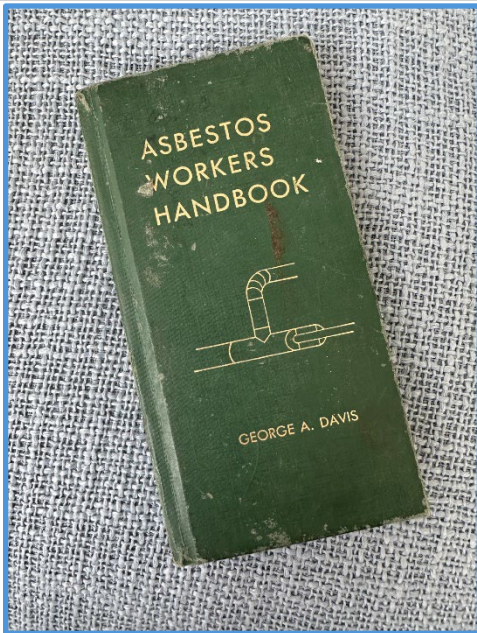


ASBESTOS GEEK PIC OF THE WEEK

March 13, 2024

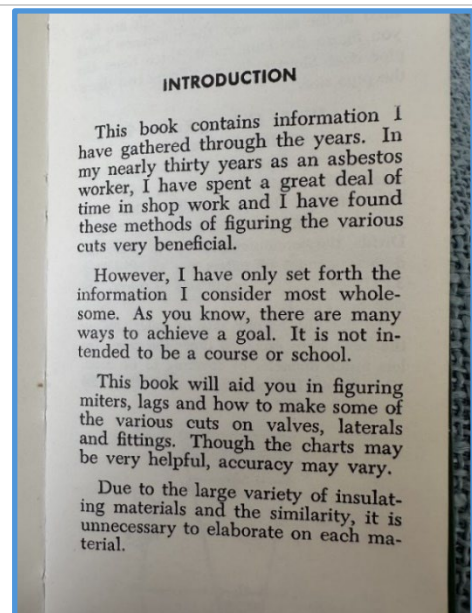


A weekly post featuring pictures of asbestos-related artifacts from the private collection of Andy Rowland, CIH – Principal at IMPRIMIS Forensic Health & Safety.



This week's pic has a lot of sentimental value, and it probably looks familiar to many of you. One of these handbooks was issued to me by the warehouse man, John Smith, when I began work at our small family-owned insulation contracting company. The shop was located in North Charleston (SC) just outside the Navy Yard gate and adjacent to the GARCO plant (i.e., General Asbestos & Rubber Company). Everyone who did insulation work at the Navy Base had one of these booklets in his canvas tool bag. It was the insulators' bible.

You may notice that the title of the handbook and the term used by Mr. Davis to identify his trade both include the same language, "Asbestos Worker". What we need to consider is that at the time of the creation of this handbook (late 1950s) virtually all who did insulation work were referred to as *Asbestos Workers*. Since almost all insulation products used at the time included asbestos, the terms "insulation" and "asbestos" were interchangeable. If you read the Davis-Bacon Act of 1931, keep in mind that when they refer to Asbestos Workers they mean those who install insulation, not those who work on asbestos abatement crews.



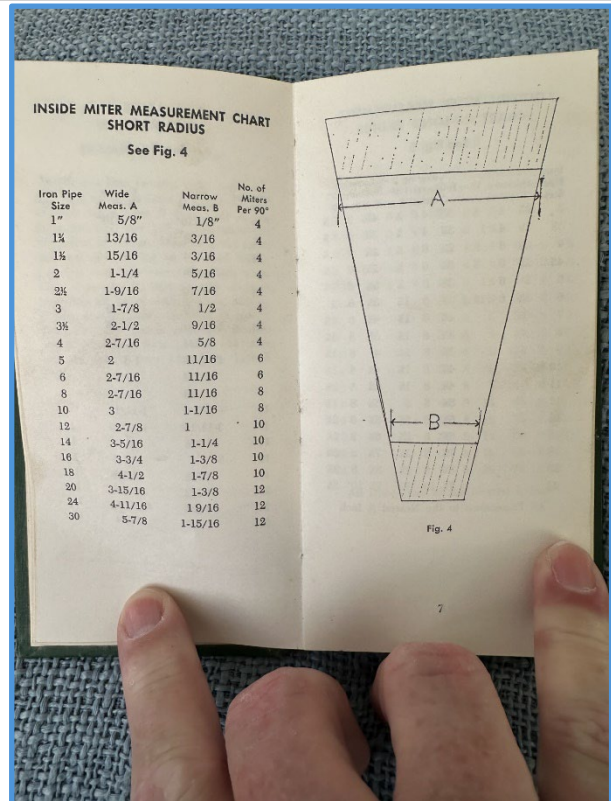
IMPRIMIS

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If you skim through the table of contents (below), you can see that the handbook provided helpful instruction on many critical subjects and techniques that an Insulator must master - Basic Geometry, Nomenclature, Calculating Surface Areas, Standard Dimensions for Pipe Fittings, Designing Miters, Thermal Conductivity, etc.

In a period that predated handheld calculators, the **Asbestos Workers Handbook** was indispensable.

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