

A Craftsman's Journey

Presentation to Suncoast Woodcrafters Guild

David Cunningham
FINE FURNITURE & WOODWORKING



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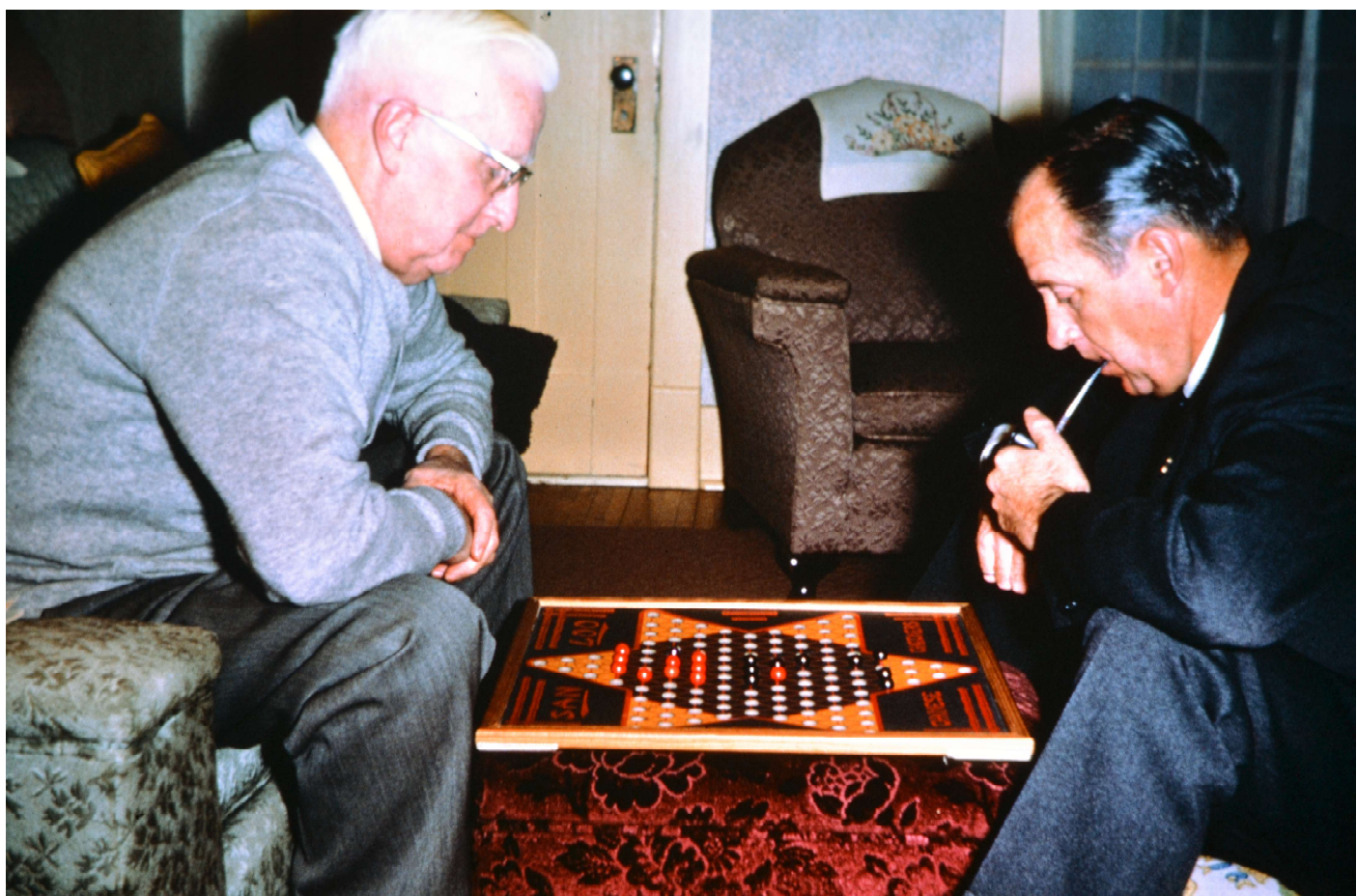
Artist's Statement

Wood is my principal creative medium. I delight in the way it records all the years and cycles of its growing life and bestows the evidence of that life upon the objects shaped from it. As an artist with a background in cabinet making and exhibition design, my attitude towards wood has change considerably over time. My early training and apprenticeship with an older generation of European cabinet-makers stressed ideals of "perfection" and control in relationship to the natural material. I was instructed to cut the wood into pieces and reassemble it into the desired shapes of furniture, hiding or removing any of the naturally occurring "flaws" such as knots and end grain.

However, the imposition of control over the material has since given way to respecting its grain, colour and knots and the natural cycles they represent, and allowing these qualities to direct the look of the finished piece.

This altered approach to woodworking is the result of my close observations of and collaborations with First Nations artist at the Museum of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia. Like them, I have come to make judgements based more on the hand and the eye and the natural character of the wood rather than on a European sense of measurement and control.

My recent work and other sculptural object occupies a cusp between the functional and non-functional. I the enjoy the subversive act of taking a box or table and mounting it on the wall, disrupting its contact and altering its utility. Part of my challenge is to work with found, discarded or recycled wood, locally grown, and to dress it myself. My total absorption in my task comes from the sense I have of working with a warm and responsive material, one that is both witness to and metaphor for life.

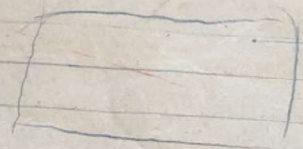






24" RADIUS

Handle 3/4" x 1 1/2"



HANDLE



FACE

SIDE

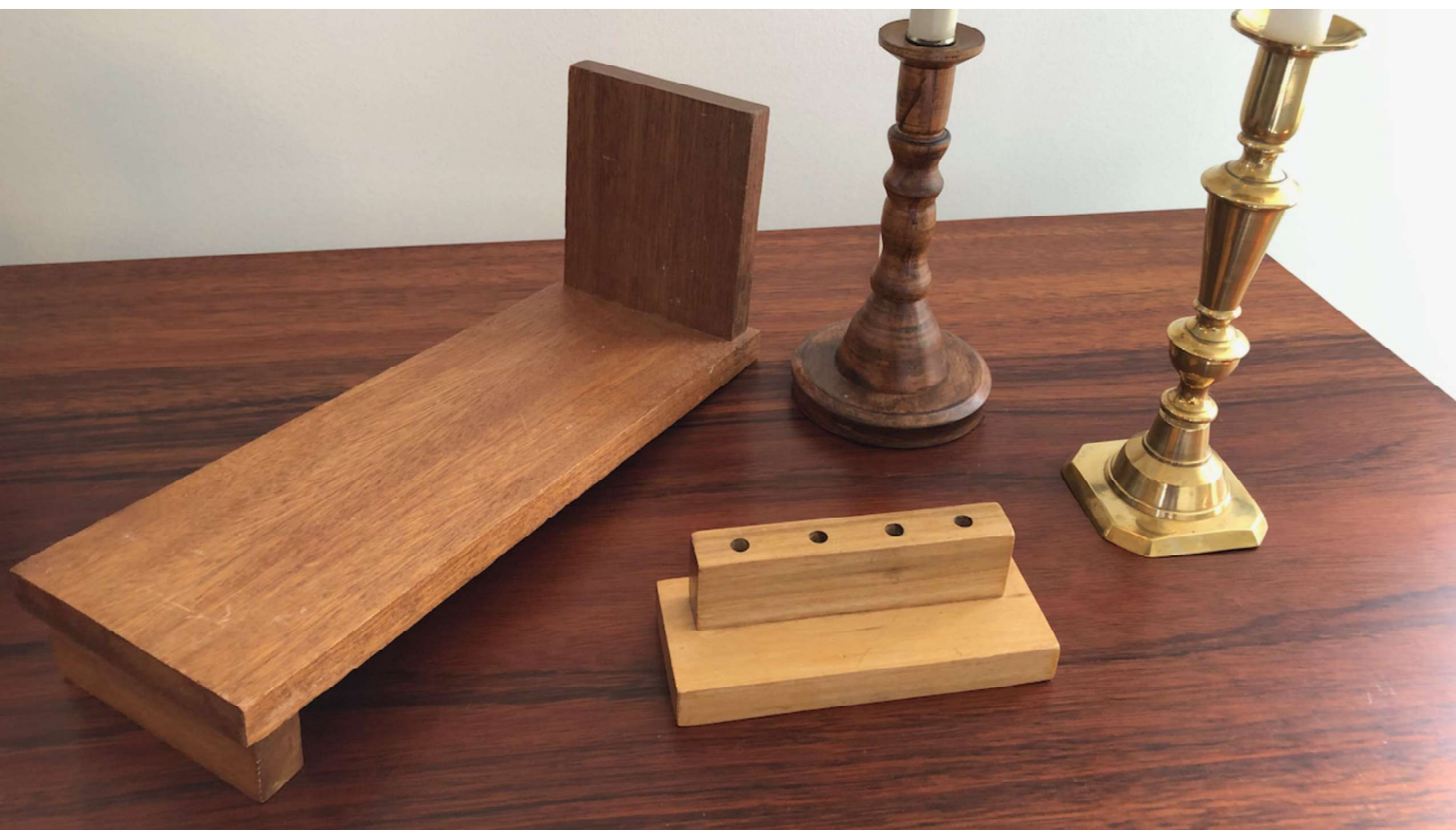
MOLETTE

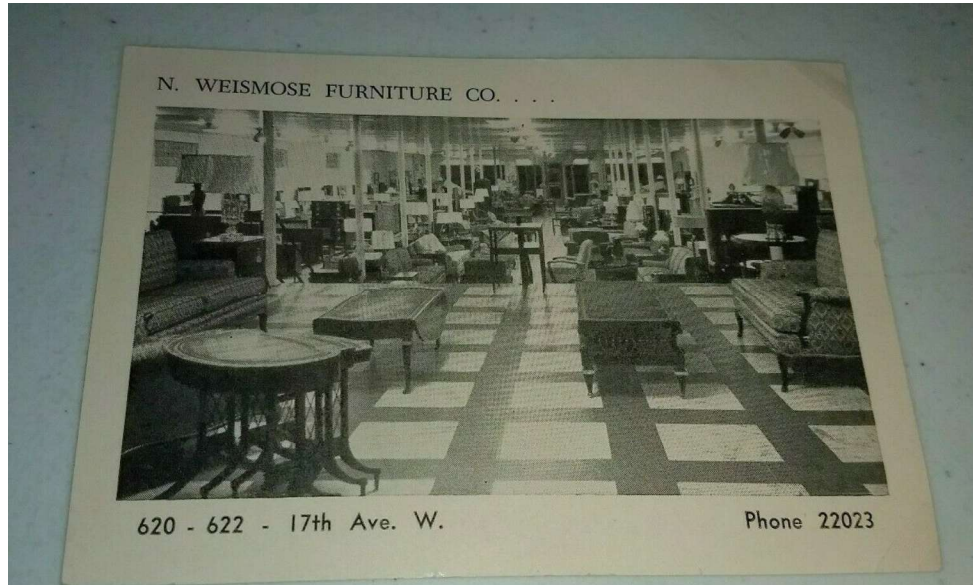
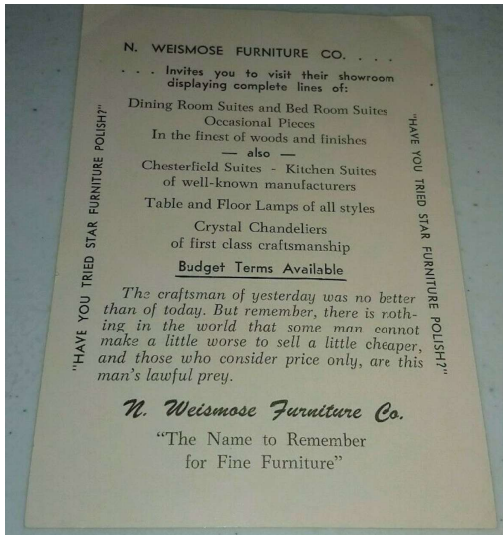
HANDLE $\frac{3}{4} \times 1 \frac{5}{8}$





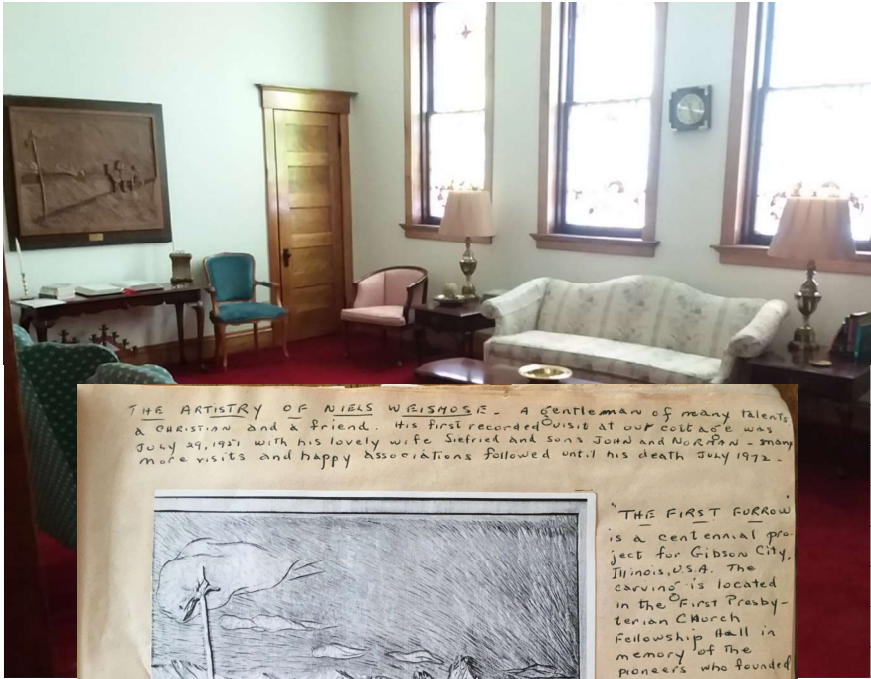






Neils Weismose, 1904-1972, was born in Viborg, Denmark. He apprenticed as a cabinet maker and wood carver, and subsequently worked at his trade in Venice, Milan, and Paris. He settled in Calgary, Alberta in 1927 and established a furniture repair business in the Mount Royal district the following year. In 1946 he began retail furniture sales, and the business was later incorporated as Weismose Furniture Ltd. The business was located at 620 - 17th Avenue SW. Mr. Weismose was also well known for his artistic wood carving, and as a violinist in the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra. Following his death, the furniture business was taken over by his son, Norman. It was later reorganized as Weismose Furniture (1975) Ltd. In 1980 Peter VanLeeuwen bought the business from the family. The store closed in 1995.

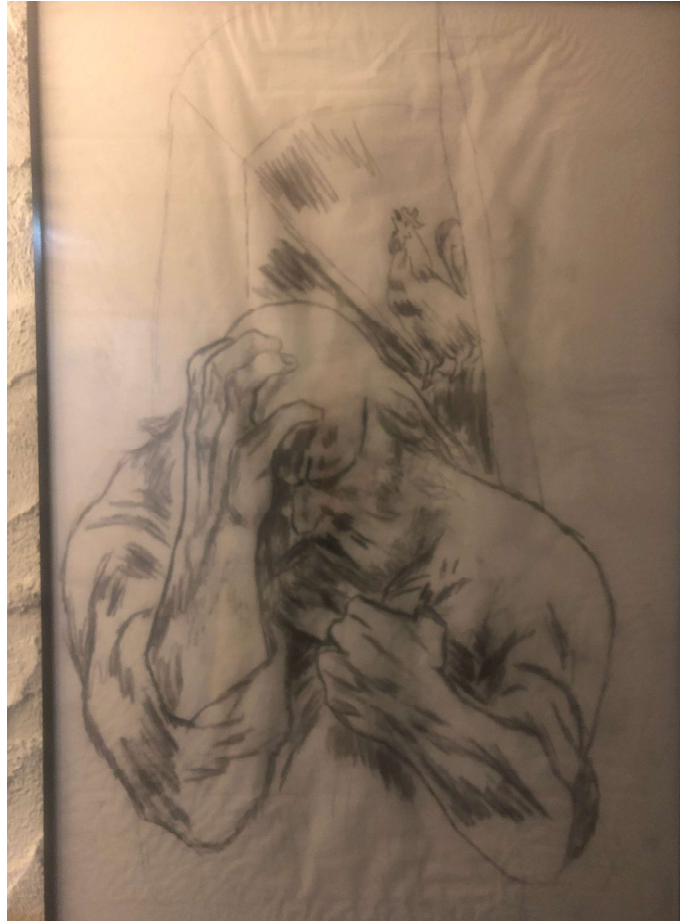




THE ARTISTRY OF NIELS WEISGOSIE - A gentleman of many talents
A Christian and a friend. His first recorded visit at our college was
July 29, 1921 with his lovely wife Siefried and sons John and Nor-Pan - many
more visits and happy associations followed until his death July 1972.



THE FIRST FURROW
is a centennial pro-
ject for Gibson City,
Illinois, U.S.A. The
carving is located
in the First Presby-
terian Church
Fellowship Hall in
memory of the
pioneers who founded
Gibson City in 1871.

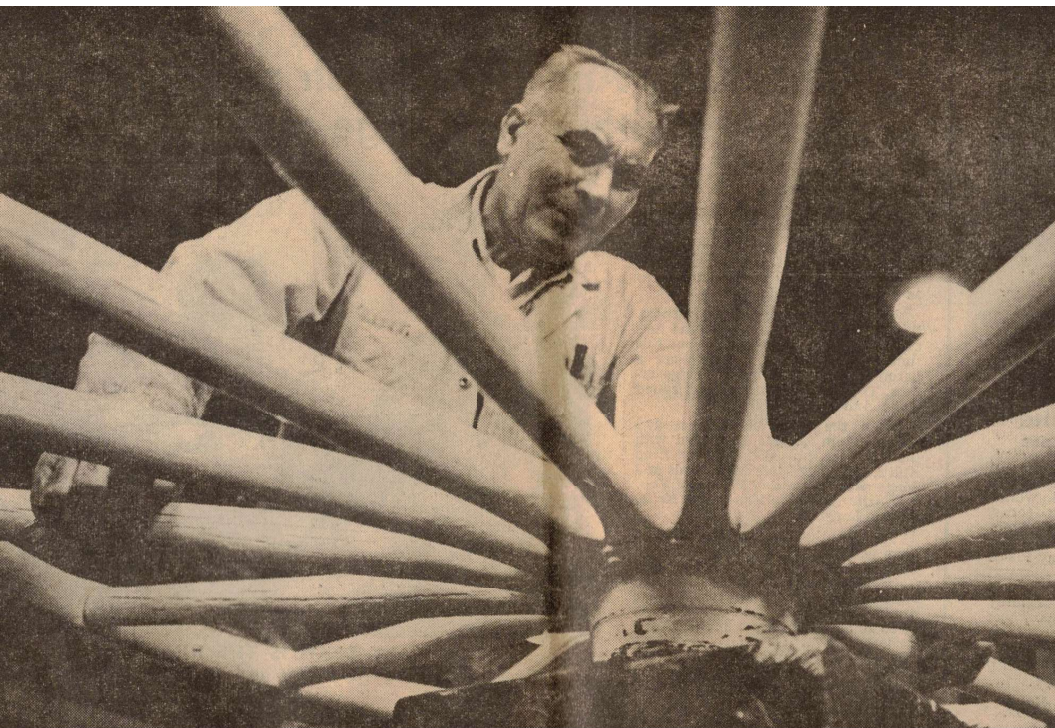








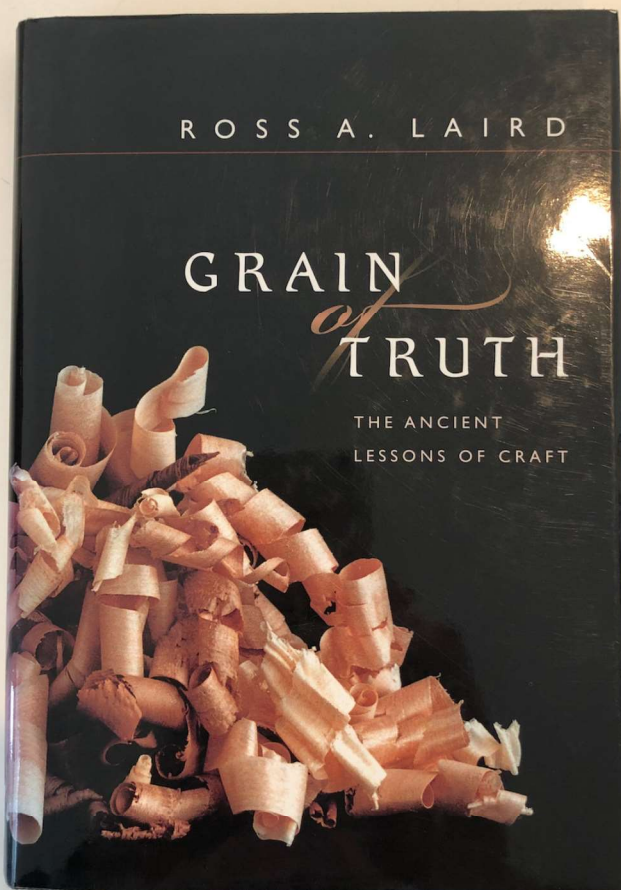




<https://remingtoncarriagemuseum.ca>

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=remington%20carriage%20cardston%20alberta>

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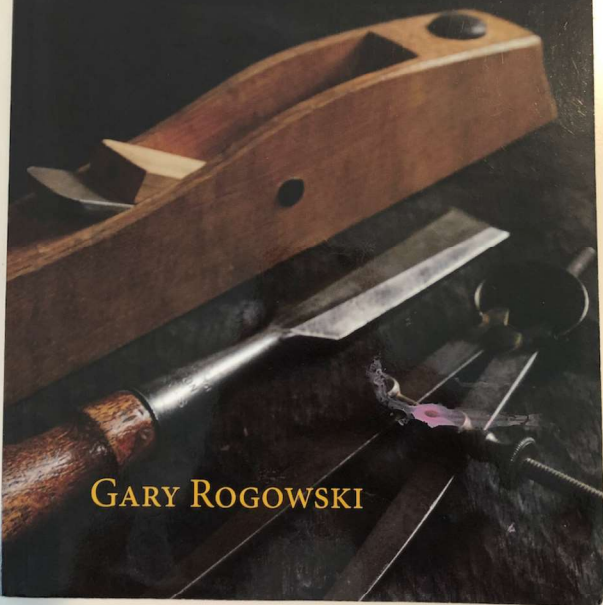
"Gary Rogowski leads us gently but surely upon the path to a type of success we may not have previously considered. (Hint: it involves blisters)."

—NICK OFFERMAN

woodworker and author of *Paddle Your Own Canoe*

HANDMADE

Creative Focus in the Age of Distraction



GARY ROGOWSKI

WHY WE MAKE THINGS AND WHY IT MATTERS

The Education of a Craftsman

PETER KORN

