SALVO October
Tuesday 11th October 94
A MONTHLY LOOK AT ARCHITECTURAL ANTIQUES, RECLAIMED BUILDING MATERIALS & Allied Topics

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Team SALVO is moving on October 23rd and will be re-installed in NORTHUMBERLAND by Nov 1st
Simon Kirby
Warwickshire
16 September 1994

Dear Thornton,

Qu'elle un nest de hornets. I send more bathroom nonsense for Your long-suffering readership. (Is everyone else bored to tears yet? I expect the heavy materials brigade to retaliate at any moment with public squabbling about the density of quarry tiles, or perhaps the thickness of window glass.)

1. Bath Enamelling

Ooh er missus. Personally, wherever possible I try to restore original enamel on baths. If, as usual, the finish is too bad, I have them RE-SURFACED, an honest term methinks, for a cold-setting quality paint job with a five-year guarantee.

I have great respect for Drummond Shaw's standards of quality, and the finish achieved on his baths, I am sure, is splendid, but it is the cost which restricts its use to the more valuable baths. This, surely, is the point - we must save and re-use the majority of ordinary roll-edge baths, yet to re-enamel them properly would make them much more expensive than the repros. Most privates would choose the cheaper option.

If a customer is prepared to pay the difference, I will have a bath re-enamelled in Great Britain for under £500 +vat. This is cheaper than Drummond's but one probably has to live with the pin-holes in the surface.

I would love to sell only vitreous re-enamelled baths, but Drummond has carved a niche where his customers are prepared to pay for enamel on their baths, but most of my customers are not, especially for 'ordinary' baths.

2. Ball Cocks

Sorry - slip of the pen in my last letter – I meant 'Part Two' ballcocks (not 'two part' ballcocks), meaning a modern brass valve which discharges the water from a small plastic spout mounted above the valve, rather than from below, as in the Part One valve. If Drummond's had fitted one of these, then the cistern would probably pass the Water Regs, as the required one inch air gap (type B) would then be provided by the higher spout.

I have been in contact with Ian Broad of the Water Bylaw Advisory Service (The Water Research Centre tel 01495 248454) and I have received both good and bad news. The bylaws are ludicrously complicated, and no-one seems to be able to give a definitive opinion upon what they mean – even the WBAS.

Because they are open to interpretation, many plumbers are still using outlawed practices in all innocence, whilst some implement the bylaws in a draconian fashion due to mis-interpretation. Meanwhile, different local water authorities also interpret the bylaws in their own ways.

For example, it seems that the Type B one inch air gap, which must exist between the ball cock spout and the overflow, in fact should be between the spout and the critical water level. (The critical water level is the highest level that the water can reach with the valve held fully open and the water at its highest pressure.) In practice, because overflows can not generally cope, this usually means the spill-over level (ie the top of the cistern body). I have inspected various old cisterns and most of them, if fitted with a Part Two ball cock, would pass. Phew. However most wooden high-level cisterns would not, unless one had fitted a Part Two ball cock above the top edge of the cistern.

3. Lead-Lined Cisterns

A few weeks ago, one opinion from the WBAS was that lead-lined cisterns (as part of a WC) were acceptable. Now they have decided that they are not, but one can inexpensively make them pass the regs by coating the lead.

The WBAS recommend Listed Materials tested to BS 6280 for suitability for contact with potable water; these are paints, rubberised coatings and two-part epoxy coatings which one can spread, brush or spray over the lead. Mr Broad suggested:

SIKAFLOR 65 – a two part epoxy coating produced by Sika Ltd. Tel 01707 329241
INKEX B1106/SL – a coating to be brushed or sprayed produced by BITUMASTIC Plc. Tel 01914 832321

4. Old Taps, Mixers, Showers etc

It seems that provided old taps are properly refurbished (which means more than bunging in a new washer) almost anything is acceptable provided also that double-check, non-return valves are fitted to certain items.
LETTERS

Such items include mixer taps with no internal division, globe taps and most basin and bath taps where the spouts hang over into the bowl (ie no Type B air gaps). However in another conversation Mr Broad stated that the WBAS do not really approve of non-return valves as they are mechanical and therefore could fail.

It is my guess that if we and the plumbers behave responsibly and non-return valves are used, little or no trouble will result for the foreseeable future.

5. The 7.5 Litre Flush
This is a tricky one. As from 1st January 1993, all new cisterns and loo pans must use a 7.5 litre flush (Bylaw 78). Even the dual flush syphons are no longer acceptable - a great pity as I thought they were an excellent water-saving idea.

With the use of modern syphons, an adjustment of the ball cock or even the physical reduction of the internal dimensions of the cistern, would allow any cistern to flush 7.5 litres. Unfortunately, as old loo pans were made to flush on larger quantities of water*, I expect this would result in using two or more flushes to be rid of the bobbies, causing inconvenience and water wastage, not to say embarrassment.

High-level cisterns would still work effectively, but low-level cisterns could be a problem. (As you stated in SalvoNews 96, larger flush cisterns can be fitted as replacements for similar cisterns, but not if the loo pan is to be replaced as well.)

Unofficially, the WBAS agreed with me that with regard to air gaps on problem cisterns, mixer water separation and larger flushes, common sense should rule. If every effort has been made to observe the regulations, it is unlikely that for the foreseeable future any trouble will result. If lead is removed or coated, Part Two ball cocks, plastic BS-approved syphons and double-check non-return valves are fitted where necessary, then we will be seen to be behaving responsibly.

Where a china cistern has a high spill-over level, at least fit a Part Two ball cock, so that there is a one inch air gap between the overflow and the spout, which many plumbers think is all that is required anyway.

Evidently, the bylaws are to be reviewed next year, so then the goal posts may be moved again. In the meantime, does anyone have any ideas about the 7.5 litre flush problem? The only thought that I had was to use dual-flush syphons which, while not approved, deliver a conservation-minded 4.5 litre flush for short visits, and a practical 9 litre flush for big jobs, which probably averages out at about 7.5 litres.

I hope this information is of use - I am just a simple cess-pit dealer, and I stand/sit to be corrected.

Pip! Pip!
Simon Kirby
of Simon's of Stratford

* Call me a Part Two ball cock, but isn't it the case that the reason dual flushing has been phased out is that many districts' underground sewage systems could not function with the reduce flows of water and kept blocking up, because basically the average gradients were not steep enough?

This letter brings to the fore, yet again, that second-hand goods are expected to comply retrospectively with any legislation brought in. It should be remembered that behind all new legislation are the major manufacturers who use it as a marketing opportunity that goes something like this "Roll Up! Roll Up! Get rid of the latest load of cheapo crap you bought that doesn't comply with these important new standards and buy some more expensive new crap that does!" Second-hand goods will always be at a disadvantage since they will never be able to comply retrospectively with increasingly modern standards. What is needed is an Antique Bathroom Quality Assurance scheme that lays out what a sensible old bathroom supplier does in the way of refurbishment of the old items. In addition we need a body who can be consulted when new legislation is proposed, and who can bring up all the likely issues before the legislation is enacted, so that we don't end up with these difficult grey areas which damage trade now and can only serve to damage trade further in the long term.

My vote would be for an Antique Bathroom Quality Assurance acronym ABQUA - anyone fancy joining?

If you make standard repairs to old bathroom that you sell we would like to mention it in Salvo Illustrated 1995/96 to give the customer some understanding of what they can expect if they buy an old tap, bath, cistern or basin from a given supplier. We will publish the list in SalvoNews first - Ed.

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UNTIL 23RD OCTOBER

What is it?
Salvo Monthly is a special edition of the (currently) fortnightly SalvoNews. We produce ten issues of Salvo Monthly a year. Topics covered include regular features on architectural antiques and reclaimed building materials, as well as a random selection of green building issues, architectural history and conservation topics, sculpture and art, technical and financial stories. All are treated in the same cavalier fashion.

Who reads it?
Our readership includes private individual, architects, interior designers, landscape designers, do-it-yourselfers, building craftsmen, college & public libraries, and our normal trade SalvoNews subscribers in the UK, Germany, France, Ireland, Switzerland, and the US.

Where can you get it?
On subscription direct from us. A few copies are given away at the RIAS in Edinburgh, the CAT in Machynlleth and in the architectural section of the Belfast and Bath branches of Waterstone's and a London outlet.

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HO HO HO

Compiling the new Salvo French Dealers directory [200 pages with maps – £50 to Salvo Subscribers] has in the main been a humourless affair, prizing information out of recalcitrant sources. Unnewsworthy, except perhaps for these businesses uncovered during our arduous nine week trawl. S.L.A.G. and Bicke – two suppliers of building materials in the Moselle, more reliable than Barelier Matériaux perhaps. A soreheaded timber supplier in Rouen goes by the name of Migraine. Then there is the dépôt vente in Loucy in Deux Sèvres but unfortunately no bathroom businesses in Pissy Poville in Haute Normandie.

UNFORGETTABLE SUBSCRIBER

"Thanks for your letter" says Tina Cowell of Hatfield Peverel,"rather than just fail to send a cheque, I wanted to say that we have indeed enjoyed Salvo, but have now completed our restoration. We shall not forget your name!" Tina Cowell was a Salvo subscriber for a year, and we appreciate her letter that a subscription is no longer required. It would be great if all subscribers intending to end their sub would tell us, otherwise the over-worked subs department (Hazel) has more work.

TEMPLE BAR

Temple Bar in Dublin, the European Property Developer's tax haven and for so long a litany of demolished historic buildings, can now boast its first super-green building. Using reclaimed materials, with heat-pumps for passive heating, solar-panels and wind generators powering the lighting, massive insulation and refuse separation, it is being heralded as a European first. It isn't – the first were built in the 1960s. However, this building represents one of the first of a new generation of buildings which are destined to become commonplace. It was designed by Murray O'Laoire & Associates and built by G & T Crampton for Temple Bar Properties and cost £1.5m to build 8 flats costing from £75,000 for a 2 bed to £120,000 for a 3 bed, and using a grant of £500,000 form the EU.

DUBLIN GETS GREEN BUILDING

Trinity College in the form of 'campus company' Conservation Engineering Ltd was heavily involved in the design process, and a number of artists were involved in the construction, including James Garner who made balconies using old bicycle frames and external copper cladding from old water cylinders.

L'ICONOGRAPHIE DE LA COUPE DU MONDE

In the battle to win the competition for the design of the new World Cup stadium, to be located on the site of an old gasworks on the outskirts of Paris, Jean Nouvel the architect of the le grand projet français has pulled out all the stops. He says that with his design the opposition will be transfixed by the ultra-modern stadium, and that France will win the World Cup. The PR battle rages between the two main contenders, but Nouvel seems to have the edge. Meanwhile a ten person team under the leadership of Laurent Vincenti have been trashed for designing a logo showing the sun, symbolised by the football above, setting on France over the Atlantic. (The white shape shows the west coast of France and the north coast of Spain bounding a black Bay of Biscay.)

Visconti is unrepentant. "The explanation is totally cubist. One must understand that reality is out", he says. "If the sun was placed on the right France would have a negative movement and would have the impression of falling or failing."

Despite the lack of a design, contractors have begun a clean up of contaminated site involving the incineration of 20,000cu m of top soil and the moving-on of a big bunch of travellers.

Below: Nouvel's hi-tech stadium with a movable weatherproof roof – and provision for caged container-loads of England supporters.
THE WORD EIRE ... AND OUR SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Welcome aboard to Irene Walker of Wexford who sees red, not green, at the mention of the dreaded Eire word and asks us to use simply Ireland instead. Well we’d just love to be able to ... but. It’s the phone numbers and the postal system’s fault. If we don’t use Eire we’d have to use something even worse like Southern Ireland and Northern Ireland to differentiate between the International Dialling Codes for the two countries (which they are like it or not) and we fear that our mail would go astray when posting mail from faraway places like France or Northumberland unless we make it clear which country the mail is being sent to.

The other point that Irene makes is that it doesn’t seem fair that subscriptions to Eire are higher than in the UK when the EU’s postal rates are all supposed to be the same. Well, they are the same for letters up to 60g but not for letters over 60g, which are much higher for overseas deliveries than the UK domestic rate. We’re currently musing over the problem, and what we’d like to do is put up the UK subscription rates so that all European subscribers pay the same ‘harmonised’ amount, and we could then afford to post all the editions of SalvoNews from the country where we print. At the moment our cheapest option is to send a single parcel from France to England with all copies of SalvoNews inside and then pay someone to pack and mail them out to subscribers. The extra time taken means that whereas we used to get an issue out within one day of printing, the process now takes from six to ten days depending on national holidays in both countries. If we upped the UK rates we could mail direct from any country in Europe.

We want to move to Ireland next year after our stay in Northumberland, so we may decide to increase our subscription rates quite soon. Each edition of SalvoNews costs around £1000 to print and mail out, and we don’t get much back in advertising so subscriptions are a very important source of revenue. It would help immensely to have a higher UK subs rate. The reason we have reduced our output from one edition a month from France. Also, printing in France is more expensive. Also, if we increased the UK subscription rates to SalvoNews we could probably reduce them for Salvo Monthly.

POLISH EXCHANGE RATES

A recent fax from Chris Baylis concerning the accuracy of our Eastern European exchange rates (printed in the classified section) was incorrectly replied to by us in the last SalvoNews (SN98 27 September). He said we quoted 23,102 zlotys to the pound when the actual rate was nearer 34,000. He was right about the quantity, but not the currency [- and I’d forgotten completely] which is US Dollars. We had actually quoted 23,102 zlotys to the dollar, which is roughly the same as 34,000 zlotys to the GBPound. The reason we had decided to quote dollar rates is because the Yankee Dollar is the more universal currency, easily exchangeable within these countries, whereas the pound used to be, and maybe still is much harder to change.

PEW BROCHURE SIZE SHOCK

Mark Mr-Publicity-Pew Groes, of Surrey’s Pew Corner has announced the impending publication of a smart new 8 page full colour brochure showing the many things he can do with (and perhaps on) pews. Dimensionally challenged Mark dismissed the valid observations in the last Salvo Monthly regarding the size of his bathroom as a ‘wilful mis-reading’ on our part, for which we make little apology in this instance. His new brochure, 297cm by 197cm – slightly bigger than A4 – has been ordered from bemused Surrey printers by hot new publicity agent Tim Sharp. For the record his bath is not panelled with old pew bits, but with old panelled door bits.

CONTEXT PRINT CODE OF CONDUCT ARTICLE

Despite requests from us that an article written by Carol Rosier of the Oxford County Council Archaeological Unit be amended or scrapped, Context – the House Mag of Conservation Officers – printed it anyway. It contains details of the Code of Conduct printed in last January’s SalvoNews, since scrapped, or at least heavily shelved by the covert Philip Davies of COPAT and English Heritage London Division and now deemed unworkable by all. COPAT, of which Thornton Kay is supposed to be a member appear reluctant to communicate with us over this issue. A curt conversation with Anne Bowden, COPAT secretary, and also co-incidentally the organiser of paying stolen ads in the Antiques Trades Gazette, told us that she was unable to do anything about the situation. Meanwhile the Salvo dealer Code of Conduct progresses …

SALVO DEALER CODE OF CONDUCT

On the entry form to Salvo Illustrated we committed a form of commercial suicide by including a request to Dealers to sign up to a Code of Conduct. Our deadline for receiving entries for Salvo Illustrated was September 25th. So far the following businesses have returned their entry forms and signed their agreement to the Code.

- Alpine Building Supplies
- Arkitekts Bathubs Byvbridge
- Architectural Heritage
- Architectural Reclamation
- The Architectural Salvage Store
- The Bath Doctor
- Beaver Building Supplies
- Cheshire Demolition & Excavation
- Coleman Roofing Supplies
- Dickinson’s Architectural Antiques
- White House Farm Antiques

Five other businesses have returned their completed forms but have not signed the Code of Conduct. Another 20 businesses, including auction houses, have now confirmed by telephone that they would like to be included in Salvo Illustrated, but we don’t know where they stand on the Code.

An amendment has been proposed by Simon Kirby of Alscoat Bathrooms in Warwickshire, and seconded by Peter Randle at ACE Demolition in Dorset. This amendment would mean that some businesses would not keep full records of items bought, and would continue to pay cash for stock from people that they did not know. This would appear to apply to smaller items, or to items where the dealer is absolutely certain that the items are not stolen, for instance where purchases are made direct from a clients house.

We are now proposing that the Code of Conduct should read:-

I do not knowingly buy items removed from listed buildings without listed building consent (or from the sites of scheduled monuments).

I always pay by cheque for items of a value greater than £X (say £200 ??) to dealers or members of the public not personally known to me, unless a cash payment is made on site to the verified owner of the items.

(continued on the next page)
Where possible, I keep a record of the provenance of any item, including the date of manufacture, where it was removed from, and any previous owners.

I agree to my business details being held on a list of businesses who subscribe to this Code of Conduct.

I agree to allow a copy of this Code of Conduct to be placed in a public position within my premises.

This revised Code of Conduct may now be more acceptable to more dealers in England and Wales.

I have also discussed the Code of Conduct privately with a member of English Heritage who has confirmed that there may be an ideological problem with architectural antiques and garden ornament amongst a very small number of important conservationist hard-liners, but most would be happy to see the legitimate market thrive. Their only reservations are that it is difficult, if not impossible, to determine which items are legitimate and which are not. As far as they are concerned they cannot believe that every single architectural antique, reclaimed material or garden ornament has been removed legitimately. To varying degrees they believe that a proportion of all stocks held has been stolen or removed without consent, and to varying degrees they are correct. One can argue till the cows come home about the true level of that proportion. Further, they believe that the onus of proof lies with the trade.

I have been asking conservationists to help in launching a scheme since I worked at Walcot Reclamation. In 1987 Walcot produced the first ever freely available printed advice to period home owners on architectural theft, in conjunction with the Bath Society of Estate Agents. This has since been echoed by others, including for instance Westminster City Council.

What I find difficult to understand is why the conservation movement persist in the face of all the daily evidence, in disbeliefing that fireplaces, doors, windows, bricks and tiles are thrown away, into skips, into lorries and into landfill sites. Carol Rosier, for instance, has undertaken a study of architectural salvage in the UK, yet her article in Context makes absolutely no mention of the scale of destruction of items being trashed.

David Ross was at the forefront of many such trashings as principal planning officer in Cheltenham. While there he even tried to organise the saving of demolished items for resale into the trade. But even he seems afraid to publicly voice any concern, concentrating instead on covertly attacking the trade who have been given absolutely no chance to defend themselves against his assertions whatever they were. If theft is such a huge problem, why don't we get notification of it for SalvoNews theft alerts? This year, so far, we have not had a single fireplace theft reported in the UK, and only one in France. More or less every UK theft alert is from gardens.

Back to the point – a Code of Conduct.

Anyone who has any views on the Kirby amendments, please write in. We will publish everything, as usual.

ANOTHER ECO-TRASHING

Reports coming in from Lancashire talk of an old oak-framed farmhouse that stood in the way of a motorway in Blackburn being totalled by heavy plant in a morning. Typically, the 'green police' as our correspondent calls them, squatted the building and when they were eventually ejected the machinery moved in. This comes after a similar oak framed house, 17th century, was demolished in Norfolk on a Saturday morning for similar reasons, another five houses were demolished in Bath, one an Edwardian Villa, and many houses were demolished in East London. Both conservationists and the green movement remain impassive about the waste, but then they would wouldn't they? There really is no excuse for this type of activity, but there is no end in sight either.

BOB MILLS SEeks PUBLICITY

Mr Robert Mills rang to say that he is not publicity-shy, but unlike others in the spectacular architectural trade, he does not seek it either, normally.

He made an exception to tell us that he is moving to a larger premises in Bristol – a 20,000sq ft former Ever Ready Battery distribution depot – where he hopes to be installed on the 1st November.

He has for some time been using an number of premises to hold stock; barns full of panelled rooms etc, and the expiry of his present lease has given him the impetus to move on. "Has the old battery depot been de-toxified?" we asked. "Yes, but it'll soon be toxic again once I get my stock inside it" he chuckled.

Over the years he has refined his purchasing policy and his clientele, and maintains a relatively low public profile, while ensuring that a network of nationwide salvagers assist in rescuing mainly church and other carved woodwork.

Below: The remains of an Edwardian Villa demolished in Bath in a day. Nothing was saved, and the waste generated will, illegally but with MoT sanction, be taken to a landfill site. [see story below left]
**LA MAISON OPENS IN LONDON**

Guillaume Bacou has just opened a new shop in Islington specialising in French antiques, architectural items and fireplaces. We're hoping for a photo, but so far we only have the address and phone numbers which are 11 Essex Road, Islington N1. Telephone 0171 3549520. Fax 01812 450576.

**WATER MONOPOLY HIT DECOREX**

Justin Harper-Homewood and Sam [whose surname I’ve forgotten - sorry] have just finished an exhausting session at this year’s London Decorex exhibition where they voted themselves definitely best stand at the show. Sam organised the exhibits using her renowned penchant for interior co-ordination to produce the spectacular in bathrooms. Evidently one stand was entitled *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* and the other *Hot Moroccan*. "Around forty thousand designers came through the door on the first day ... gasping, weeping, applauding ... it exceeded all our expectations", extolled a triumphant Justin afterwards. One stand had tiger slate flooring with simulated mud walls (Sam had wanted to use straw, but FireRegs precluded it) and orange, red and purple bathroom gear. A Morrocan-style frieze floated around the walls which were also punctuated with small niches. Hopefully, a full colour resume of the Decorex stand will be appearing in Salvo Illustrated (provided Justin can get his head round the concept of having to pay for publicity since they are arch-exponents of the free editorial), until then, you’ll all just have to let your imagination run riot. On a more salutory note and with the ongoing quality debate in SalvoNews in mind Justin explained the Water Monopoly’s succinct quality control policy gleaned after many years experience. “You have to have it right — down to the last nut, otherwise you end up bald and grey”, he said. When we last met he had a full head of hair.

**MERCURY DOPPELGANGER**

Rayner Wilson of Architectural Heritage Northants had a novel theft experience. The local police visited with a photo of a stolen Mercury, one assumes after Giambologna. Next two smartly dressed young men from the south turned up with a Mercury. That’s the one, thought John Wilson and rang the police who turned up smartly and discovered that the Mercury was indeed stolen, but it was a different Mercury!

**BUILDING OF BATH MUSEUM LAUNCHES EXCELLENT GUIDES**

The Building of Bath Museum in conjunction with Bath City Council have produced two new guides, one on STONE and the other on WINDOWS. The are the first in what is hoped to become a long series and are easily the best of such guides yet. In full colour, copiously illustrated, they each contain 20 fun-packed pages of serious info. Ideal for students, conservationists, house restorers and architectural history buffs. Written by Christopher Woodward and others. Tel 01225 333895. Buy! Whatever the price – we don’t know it.

Left: An illustration from STONE showing the building of a terrace in Oxford 1825
Below: From WINDOWS, to demonstrate wooden shutters – ecologically sound – an illustration by Joseph Hartland called Plan for Removing Houses which shows how Georgian Bath was actually constructed. One small criticism is that the Swedish putty heater and old glass remover is not included.
Incroyable mais vrai. What the Vosges Conseil Général has done to the Roman amphitheatre at Grand, NE France.

GRAND HORREUR!

Grand was first written about by a monk called Rupert in the 12th century, who recognised it as a former town of great importance [la ville de très grande étendue], and the amphitheatre was spotted by a Monsieur Jollois who in 1823 discovered the semicircular knob, but it was not excavated until, between 1963 and 1976 Roger Billoret started an organised dig which resulted in 50,000 cu m of soil being moved. As a result the third largest Roman amphitheatre known was uncovered to the elements.

The Conservateur Général of France and Director of Historic Sites, who is several votives short of an offering, while agreeing that Grand was the most important site in France also believed that it pre-dated Romans and is associated with the Gallic divinity, Grannus, although no evidence for this has been offered. Even more implausibly he associates this important site with the birthplace of Jeanne d'Arc in nearby Domrémey some 1400 years later and claims perhaps that Grand, more than a site of historical interest is a magic site of 'antique

Above: Limestone carving of a Triton, carved locally possibly by a travelling master mason AD50-120, and probably for the frieze of the big Temple building shown below. The carvings discovered are just brilliant. Powerful, simple and very quickly carved. By comparison the 19thc O'Shea brothers would have been able to achieve the carving above in an hour or so out of 'green' rock, and top carvers today would take three weeks and still not get anywhere near. Speed, style, an understanding of anatomy, and a total familiarity with tools and materials is of the essence in this kind of work which must have been like falling off a log to the person who did it. Absolutely bloody marvellous.

Below left: Artist's impression of Roman Grand. Below Right: Grand from the air. The 'semi-amphitheatre' is bottom left in both pictures.
religious force' [force de l'antique religiosité du lieu], a well documented phenomena which explained his subsequent actions. He recommended a seismological survey to show that the freshly exposed walls were suffering from, oh what a grand surprise, frost damage and the only solution was covering the site. He appears to wholeheartedly approve of what was next proposed.

It was apparently the Conseil Général for the Vosges himself, Monsieur Christian Poncelet, a man many oak trees short of a forest or perhaps not, who in 1991 personally gave the go-ahead to the scheme to drive piles into what was left, emplace concrete ramparts and a steel girder support system for a seating system for 8,000 people made from, in the most oak-wooded region in France, yes of course, Iroko. No-one is suggesting that this was a cynical ploy to obtain EU funding for an employment generation scheme but large amounts of EU funds are said to be involved. Local archaeologists' incredulity turned to private anger, but not much was said in the way of protests.

France is a funny place. Workers take to the streets at the first sniff of an adverse EU grant settlement imposed externally, but other obviously corrupt and morally incomprehensible actions by those in power go completely unchecked. It appears that you can lose much if, as a professional, you are publicly critical. Needless to say, I have spoken to one local archaeologist, two local historians and one local conservationist - all of whom condemn the decision as at best mad, and at worst corrupt.

Monsieur Christian Poncelet said that within an 'enveloppe' of 15 million francs the site will be 'developed in accordance with the heritage laws of France' [mise en valeur dans le cadre de la loi de programme sur le patrimoine monumental]. Assisting them in this objective will be the town of Martigny in Switzerland who have also covered a partially covered Roman amphitheatre in concrete.

You may notice that, despite the claims that the works were necessitated by incipient frost damage, less than a third of the site is to be covered, and according to Monsieur Goutal, Chief Architect to France's Historic Monuments the scheme is reversible 'si la perception de ces interventions contemporaines passait de mode des générations future' [if covering historic monuments in concrete should go out of fashion].

Grand is actually a semi-amphitheatre of a type only built by the Romans in Gaul, and whose use could have been as both a Colosseum and an Amphitheatre, for both gladiatorial combat, killing of Christians and animals etc as well as scenique spectaculars and plays requiring acoustic properties. No written evidence by the Romans themselves talk of Grand, which is surprising considering its importance as a religious centre at the time. A series of underground aqueducts carry spring water to what was a religiously important spring where many offerings have been found. This is now located immediately under the church.

Among the many items of interest that have also been discovered in excavations in the village are some very fine post-Christian limestone mini-carvings. These comprise of heads, bodies and animals and are really quite brilliant. Also many complete roof tiles, Imbrex and Tegulae, have been found in the area. The limestone ridge which went with them was socketed at one end to house the following section. A basilica on the site which is believed to have served as the meeting room of the Tribune in which vast mosaic was discovered in 1884. It is 15m by 18m and is not entirely complete, having been raided in the mid-20th century. The central element is now missing, believed to have been taken by locals.

Grand is between Gondrecourt le Chateau (also home of Jean Claude Lebert, matériaux anciens dealer) and Liffol le Grand in the Vosges.
Salvo ist ...

eine Initiative, die 1991 von uns, Thornton Kay und Hazel Matravers, gegründet wurde.

Unser Ziel ist es, den bestehenden Markt für die Wiederverwertung von Baumaterial zu stärken. Damit wollen wir die Menge an wiederverwendbarem Baumaterial verringern, die derzeit in Europa zerstört wird.

Diese Zahl beläuft sich auf ungefähr 150.000 Tonnen pro Tag.

Um dies verwirklichen zu können, sollten alle Architekten einer freiwilligen Satzung zustimmen, wonach 5% aller Baumaterialien einer Baustelle wiederverwendet werden. Im Moment beträgt dieser Prozentsatz weniger als 1%.

Wir haben ein Verzeichnis von Händlern in Großbritannien, Irland und Belgien herausgegeben und werden bis Anfang November hier in Frankreich das Verzeichnis von französischen Händlern fertiggestellt haben.

Ferner erscheint unser Newsletter für alle Abonnenten in regelmäßigen Abständen von 14 Tagen. Unsere Abonnenten kommen aus sieben Ländern Europas. Wir würden uns vor allem über Beiträge aus Deutschland freuen.

Salvo on the move ... from Manois, France

Liebe Interessenten,

auf einem Kurzbesuch nach Leipzig, Burgdorf und Hattingen habe ich einen kleinen Einblick gewinnen können, was den gegenwärtigen Handel von architektonisch wertvollen Antiquitäten (ARCHITECTURAL ANTIQUES) und wiederverwertbaren Baumaterialien (RECLAIMED BUILDING MATERIALS) betrifft.

Die EU entwiirft im Moment eine neue Direktive für Abbruch- Materialentsorgung, die Ende 1995 in Kraft treten soll.

Die Bundesrepublik Deutschland und Dänemark sind in diesem Kommittee führend und ihr Vorschlag geht dahin, daß 60% des Abbruch-Materials (???) recycelt werden soll, das würde zum Beispiel bedeuten, daß alte Ziegel als Schotter eingestampft (RECYCLING) und alte Holzbestände zum Energieerzeugung (RECYCLING) verbrannt werden müßten. Wir sind jedoch der Meinung, daß mehr Materialien in ihrer bestehenden Form wieder verwendet werden sollte(RECLAMATION).

Unser Anliegen ist vor allem eine Lobby zu gründen, um den Schwerpunkt der geplanten EU-Direktive vom RECYCLING auf die RECLAMATION zu rücken, und dazu wünschen wir uns eine Europa-übergreifende Unterstützung. Es wäre für uns von Interesse zu wissen, ob Sie uns dabei helfen wollen.

Wir freuen uns auf eine baldige Rückmeldung und hoffen auf Ihre Unterstützung.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen!

Thornton & Hazel

P.S.

Der Salvo-Newsletter ist normalerweise Englisch geschrieben.
Leider sprechen wir kein Deutsch. Dieser Brief wurde freundlicherweise von einer deutschen Bekannten für uns entworfen. Sollte Ihr Englisch ein Hindernisgrund für eine Antwort sein, dann schreiben Sie auf deutsch an:

Agnes Scheuermann, Magdeburgerstraße 34, 04155 Leipzig
Reiner Pilz may look slightly concerned in the photo above. “You’re taking a photo of me with an empty glass in my hand,” he said, “what will everyone think? The glass should have been full!” When I arrived on a Friday afternoon he was out working in his garden. He avoids working on Fridays — his staff work a four and a half day week finishing at 2pm on Friday, which is the norm in Germany.

Pilz — Germans like to be called by their surnames — has a mechanical engineering background and moved into interiors in 1979 doing restaurants, bars and pubs. He soon found that using and stocking old bits and pieces was a pre-requisite of the trade, and in 1982 he bought his current premises, on the outskirts of Hattingen near Hanover. As a deft financing move he sold off some spaces for flats for the people working for him, and he also has a house there. His second wife, a Dutch artist, has a studio and his first wife, her sister, also lives there. Most of his employees have been with him for over ten years including manager Jürgen Dohmann. The reason, they say, is simple: he pays well and the working conditions are good. One guy earned 100,000 marks in a year working for Pilz, but then as Pilz said he had some difficulties with his girlfriend at the time. Average wages are 40,000 marks.

His current contracts include Frankfurt airport, a restaurant in Beijing and another in Bangkok, and work in Germany, Switzerland and Luxembourg. The rapid growth of the business has slowed this year owing to the recession, and went noticeably flat last Christmas, but things appear to have picked up again recently. He now has 27 employees and says he doesn’t need to expand. Expansion would require more employees, and good craftspeople are hard to come by in Germany. He has tried importing labour from England, and elsewhere, but doesn’t really want the hassle. It is cheaper for him to do a contract in Beijing than in Bonn because of attendant costs on the labour which are sufficiently higher in Germany to offset the transport costs involved.

His modus operandi is extremely interesting. The business remains essentially 80% or more contracting, and although he will sell direct to visiting customers he doesn’t advertise the fact. Turnover is in the region of £1.5m—£2m with 20%—25% export sales. Unlike Andy Thornton, his much larger UK competitor, he keeps his stock of original materials very low. I would guess that a lot less than £100,000 worth is currently held in stock, whereas Andy Thornton must have a lot more than £1m. Pilz does not like using bought in Far Eastern repro either, although he is quite happy to make up his own. He does source some individual components from places like the Philippines and Indonesia.

So how does he undertake major contracts with such a limited amount of original material to choose from? The answer is that he uses items in a much more versatile way, he always re-designs a live contract to fit his stock, and he doesn’t price a job until he has been awarded the contract. What? Yes, it’s true. He will offer two things to new clients: the first is a long list of previous satisfied clients who new customers can telephone, and the second is a guarantee to complete what the customer wants within a tight timescale and some loose budget parameters.

When the contract is signed, and the first payments have been made, Pilz swings into action. He personally designs much of their

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output, sometimes using architectural antiques and sometimes rubbish scoured locally, usually by Pilz himself. He loves to build from rubbish given the opportunity. His finished designs are similar to those of Andy Thornton, but he feels they are superior. They tend to differ in that Andy Thornton has a more consistent house-style owing to the number of contracts and the restrictions imposed by the use of standard repro items, while Pilz fabricates the old by reworking old items. It's a nuance that few would notice. Most customers who patronise either a Pilz or an Andy Thornton's interior would think that everything was original anyway. Taste and style is determined in both cases by the MD.

Where they differ considerably is in the green commitment that Pilz has, and his use of computers to design and cost items using software that he wrote himself at a cost of 100,000 marks. It doesn't provide visual drawings but does cutting lists and schedules. Pilz works in seconds. I couldn't really believe this, so he showed me. Every product line is analysed. The time spent to disassemble, strip or clean, denail, and then cut, re-assemble, pack and dispatch is calculated in seconds per metre run. All fifteen of his workshop staff are on piecework for 70% of their work time producing computerised items. Each job has a fixed time allowance in seconds. Obviously some new materials are used, and since all joiners prefer to use new rather than old, I asked him how he persuaded them to use, for instance old mouldings, rather than new ones. The answer was that they are paid 10% more to re-use old material. The remaining 30% of their time is spent on workshop maintenance, and making special items, like for instance murals and sculpture made from rubbish, or fixing old lighting, or developing new products. He employs one person full time on quality control. "The only time I get mad and shout at people is when the quality is not good enough - I can't stand that," he said.

The computer works out the cutting lists, even for reclaimed items. A cut-off corner pew with a sloping back used to take a joiner two days to make because of the complex cuts required. With the computer calculating all the cutting angles Pilz has reduced the cutting time to 18 minutes, and eliminated a lot of waste.

Before the design can start, Pilz measures up the spaces. He never relies on architects drawings since accuracy is vital to the speed of the fitting out. He said that even the cost of a two-day trip to Beijing was small by comparison to the costs of adjusting materials on site. After the survey, often with lasers, he spends up to six weeks designing. During this period he works out how to use the limited stock he has to do the job that the client wants. Pilz has solved the problem that every architect in Europe will have to address if more materials are saved from being tipped: you design with what is available. You never design first and then go looking for the old materials afterwards.

An example he gave me was fittings he was providing for the new terminal building at Frankfurt Airport. It is 130,000 square feet. The

Above: Cut-off Corner Pew. Cutting time reduced from two days to 18 minutes.

Above: Frankfurt Airport terminal building is redesigned by Pilz using pieces of paper. The large one represents lan Devoy's large display cabinet seen below.

Above: Shellac Varnish mixed in the workshop à l'anciennne. No polyurethane varnishes are used.

Above: The fastest reclaimed door rack labelling system in Europe. Pilz can find any door, glazed, panelled etc of any dimensions in seconds - but he doesn't stock a large number of doors: below.

Above: late 20thc Lotus Leaf repro baluster. The top one a smoothl, fixtureuly in beech, the lower one a rustic from India in hardwood.
Above: Demonstrating the master race's superior attention to detail, Pilz shows how the drawers for this 19thC German chemist's rack were top hung with a close fitting board which fitted into running rebates on the top of the drawer, thus reducing smells and evaporation losses. Damned nifty eh?

Above: A bar front made from door panels and parts of doors. Pilz's patent pilaster is seen joining the two incongruous pieces. Behind the bar is an original (now restored) DM26k LASSCo bar back which gives an authentic touch.

Above: Inspirational use of pew steps by Pilz. They have been turned into a pub leaner and drinks table. DM5560.

Above: Pub Table made with a Victorian chimney pot base, and reclaimed wood, shellac varnished. Priced at DM1500 = £590 = 4900 FFr

Above: Reclaimed door table with different sized panels. The table top is one of Pilz's pre-mades from reclaimed wood. It can be used with legs or a base as above and can be fitted in seconds on site.

design and preparation time was six weeks during which Pilz made a shopping trip to England, and amongst other things, bought a display cabinet from Ian Devoy at Great Northern Architectural. He then adapted the design to fit the cabinet and other items, finalised the whole with the client and agreed the contract price. Another six weeks will be spent in the workshop making all the items and packing for dispatch. Two weeks with three people are allowed on site.

He usually uses doors, panelling and other sheet type items to make up bar fronts. "No-one notices the difference between that and the impossibly expensive real Victorian thing." He has designed a range of pilaster mouldings copied from an original which he liked for its simplicity = cheapness to make. He uses these to join the different pieces together.

The changes in waste disposal costs caused by new environmental legislation in Germany have seriously affected his working practices. Up until five years ago skips could contain mixed rubbish, but now this has been banned under federal laws, and all skips must have materials separated which has increased tipping charges by five times. This has increased the cost of disposal enormously and has driven Pilz to find increasingly inventive disposal methods for his, mainly timber, waste. Everything is used if possible. Small mouldings can be run up, anything larger than a foot or two by six inches is use for making table tops, menu blackboards, seats, picture frames - you name it. He cannot even use scrap wood for heating, unless it has been analysed first, due to the toxins in the paints. He can however use the sawdust and inside the workshop he has an extraction system that takes sawdust from the benches into one large hopper which directly feeds into a briquette maker. The compressed sawdust briquettes drop directly into an underground briquette-fired boiler which heats the workshop building and much of the hot water for the complex. In the next year or so he wants to develop this as a mini-heating system for all the buildings on the site. He is also planning to build a 2 tonne flywheel-stabilised wind generator which he designed as student project in the 60s to provide electricity for lighting.

Pilz also uses bought-in green materials and plans to extend this purchasing policy. At the moment he uses blockboard (not plywood) bought from Brazil but he is negotiating with an Austrian to manufacture blockboard from reclaimed timber. He only uses chipboard for subfloors but will change when the reclaimed blockboard becomes available. He currently uses some new timber for mouldings but hopes to use only reclaimed wood for every component in a year or so. It may be worth considering that he will buy mouldings from England provided they are in batches of more than 50m. He doesn't use polyurethane varishes but instead has reverted to the old shellac and meths technology made up in the workshop as the most ecologically sound finish, with a natural wax

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overcoat. He also buys cheaply manufactured items like pressed or machined Italian beech-wood mouldings and carved wood newels from Indonesia. He prefers the Italian material for its clean finish, but will use Far Eastern carved wood when he wants a rustic look.

Stock control systems abound. He has a novel idea for standard components which are stored in large bins with false ends. Behind the false end is one weeks emergency supply, just in case the system fails. All stocks are checked weekly, including reclaimed ones, and re-ordering is systematised using a code. Black tags are placed on low stocks and the workshop then uses the best alternative until restocking is complete. Pilz is also very proud of his door rack labelling system which will allow him to find any type or size of door in seconds.

He reckons that there is a commercial cachet in being green and believes that he will be able to charge at least 10% more than the competition for a while, until they catch up. He is looking at diversifying - possibly into French property, possibly into starting a reclamation yard in Berlin, possibly into the US. One problem faced by anyone starting a reclamation yard in Germany is a lack of available labour. "No-one wants to do hard manual work in Germany any more. You'd never get anyone to clean bricks." Why haven't the Germans mechanised brick cleaning? Because there's no demand for reclaimed bricks. In Berlin, very close to Poland, Pilz would have no doubt be able to get cheaper labour.

"I don't need more money," he said, with a little glint in his eye, "but I want to play. I used to think that you could only be inventive with the use of some alcohol - but now I realise it all just comes naturally." He showed me into his inner sanctum. The outside door was an old glazed late Victorian number. Pilz had, just for fun, fitted it with a double-acting heavy duty metal catch and sealing system, the type fitted on modern PVC windows that allows them to open two ways, either side-hung or bottom-hung. Fun it may be, but is typical of the man's continuing tinkering with bits and pieces, his fascination with technology, and a belief in green ideas.

We talked about the impending EU Demolition Waste Streams directive. "Recycling," he said, "I call it down-cycling. They smash bricks, they smash everything. What we need is up-cycling, where old products are given more value, not less." He despairs of the German situation and recalls the supply of a large quantity of reclaimed woodblock from an English supplier for a contract in Nuremberg, while just down the road a load of similar block was scrapped. In the road outside his premises was the result of the German's demolition 'waste' recycling. It was a pinky looking aggregate with pieces of handmade brick, old tiles, and discernible parts of useful old items mixed with crushed concrete. Is this the future for Europe?

Contact PILZ GmbH, Infefelde 33, D-31303 BURGDORF. Tel +49 5136 85333, Fax +49 5136 81825.
Franz and Wilma Seekopp run an import export business supplying large quantities of mainly Dutch and English carved architectural woodwork and decorative items to customers around the world.

Franz love affair with the English started when he lived in a flat in London for a while in the 1960s. He had a number of previous businesses, one of which was in food broking and catering supplies, all of which he eventually gave up and bought a pub in Hagen known as the Treasure Chest. He furnished it with old bits and pieces, and it was when he came back to England, and coincidentally Walcot Reclamation, looking for architectural antiques that his passion for dealing began.

“I still remember turning up at Walcot Reclamation at 3 am, and finding it shut,” he said, “and then we had to hang around for ages because no-one at Walcot gets up very early but, you know, I really like the English. I bought a load of panelling at Walcot.”

This foray stimulated his appetite. He could visit England and make a living, he thought. Eventually he sold the pub and began visiting England more frequently, and inevitably he soon encountered Robert Mills.

“You know, I made Robert Mills a millionaire,” he says, although I haven’t checked with Bob Mills, I don’t think he’s a millionaire yet – nearly, but not quite, “and look at him now. He’s moving into a huge place because of all the money he made from me. I really like the English, and I need container loads of stuff – you tell them.” He has a pretty offbeat sense of humour which could be mis-interpreted. But as much as he mocks others he also mocks himself.

Franz, or Frank as he is usually known in England, has moved through two premises because of lack of space and, although size isn’t everything, he now has a massive 60,000 square foot old factory building which he bought from Thyssen. This in itself is a major asset, possibly sought after by a major supermarket chain or a firm that organises indoor go-cart racing, in a hot location in Burgdorf, near to Essen in Western Germany.

Frank spent a lot of money doing it up, single-handed. He was not enthusiastic about the local fire officer’s requirements. “They bankrupt you before you start, here,” he said, “they want all these emergency signs and doors and look at these rooflights. They open automatically if there’s a fire to let out the smoke – it’s crazy, they cost 3,000 marks each to put in and they have to be changed every twenty years.”

Frank’s reluctance to spend unnecessarily means he has no regular employees, and when he needs help he offers temporary work to

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From the left: Victorian chimney pots bought for £25 each. Frank sells them for £27.50, he says; the 3,000 mark self-opening rooflight; a purchasing mistake that Frank said he would give away; 100no oak and steel doors from Wuppertal Prison. £100 each or would swap...

unemployed people. “I was loading a lorry by myself last week and I asked these two guys to come and help me. I even offered to pay them, but they said no – I couldn’t believe it. Nobody wants to work here anymore.”

Last year his self-confessed parsimony nearly killed him when he tried to dislodge a wasps nest from the 10m high eaves of his warehouse.

“I fell off the ladder when the bloody things started to attack me,” he said, “when I came round all covered in blood, I didn’t know where I was. I crawled to the office, about 150 metres, and managed to phone Wilma, and told her I didn’t know where I was. Luckily she did and I spent nine months in hospital. I’ve damaged my brain that’s why I’m so stupid,” he quipped.

He’s got an Oliver Reed build, and seems to have a similar constitution, tough as old boots. When asked why he didn’t call the local pest control he said that he didn’t want to pay money to get rid of the wasps.

He professes to lose money on everything he buys in England because the prices are too high these days. “They treat me like a bloody foreigner,” he says, “they don’t understand that my clients want everything for nothing. I really like the English. I need container loads of the stuff. I can pay very quickly for large quantities.”

These days Christian Seekopp is helping his dad with the business. Christian is a trained lawyer, a keen hunter, and is learning the trade — which he enjoys — pending a decision on his future. It is actually Wilma’s business. In future Frank and Wilma hope to retire to South Africa. They have been out there a few times and love the climate, as well as the fact that people there don’t mind hard work. Germany has gone downhill as far as he is concerned and he would be happy to leave.

“I’m going to meet an eccentric Englishman in South Africa … you never know he might be interested in buying something from me … he’s a rich eccentric … the best sort …” We’re not aware whether there is an architectural antiques trade in South Africa, but despite his impending retirement it is hard to imagine that Franz won’t be in there trying to create a market.

It is rumoured that there are plenty of old villas, constructed by aspirant colonists from Europe with imported items, built but never lived in, and now recaptured by the jungle. If they exist, no doubt Franz will be seeking them out in a one man dogout canoe. “I really like the natives, but they want too much for the hire of their dogouts…”

Contact Frank or Christian Seekopp on +49 2332 60522, +49 2332 54447 or mobile +49 17180 32615. Fax +49 2332 61660.

Frank & Wilma — Vielen dank für den abend, das war sehr nett von ihnen & I hope your reputation survives this article!

... and lastly a rush round the biggest boom town in the world town Shanghai...

Rapid changes in Leipzig … in one year 60,000 telephones were installed … every pavement in every street seems to be up … gas … water … power … many roads are potholed (although roads have improved immensely in three years) and apartments are being refurbished by cheap imported contractors. Leipzig is the second largest construction site in the world after Shanghai. Big incentives to develop will end in five years threatening to turn the current property boom into a slump. Much material is being chucked into skips — the usual thing — doors’ windows, flooring, poles, bathroom gear, and thousands of tons of bricks. The level of demolition waste has increased from 108m tonnes in 1987 to 140m in 1992.

New Saxon recycling laws were passed in 1993 and a campaign started to “Avoid Waste before Recycling” on construction sites. For refurbishment works to old buildings a schedule of re-use within the project is agreed, drawn up by a Building Inspector. If re-use is not an option then disposal for recycling is preferred, and even mandatory for certain classes of items like bricks and wood, while some materials are allowed to be tipped — but we’re not sure which and neither was Leipzig Council. One of around ten demolition contractors in the Leipzig area are licensed to carry out demolition and clearance. They are paid extra to recycle. However no-one checks to ensure that materials are recycled. Bricks are never reclaimed — there is no market for any reclaimed materials — but are recycled for re-use as hardcore. Timber is supposed to be burnt for energy recovery, but is we believe just burnt since there are no recovery plants within a 100 miles of Leipzig. However we lack detail in this department. We phoned a couple of approved demolition contractors.

“We can come to see your recycling depot?” we asked.

“You want to buy something — then we start talking, but you can’t see the yard.” I drove down anyway to see if I could get a peep — the premises had massive earth banks, electric fences and TV cameras. Sophisticated even by demolition contractor’s standards.

We visited the House of Demokratie and spoke to two young guys at ökolowe — a green building group.

A feasibility study had been carried out on setting up a reclamation yard. Highly technical, it proved that reclamation was not commercially viable. “What value did you place on the bricks? Did you visit yards in the West, in England for instance.” None and no. They had heard that some greens were setting one up in Berlin (only 100 miles to the north) but no contact had been made.

We decide to speak to people on the ground and approach two guys demolishing some small 19th century brick houses.

“These pine floorboards retail for 5 deut- schmarks a metre in Britain.”

“They’re firewood here, pal. We have to separate all the waste — its the law here in Leipzig — but the contractors who take it away burn all the wood. Sometimes they cut it and bundle it for kindling, but most people have coal burning stoves. There’s little demand. There is no market in reclaimed bricks — it’s not worth reclaiming them,” one man says.

“What happens to all the features from the house?”

“There’s never anything left by the time we
arrive, the Dutch organise stripping of anything antique — door knobs and light fittings. I also heard of a few lorries with sets that went to Holland, but this was stopped because the transport costs were too high.

There are a few antique dealers in Leipzig. We phone one who sounds likely.

"I sometimes buy stoves and garden items but I’ve nothing in stock at the moment. There’s no demand here and in any case even if there was, dealers from the West always outbid me."

"How is the market organised. Do the dealers approach owners prior to demolition and offer to buy things?"

"Not that I know of," she says, "they simply look for empty buildings and take the stuff."

"So the deal is:

No ... well ... no-one wants that kind of thing here. Life under the communists meant we always had to re-use everything. Now everyone demands just import somebody else’s materials."

We tried Leipzig’s building department.

"There is a system for recycling building waste. If a building is to be demolished an inspector must see it first. If it is listed and to be refurbished he must agree what is left in and what can be removed. He also schedules all the items that must be recycled and agree what is left in and what can be removed. He also schedules all the items that must be recycled and which can be tipped."

"Once the schedule has been drawn up, who checks that the owner/contractor actually does ‘recycle’ items?" we ask.

"All demolition work must be carried out by approved contractors who recycle the material."

"OK but how do you know that the material is actually recycled?" we ask.

"All demolition work must be carried out by approved contractors who recycle the material."

German is a federation, and within each federal state, cities have their own laws. The system is guided by tiers of legislation. Listed Building and recycling laws are different from place to place, but all are governed by targets set in Bonn, by the German national government. Although Leipzig is a former East German city, it is typical, and now has all the legislative framework of other West German cities. After re-unification a mayor was elected from Hanover (in the West) and many retired Wessies came out of retirement to help with re-organising aspects of life there, industry in particular.

The poor, but happy, formerly communal lives of East Germans is being shaken to the core. Leipzig was where the allotment movement was founded in the 1820s and where children’s playgrounds were invented shortly afterwards. Most of the inhabitants live in flats during the week, and in tiny timber cottages and sheds on verdant allotments outside the city at the weekend. Taking a country of 60 million and adding another much poorer, but socially richer, of 20 million has led to problems. Leipzig’s cars are a mixture of new BMWs and Mercedes jostling with Trabants, nothing in between, echoing the lives of East Germans some of whom have become very well off, but most poorer.

To the outside world Germany is an efficient economic dynamo. Inside Germany it is a frail alliance of federal politics, a country who dismiss its contribution to war in late 19th and 20th century Europe as a natural consequence of the deep-seated insecurity of its inhabitants, and to the national immaturity of a country only formed in 1870. In any case, they argue, was not Britain imperialist for hundreds of years and well into this century, along with most other European countries at one time or another?

The leadership of the EU Demolition Waste Streams drafting committee by Germany and Denmark is playing into the hands of the recycling lobby, and is against reclamation. Reiner Piltz calls it ‘down-cycling’. He says that Germans do not understand the concept of reclamation, and one of his current options is to establish a yard outside Berlin. A problem is that Reiner, and other Germans, have said that no-one will carry out menial task like cleaning bricks. Everything is geared to high-technology solutions even if this brings about futher problems. So reclamation in Germany requires imported labour. This appears to be the reason that Germans buy UK architectural antiques; rather than import labour to run a business to reclaim your own material, leave the labour where it is, and just import somebody else’s materials.

A national agency was set up to handle the recycling of domestic waste, paid for by a levy on packaging at the point of sale, known as the green punk. This levy finds its way back to the national recycling agency who then pay contractors to carry out the recycling. In all German streets long lines of bins are placed outside flats, black ones for mixed waste, and brown ones (full of maggots) for compostable waste. Metal is left each week in a neat pile by these bins. Every 100 metres or so is a rank of larger wheelie bins for different colour glass, plastics and paper. These are immaculately tidy. People don’t just throw things into the bins, but neatly stack the material inside. It’s the German way. I tried to imagine it in England — every morning it would be turned wheelie bin chaos in the local parks.

Every three months an area of each town in Germany will have a free collection of larger unwanted items such as furniture. This is heaped up in the street two weeks or so before the collection is due. Here you can find anything from windows to wallpaper, and take it away free. Hit the right area at the right time and you could make a fortune, although professional rummaging is frowned on.

The outcome of this careful waste separation is questionable. Everyone I spoke to said that most of the waste is mixed up and chucked back into landfill sites. Some claim that this happens on the street when the bin men come. So why bother separating? Some people are so diligent that they have no mixed waste at all — everything is separated for recycling. But no-one seems to believe that more than a small percentage actually is recycled. The costs of recycling is met by the consumer, and this money is given to a waste disposal agency, but policing is questionable. Until recently waste was shifted across national boundaries to France and even England, much of it toxic. This has officially been stopped, so where is the waste going now?

As Germans lead the European movement in recycling, so they lead Europe in secrecy about disposal. One suspects that some businesses are making a fortune out of this mess. German’s domestic waste and demolition waste recycling would not matter if it were not for the fact that where Germans go, the rest of Europe must follow. The Germans’ lack of coordination between the production of waste and its disposal is evident. You can be a sincere recycling consumer openly separating your waste to the delight of your neighbours, or you can employ specially licensed professional recyclers to sort out your demolition waste, but if you run a demolition company you must be covert, you must be paid or subsidised, you must be highly mechanised, and if you run a reclamation company, as far as most Germans are concerned — you must be completely mad.

A big Salvo thankyou to Aga Schewermann for help with translations, accommodation and phone calls etc — THANKYOU
A Salvo-style glimpse at a one person demolition rescue and trade supply business

**DORCHESTER RE克拉ATION**

Keir Lewis moved from a respectable career in marine surveying when the difficulties of sourcing items that he had seen tipped everyday, exactly when needed to restore his house, prompted him into the course of a latterday Tolpuddle martyr—and he started a reclamation yard.

He seems to have inherited this idiosyncratic tendency from his school-teacher father, who successfully attempted the single-handed rescue of the pennant platform of GWR Grimstone Station, three miles away, in 1963, when it became obvious that it would otherwise go to the tip. His dad then proceeded to turn his family home, a respectable 1960s number, into a medieval manor house—sounds interesting, but no photos unfortunately.

Keir actually still had bits of the railway station years later (and may even have re-sold some to the present occupiers of the converted station—my notes aren’t clear) and it was partly because these bits had to be moved that spurred

Below: Elements of a wooden conservatory, Victorian, forming a 9ft high three sided structure with 5ft deep sides and a 25ft long frontage c/w original Victorian glass (some damages). The roof timbers were simple pine glazing bars. £350 the lot.

Above: Looking rather like something from a Castlemaine 4X ad, the front of the main showrooms at Dorchester Rec. On the left an old chamfered Ham Stone door case £350 42in wide x 86in high would make a good simple fire surround with pieces left over. Below the doorcase is a kale forcer impressed ‘Sankeys Ltd, Bulwell, Notts’ and not shown is a good selection of gardenalia including traditional zincplated watering cans at £3–£4 each.

Above: Two of three Roman, Celtic, neolithic ... or perhaps 18th century columns from an old livestock market in Bridport Town. They had been re-used at least once before according to Keir. £2,000 the set. approx 8ft high 24in dia.

Above: This unprepossessing shot shows some of a large quantity of heavy materials stocked, as well as, in the background 36no 7ft long x 6ft high park railing c1920 for £1,000. On the left a large quantity of Blue Lias kerb at £2 ft run and on the right, Portland Rubble, much sought after for garden work. Also available is granite kerb at £3 ft run. Unpriced are a load of blue/black quarry tiles, sash weights, gutter, ridge, bricks and roof tiles.
the commencement of Dorchester Reclamation five years ago. Having created a local network of suppliers, Keir is particularly concerned, as is fellow Dorset dealer Peter Randle at ACE Demolition, of the increasing difficulties of dealing with local planners, and the 'one law for council employees and their friends, and another law for the rest of us' situation, well known and increasingly documented throughout the well-to-do areas of Britain.

Winterborne Abbas is not over-burdened with house restorers, so Keir has concentrated on building a business buying materials, locally and in France* — he is a fluent French francophile — to supply the exigent English trade. He trades on a storage-only site of mini-units converted from redundant farm buildings, with no retail usage. This has contributed to the Trade Only facet of Dorchester Rec.

Mr Lewis welcomes trade visitors, preferably by appointment, and says there is usually 'some room for movement' in his prices.

Contact Keir Lewis at Dorchester Reclamation, Winterborne Abbas (by appointment only) on 0305 889779, 0860 859358 or 0305 264927.

*He has ordered a copy of the Salvo French Dealer's Directory 'so I know where to avoid in future' as he politely puts it. There's no hiding place Keir, but the chances of meeting one of the 20 directory buyers on any given day in France at one of the 2000 businesses listed must be around 100,000 to 1. So, bon chining mate!

Below: Large ranges and kitchenalia but not shown enamelled mincers at £3 small and £11 large, and five various old wooden drainers at £25-£45 each. Not so cheap is the Raeburn (?) in its desirable and original light blue enamel — a snip at £750 negotiable! Fire surrounds, not shown, include enamelled slate, Bath Stone, unusual tooled Blue Lias, Dove Grey Marble and Pine.
Top lot at Sotheby's Billingshurst sale on 28 September was £23,000 (est £20-30k) paid by a private UK buyer for a set of four seasons by Giuseppe Lazzein. The sale raised a total of £304,209 and Jackie Rees was reported to be tired but happy at the result. Among the surprises, more of which in the next SalvoNews, two Val d'Ose gothic garden chairs - well pitted - went to a London dealer for £2,600. They were unusual, since this model is normally only seen as a bench ... even so £2,600. Phew.

Peter Hone, of London's top garden repro house Clifton Little Venice was defeated by destiny when he failed to secure a dinosaur coprolite which soared to £400 - double the estimate. Peter phlegmatically dismissed his failure "I was defeated by destiny", he told us, "I was relishing a Salvo headline like HONE SLIPS FROM COADETO CRAP but it was not to be." The successful bidder, clearly a jurassic buff, added to Sotheby's embarrassment over the Coprolite/Copralite slip up by announcing that the catalogue photograph [above left] showed it upside down. "Maybe, but you knew it was worth a pile", came the reply.

Apparently, the normal gaggle of dealers at the back of the tent were not present at the start of the sale. Unperturbed at the breakdown of Billingshurst's antique PA system, Mr James Rylands, the auctioneer, started off using a loud unamplified voice. "Can everyone hear?" he asked. "If there were anyone at the back, they wouldn't be able to", came Hone's quick-witted and ascerbic reply.

On a more serious note, a set of twelve apostles from Gorton Friary by Edward Welby Pugin were withdrawn at the last minute after representations from Manchester City Council. They had been removed in August 1993 with verbal confirmation that consent was not required, which was affirmed again before the sale. However, a photograph appearing in the Times a few days before the sale triggered a rethink, and MCC asked that they be withdrawn pending a re-appraisal, to which request Sotheby's agreed despite the lack of any firm listing evidence.

The Bossi lookalike raised an over-estimate £12,075 but Nigel Bartlett fought off the competition to win a white statuary chimneypiece flanked by jambs carved with drooping rams heads. Claiming it be a design of William Chambers, he successfully bid £21,275 against a £6k to £10k estimate.

Full report with photos in the next SalvoNews plus Reclamation Services' auction.

**SOTHEBY'S: CORSINI PALACE**

In what the French Trade described as a cynical estimating exercise, the sale of old decorative items from the Corsini Palace in Florence which took place on 26, 27 and 28 September resulted in a take of £2.2m against a total estimated of around £1m.

Around 8,000 came to the view and 900 struggled to get bids in on sale days for the 2,000 lots. Italians went for the hundreds of decorative lots. Once again, lots were withdrawn under pressure from local municipal conservationists, and others banned from export including a chair and daybed initialled JB - Joseph Bonaparte - much vaunted by the French Trade, who naturally demurred from buying them under an export stop, and which subsequently failed to reach the £200,000 estimate.

**COMING UP ...**

Christie's Scotland are planning a sale of Paintings and Sculpture by Women Artists from the 17th century to the present day on December 1st. Call...

---

**SOBTHEY’S: £384k AT BILLINGSHURST**

**PETER HONE IN COPROLITE SHOCK**

Above: This Pare Feu sold for 33,000 F (€4,000) at the 25 september sale in Arachon, France held by Tolédano. The firescreen dating from the 1920s was not impressed but dealers felt it was from the school of deco metalworker Edgar BRANDT (1880-1960) who created a new language for continental metalwork and is much sought after now, hence the doubling of the estimate.

Alexander Meddowes on 01413 328134 or fax 01413 325759.

Regis Thiollet, Argenteuil announce la vente prochaine avec vitraux, cheminées, mobiliers de jardin, statuaire, boiseries sera mardi 22 novembre. Téléphone 1 39 61 01 50 or fax 1 39 61 34 77 [France]
**SALVO MONTHLY No 23 October 94 + SalvoNews 99 tuesday 11 October 1994**

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### CUMBRIA

**Stolen from a house in Co Limerick on 31 July 1994.**
Pair of STONE LIONS approx 30in high. Lower Jaws missing.
any info to: Askeaton Garda 061 392102 or (owner?) 069 64030
crime ref no: none given

source: atg

---

### LANCASHIRE

**Stolen from a Graveyard in Lytham on 18 August 1994.**
Lead Putti approx 24in high.
any info to: PC Roy Eckersley 0253 736222

crime ref no: NB576/94

source: atg

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### LANGSHIRE

**Stolen from a Garden in Moreton-in-the-Marsh on 31 August 1994.**
Pair of CHINESE BRONZE DOLPHINS approx 39in high.

any info to: Moreton in the Marsh police on 0608 650324
Cheltenham Police on 0242 521321

crime ref no: 41301/94

source: salvo

RECOVERY COSTS WILL BE MET BY THE OWNER

---

### PARIS, France

**Volée 13 juillet 1994 à Paris – Sainte Anne en pierre, 1m h sur socle avec instruction “Ste Anne priez pour nous 15...”**
any info to: Salvo

crime ref no: 32313

source: lg

---

### GLOUCESTERSHIRE

**Stolen from somewhere in the Thames Valley on 21 April 1994.**
1no cast iron Chairs and 1no Bench.

any info to: DC Jim Hill, Thames Valley Antiques Officer on 0865 846395

crime ref no: EE 3567/94

source: atg

---

### BERKSHIRE

**Stolen from GARDEN ART, Hungerford in early September 1994.**
18th century Italian, hand carved Vicenza, statue of Female, half life-size.

any info to: 01488 681861 and ask for Tara

crime ref no: FB0153339

source: salvo

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### THAMES VALLEY

**Stolen from a Graveyard in Lytham on 18 August 1994.**
Lead Putti approx 24in high.
any info to: PC Roy Eckersley 0253 736222

crime ref no: NB576/94

source: atg

---

### LILLE, France

**Volées le 21 juillet 1994 région de Lille**
Deux Minerves (Sphynx) en fonte peintes en blanc avec une patte avant gauche cassée.

any info to: Salvo

crime ref no: 31311

source: lg
UK POLICE ANTIQUES SQUADS

Avon & Somerset Antiques Squad
WDCs Pat Ross & Helen Kenally
tel 0275 816730

Brighton Antiques Officer
Sergeant Muggleton
tel 0273 606744

Hampshire Antiques Officer
DC Malcolm Craig
tel 0962 854992 ext 2301 or 1466
fax 0962 866351

Kent Antiques Officer
DC Alan Minter
tel 0622 654674

Scotland Yard Antiques Squad
tel 071 230 4344

Thames Valley Antiques Officer
DC Jim Hill
tel 0865 846395

West Yorkshire Antiques Officer
DC Peter Craven, Div HQ Huddersfield
tel: 0483 422122 ext 36626
direct line: 0484 436626
fax: 0484 436679

Stolen from St Peter and St Paul's Church, Klinin in Koszalin region, on 2 July 1993
Four Apostles, 18thC, high relief wall sculptures in polychrome wood 55cm h
any info to: Salvo
crime ref no: kat PC 99-73, 100-74, 101-75 and 102-76
source: a&b

Stolen from St Nicholas' Church in Leszno on 7 June 1993
C1720 Saint, unpainted wood, pulpit detail
any info to: Salvo*
crime ref no: kat PC 103-77
source: a&b

Stolen from the St Cross Church in Sucha Koszalinska in September 1993
Two Virtues, Fidelity and Faith, 17thC, high relief wall sculptures, polychromed
limewood 50-60cm h
any info to: Salvo*
crime ref no: kat PC 114-88, 115-89
source: a&b

Salvo Theft Alerts are now on disc. If you have a Macintosh, and subscribe to SalvoNews you can have a free trial copy of Salvo Stolen. The system works via pages of thumbnail photographic images which call up individual stolen items complete with full descriptions and a large photograph, so you can quickly track down a suspect object. Early next year we hope to have an IBM Windows version.
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Country Living Magazine
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Photos by Christopher Sykes.
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1994 AUTUMN LECTURES
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BUILDING OF BATH MUSEUM

For details of events please telephone
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THE GEORGIAN GROUP

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thurs 13 Oct
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sat 15 Oct 2pm
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guide: Charles Hind

wed 19 Oct
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Nether Wichendon, Hartwell House

fri 21 Oct (leave London 4pm)
Night at the Opera: Glyndebourne
The Barber of Seville

sat 22 Oct 10am
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The Picturesque

for details of membership contact:
The Georgian Group,
37 Spital Square, London E1 6DY,
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