalogue MASSI 1924

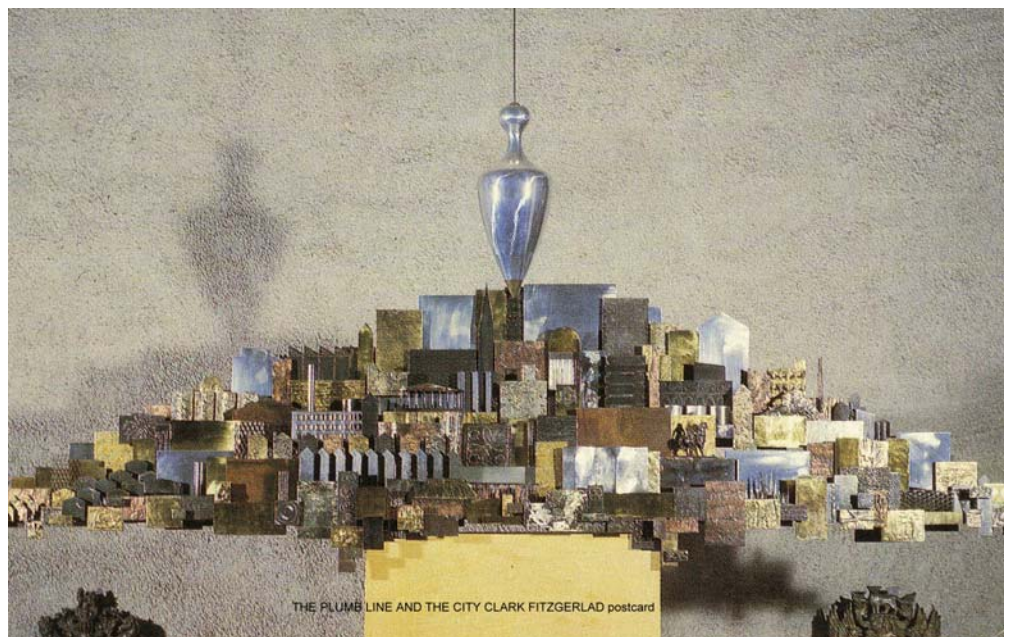


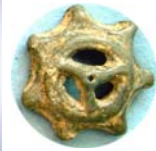
Postcard features **Coventry Cathedral**, in art form - 'The Plumb Line and the City', by **Clark Fitzgerald**, the gift of Christ Church, Cincinnati, U.S.A.

Close over that bright metal city, falling straight down from the roof-peak as if from heaven itself, hangs a shining plumb line, ending in a large plumb bob. Your attention is caught, you stop to look, and you remember about old Amos and his vision, and you think about what that symbol has to say.

See more about the symbolic: Proper 10B, 7/13/03: Father Andrews - God's Plumb Line; Sermon preached by The Rev'd Nigel Lyon Andrews, Priest Associate Trinity Episcopal Church, Newport, RI July 13, 2003 Proper 10B— Amos 7:7-15

More about „The Plumb Bob as a Symbol“ see: Presentation of Dogan Basak; Meeting 2006 Istanbul. Available as PDF-file in English.





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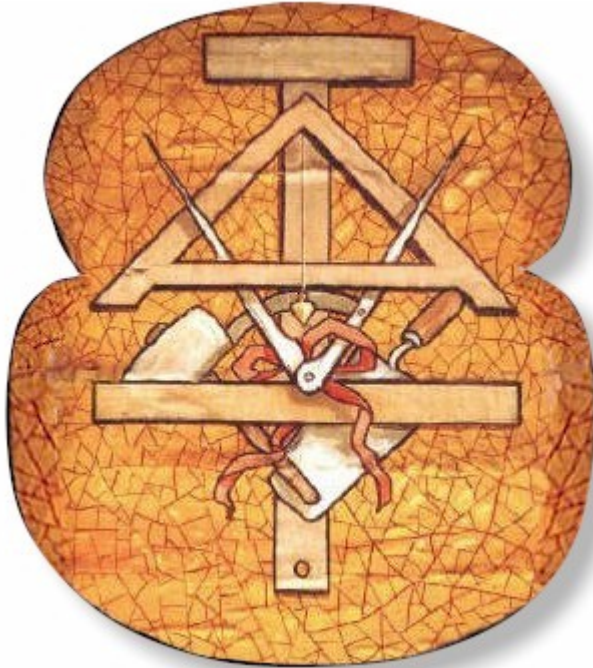
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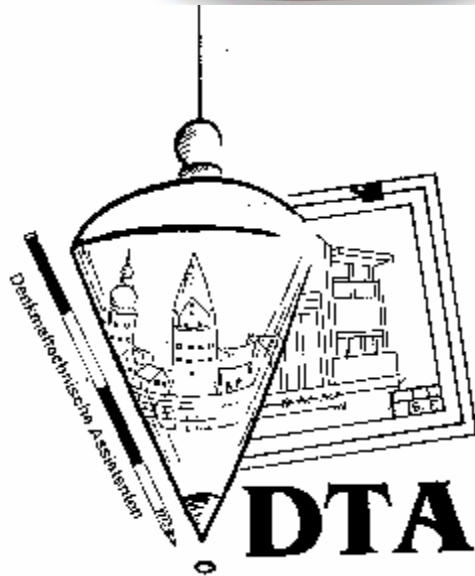
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The tools of the freemasons (France)



DTA Denkmaltechnische Assistenten



MAURO  
CORDA  
Bronze 1994  
"plumb bob"  
LONDON

Heraldic figure of the French family Marsil Lefebvre

