Carl Dumke's road to becoming a Master hornmaker is unlike any other—those who have previously traveled down this path. At best, it is a difficult and arduous journey as substantiated by the fact that it has been five years since any Guild member has advanced to the level of Master Horner. This is not a feat that can be accomplished in a short period of time. It took Carl about a year from concept to reality, to complete his project which does not include the time taken to research and prepare his oral presentation. It takes dedication, patience and perseverance in addition to research, planning, time in the shop, and coping with setbacks and unexpected obstacles being placed in one's path.

In accordance with the Guild's Standing Rules, for anyone to become a Master Horn maker, an individual must demonstrate "a superior level of ability in carving, handling and pressing, turning, engraving, and integrating woods and metals with cow horn by presenting three horn objects that demonstrate his or her ability to the Awards Committee for evaluation," plus "give an original written and oral presentation on some aspect of horn work or its history. Simply stating, working descriptions of objects do not meet this requirement. The resulting consensus is that a Master must be able to give five formal public presentations. The Guild is only as good as its membership and especially those bestowed with the title of Master Horner. As such, Standing Rule #1 would be upheld and all requirements fully met.

What is your reaction?

Everyone's attention is directed toward you and the Guildmaster inquires that although you were told you could give a demonstration, are you prepared to give a formal presentation? Do you (1) protest the requirement, (2) request an exemption in light of the circumstances, (3) request a delay in giving your presentation till next year, or (4) meet your commitment to demonstrate engraving as part of the Interactive Masters’ & Journeymen’s Workshop? A truly extraordinary decision and response. On Saturday morning at 10 o'clock, Carl stood before a filled room and gave a 45 minute presentation entitled The Hornbook. His class was excellent and all those in attendance enjoyed the in-depth, well researched and professional presentation. The basis for his class was a 52 page manuscript authored and published in 2013 entitled The Hornbook - A Study of History, Form & Function. It is well researched and written, contains excellent supporting photographs and in a must have publication that is highly recommended for horn workers, collectors and educators alike.

Near the close of events on Saturday, the judging for those submitting work for advancement to Journeymen and Master took place. One could easily sum up Karl’s efforts on the day by looking at the display that Carl would easily pass the requirements for advancement to Master. Why is this story being told? It is simply because it clearly demonstrates that Carl possesses those artistic and leadership qualities possessed by the other Masters and that he more than qualifies to become a part of this elite group.

All Master Horners are truly unique individuals and each new member in the Horn Book and appropriately depicted. John Proud quilt, involved, thorough / Lee Larkin- serious, studious, researcher extraordinaire / Willy Frankfort- artist, designer, fighter / Carl Dumke- a must have publication that is highly recommended for horn workers, collectors and educators alike. The Horn Book - A Study of History, Form & Function. It is well researched and written, contains excellent supporting photographs and in a must have publication that is highly recommended for horn workers, collectors and educators alike. The Horn Book - A Study of History, Form & Function. It is well researched and written, contains excellent supporting photographs and in a must have publication that is highly recommended for horn workers, collectors and educators alike.

The mechanical spout is a turned horn with a key to open and close the valve, it is attached to the body by a piece of turned tiger maple. The spout plug is shaped antler crown attached to the body by brass clasp. The body of the flask is a band of horn, between two pieces of tiger maple. The brassed Whether horn is attached to the body by turned, carved antler rings. The rings are fixed to the body by brass oak leaves with a fine coil wrapped around them. The cord comes together with a knotted Spanish knot ending in turned horn bolts over raw mane fur tassels. The front and back are fringed while horn enclosed with a European style & woven with the back engraved with a blowing horn.

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