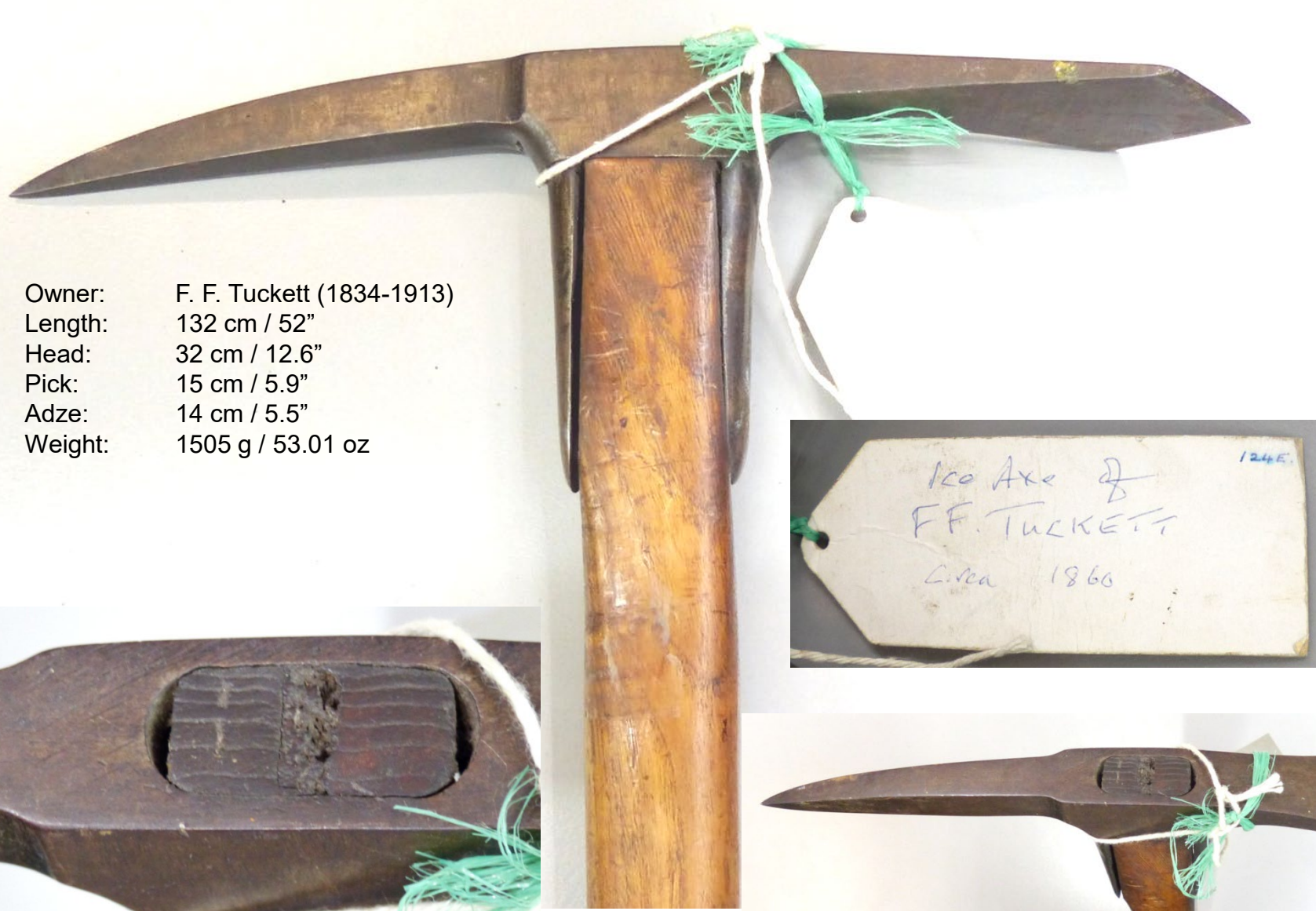


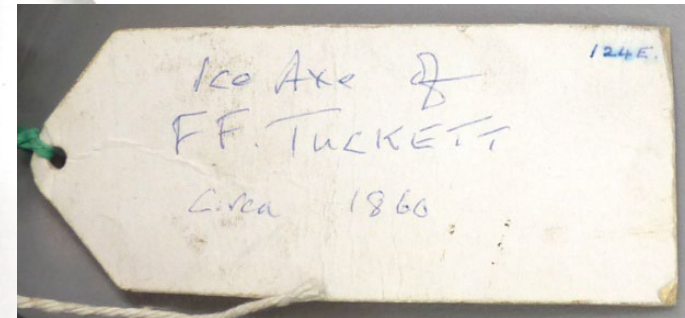
# Ice axes and alpenstocks

# Francis Fox Tuckett's ice axe (circa 1860)

(124E)



Owner: F. F. Tuckett (1834-1913)  
Length: 132 cm / 52"  
Head: 32 cm / 12.6"  
Pick: 15 cm / 5.9"  
Adze: 14 cm / 5.5"  
Weight: 1505 g / 53.01 oz



# Francis Fox Tuckett's ice axe (circa 1860)

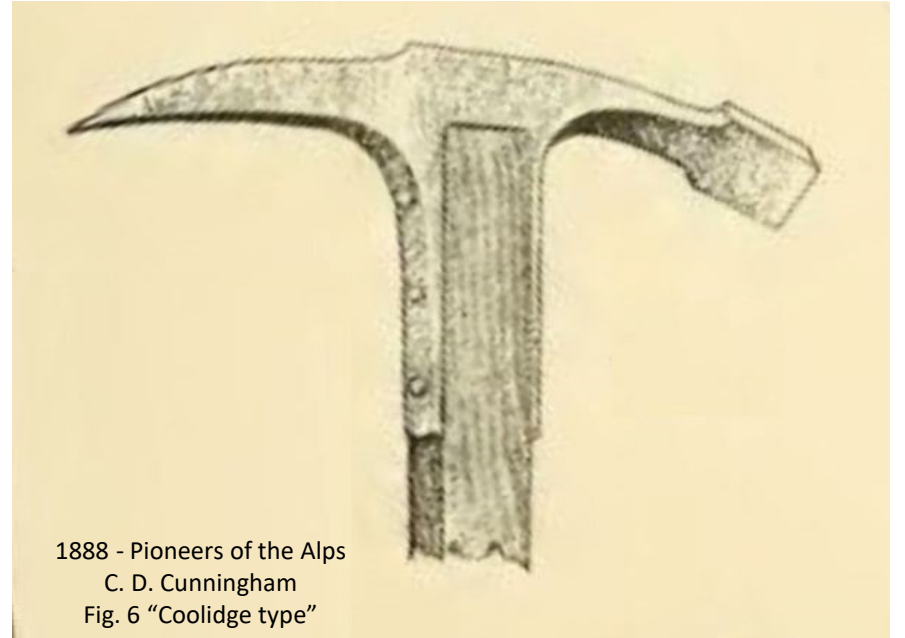
(124E)



Tuckett in 1868

**Francis Fox Tuckett** (1834 - 1913) was one of the main figures of the Golden age of alpinism, making the ascent of 269 peaks and the crossing of 687 passes. His first trip to the Alps was in 1842 in the company of his father.

1880 The ascension of Matterhorn  
E. Whymper



1888 - Pioneers of the Alps  
C. D. Cunningham  
Fig. 6 "Coolidge type"



# Edward Whymper's ice axe (1860's)

(113E)



Metal-worker: Leaver  
Place: Maidenhead  
Length: 138,5 cm / 54.5"  
Head: 23,5 cm / 9.3"  
Pick: 11 cm / 4.3"  
Adze: 9 cm / 3.5"  
Weight: 1221 g / 43.07 oz

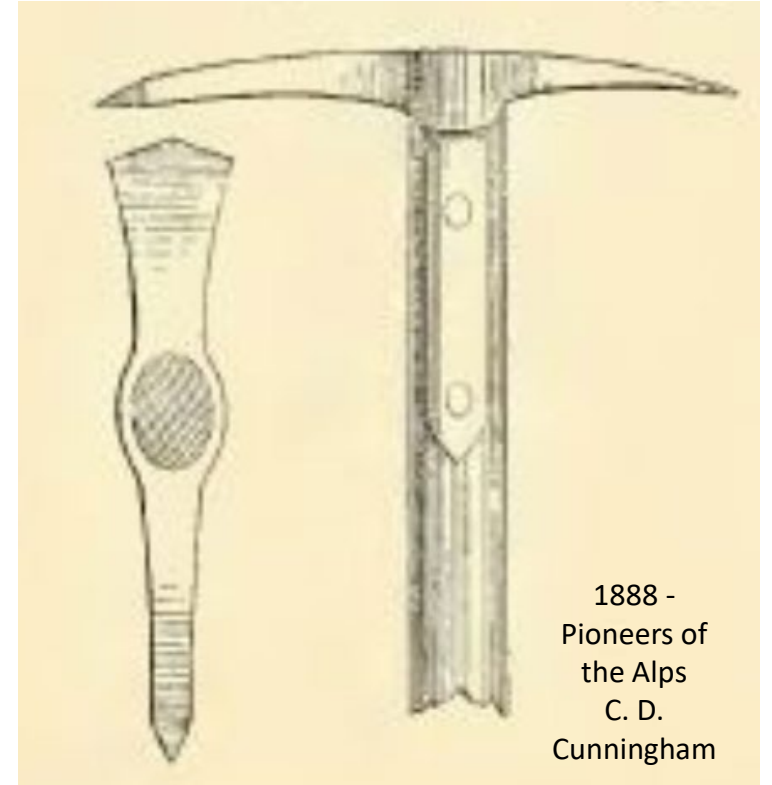
1872 - A handbook for  
travellers in Switzerland  
Murray editor

*The Ice-axe.*—For surmounting steep ice slopes by cutting steps the axe is the proper instrument, but there is some difference of opinion as to the best form to be given to it. Considerable practice is required to use this instrument with effect, and few amateurs acquire much proficiency. In very high expeditions it is well to carry a second axe; it will sometimes save time, and supply a serious deficiency if the first should be lost or broken. A committee of the Alpine Club, in 1864, recommended three designs for an ice-axe. Tools so made are to be procured complete of Mr. Leaver, metal-worker, Maidenhead, at the prices of 18s., 21s., and 22s. respectively. Ice-axes can also be obtained in Switzerland, at Chamonix, and elsewhere. At Evolena a light and convenient axe is made.

I LEAVER  
MAIDENHEAD

# Edward Whymper's ice axe (1860's)

(113E)



1888 -  
Pioneers of  
the Alps  
C. D.  
Cunningham



# Edward Whymper's alpenstock (1863)

(135E)



Length: 173 cm Ø3 cm / 68.1" Ø1.2"  
Weight: 764 g / 26.4 oz



This staff was  
used by the  
English  
mountaineer  
EDWARD WHYMPER  
1840-1911  
The Gallem Collection

# Edward Whymper's alpenstock (1863)

(135E)

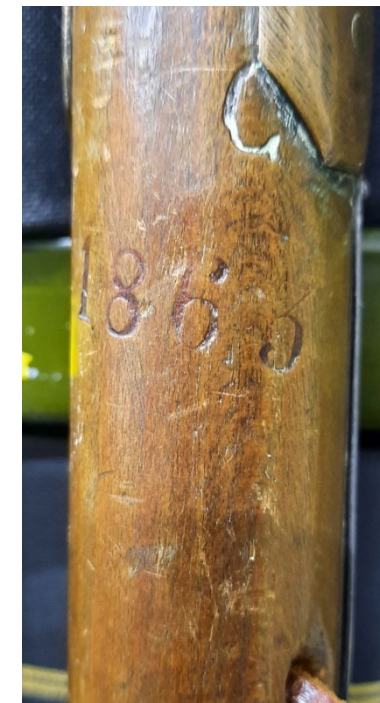


This staff was used by the English mountaineer EDWARD WHYMPER 1840 - 1911 Per Callem Collem (This motto means "Along the hill path")



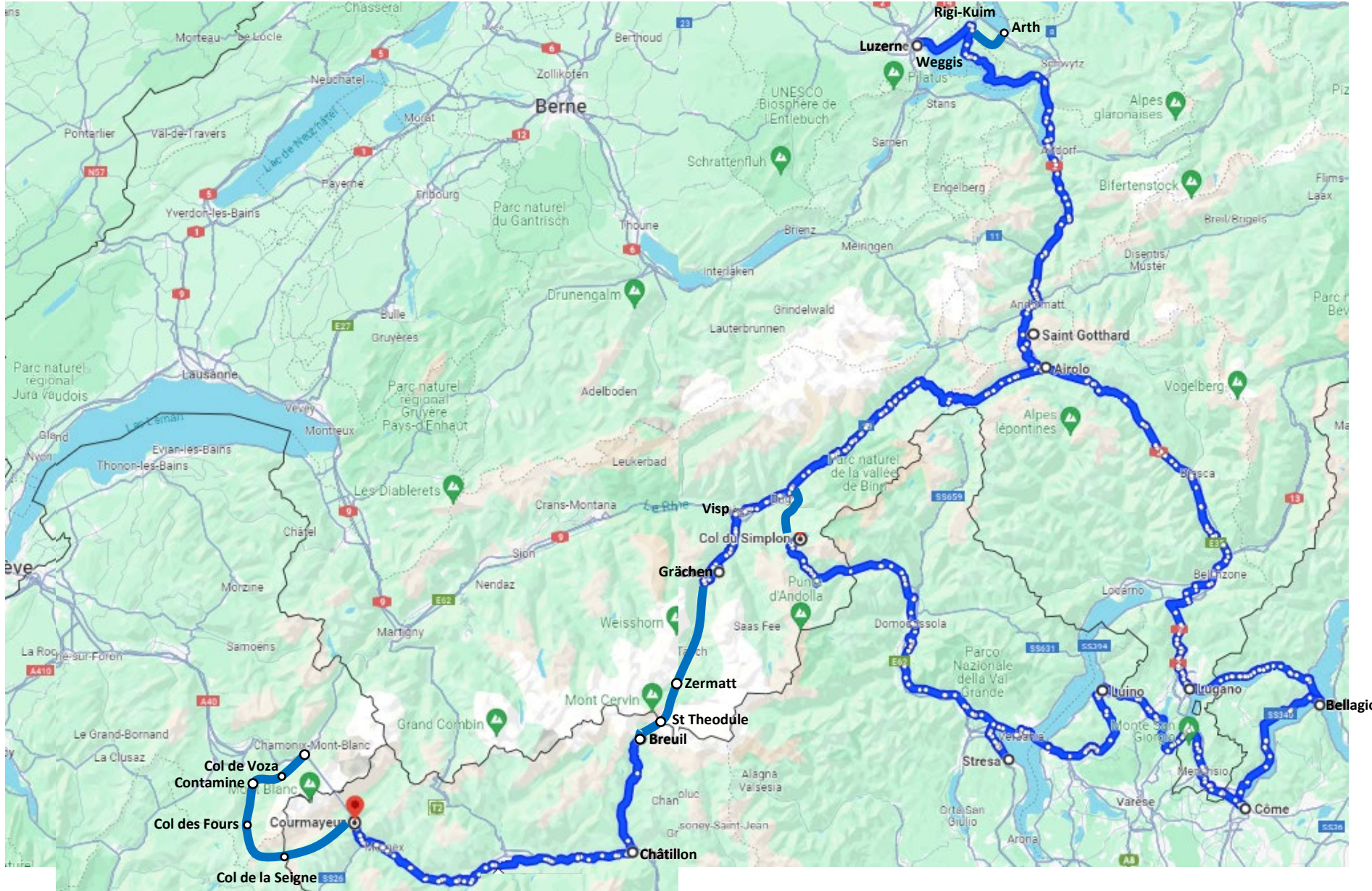
1872 - A handbook for travellers in Switzerland  
Murray editor

The alpenstock is usually of fir, but the only *trustworthy* ones are of ash, and sufficiently strong to bear the weight of a man seated on the middle while the ends rest on two supports. The common alpenstocks are not to be trusted on high excursions; it is safer to order an ash pole about 4 inches in circumference, with a steel spike very solidly attached to the lower end. The chamois-horn often appended to the alpenstocks of the shops is absurd and inconvenient, if not dangerous. (See p. xxxvi for *ice-axe*.)



# Edward Whymper's alpenstock (1863)

(135E)



The chronology of the places makes it possible to retrace Whymper's itinerary in 1863.

Inscriptions on the alpenstock:

“1863

Arth - Weggis - Rigi-Kulm - Luzern - Grächen - St Gothard - Airolo - Lugano - Bellagio - Como - Luino - Stresa - Simplon - Visp - Zermatt - Gorner-grat - Riffel - St Theodule - Breuil - Chatillon - Val d'Aosta - Courmayeur - Vallée Blanche - Col de la Seigne - Col des Fours - Contamine - Col de Voza - Chamonix - Montenvers - Source de l'Arveyron- Jardin”



# Richard Lake Harrison (circa 1880)

(134E)



Length: 144 cm Ø 1 to 3 cm / 0.4 to 1.2"  
Weight: 379 g / 13.4 oz



# Richard Lake Harrison (circa 1880)

(134E)



The inscription on the silver bands on the Harrison alpenstock is as follows:

← Top band:  
A W Granville To

Bottom band →  
Richard L Harrison Esq

**Richard Lake Harrison** (1854 – 1916) was elected to the Alpine Club in February 1883, with a number of ascents in the Bernese Oberland on his application form. Friend of Claude Wilson, he was a member of the 1885 Norway expedition. (see ACJ In Memoriam, by C. Wilson, xxxi, 105)

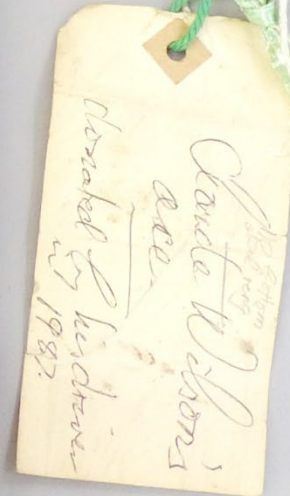
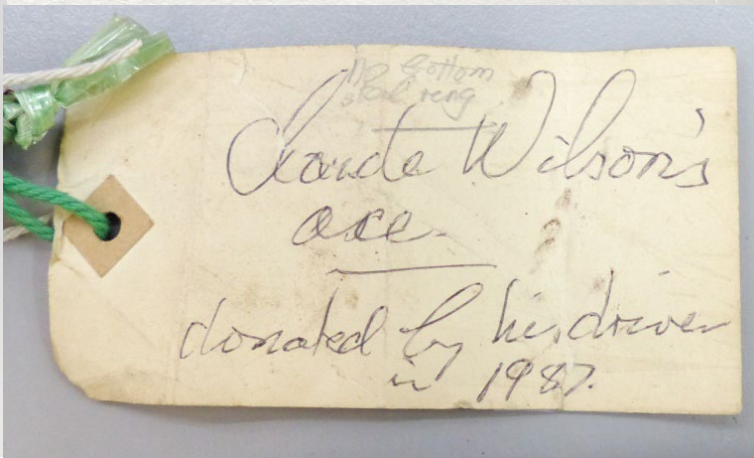


# Claude Wilson (circa 1880)

(105E)

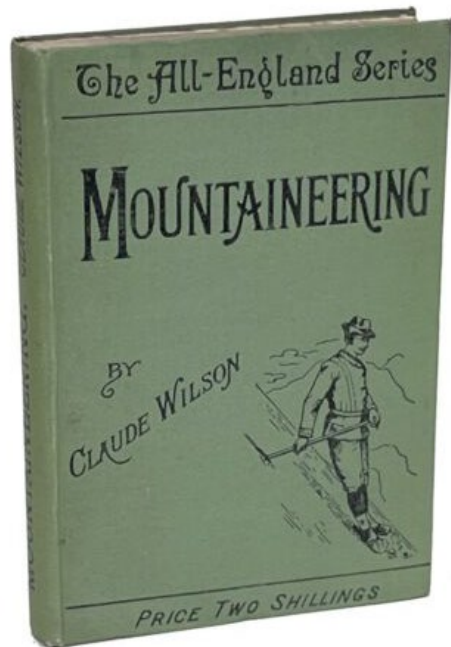


Blacksmith: -  
Length: 104 cm / 40.9"  
Head: 28 cm / 11"  
Pick: 13 cm / 5.1"  
Adze: 11 cm / 4.3"  
Weight: 1241 g / 43.77 oz



# Claude Wilson (circa 1880)

(105E)



Claude Wilson (1860-1937) was an all-round mountaineer, with many first ascents, and he was one of the early guideless climbers in Western Alps, mainly with Wicks, Bradby and Wills. He was president of the Alpine Club from 1929 to 1932. He is the author of the bestselling book *Mountaineering* published in 1893 (see AJ50 115-134 *In Memoriam*).



Claude Wilson, Aiguille du Moine 1883

# Grépon ice axe (1881)

(ACL20110168)

On 5 August 1881, Albert Frederick Mummery, Alexander Burgener and Benedikt Venetz, reached the summit of the Aiguille du Grépon and deposited an ice axe, proof of the ascent. Mummery offered the sum of 100 gold francs to the person who brought it back. Three years later, François-Henri Dunod had taken it down to Chamonix but Mummery refused to honour his promise. The Grépon ice axe was kept in the Dunod family and in 2010, Olivier Dunod sold it for €10,000 to Mr. André Moulin who donated the relic to the Alpine Club.

The ice axe seems to have belonged to Venetz because his initials are engraved under the pick. A mysterious *M* engraved under the adze could be the stamp of the tool maker.

The wood of the shaft has been faded and polished by the weather at the top of the Aiguille du Grépon.



# Benedikt Venetz - Grépon ice axe (1881)

(ACL20110168)



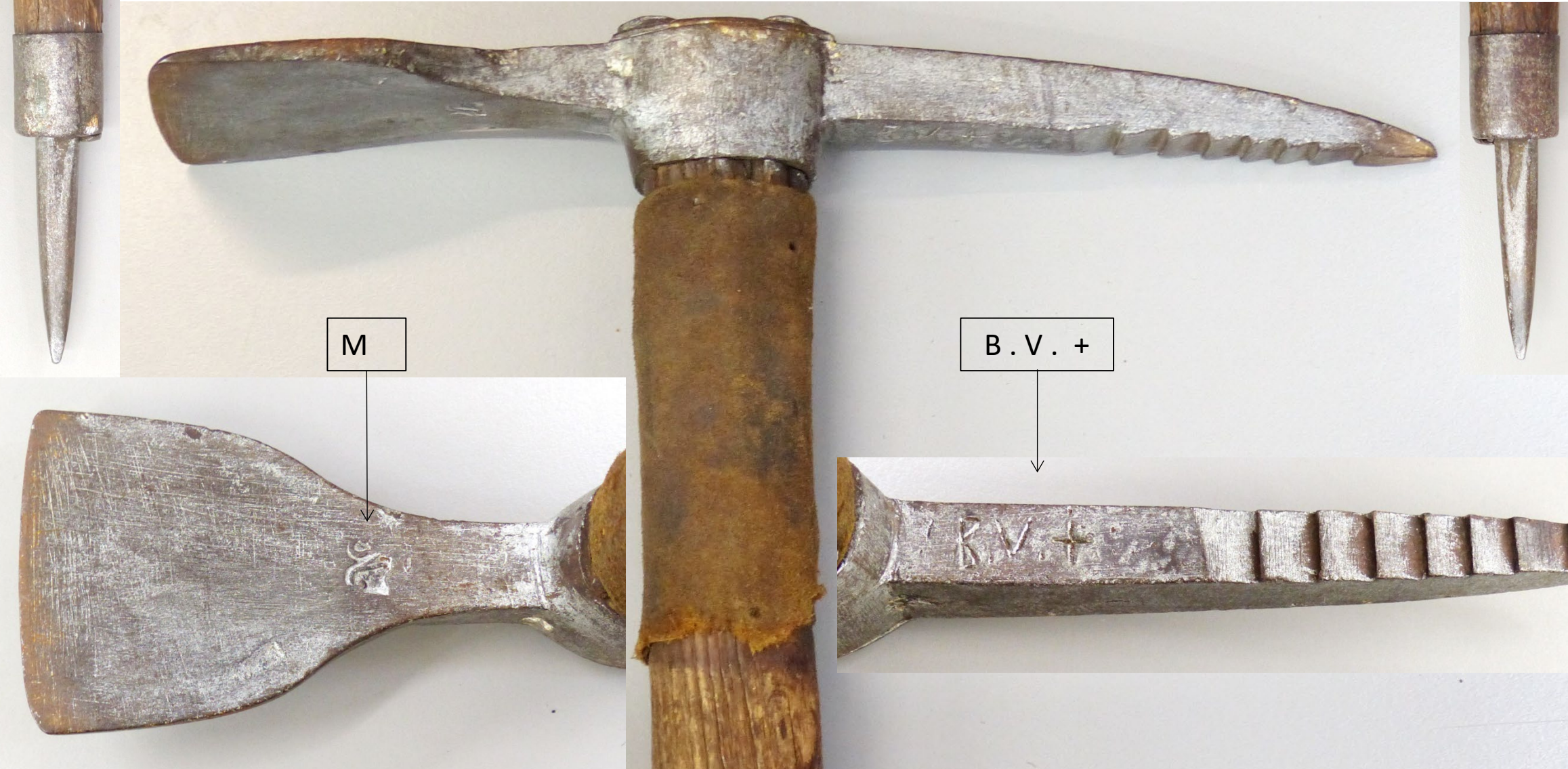
Owner: Benedikt Venetz  
Length: 112,5 cm / 44.1"  
Head: 30 cm / 11.8"  
Pick: 14,5 cm / 5.5"  
Adze: 11 cm / 4.3"  
Weight: 1462 g / 51.6

The top of the handle is covered with chamois leather

Benedikt Venetz, nicknamed "the Indian", was Alexander Burgener's farm worker and porter. He was considered the best rock climber of his time, but curiously there is little information on his life and no photos. He was born in Stalden (Valais - Switzerland).

# Benedikt Venetz - Grépon ice axe (1881)

(ACL20110168)



# Martin Conway (1878-1901)

(-)



Brand: Hill & Son  
Place: London  
Length: 109,5 cm / 41.5"  
Head: 26 cm / 10.2"  
Pick: 11,5 cm / 4.3"  
Fan adze: 10,5 cm / 3.9"  
Weight: 1200 g / 42.3 oz



**William Martin Conway**, 1st Baron Conway of Allington (1856 – 1937), was President of the Alpine Club from 1902 to 1904. He was a mountaineer and explorer with numerous expeditions to Baltoro, Spitsbergen, and the Andes.



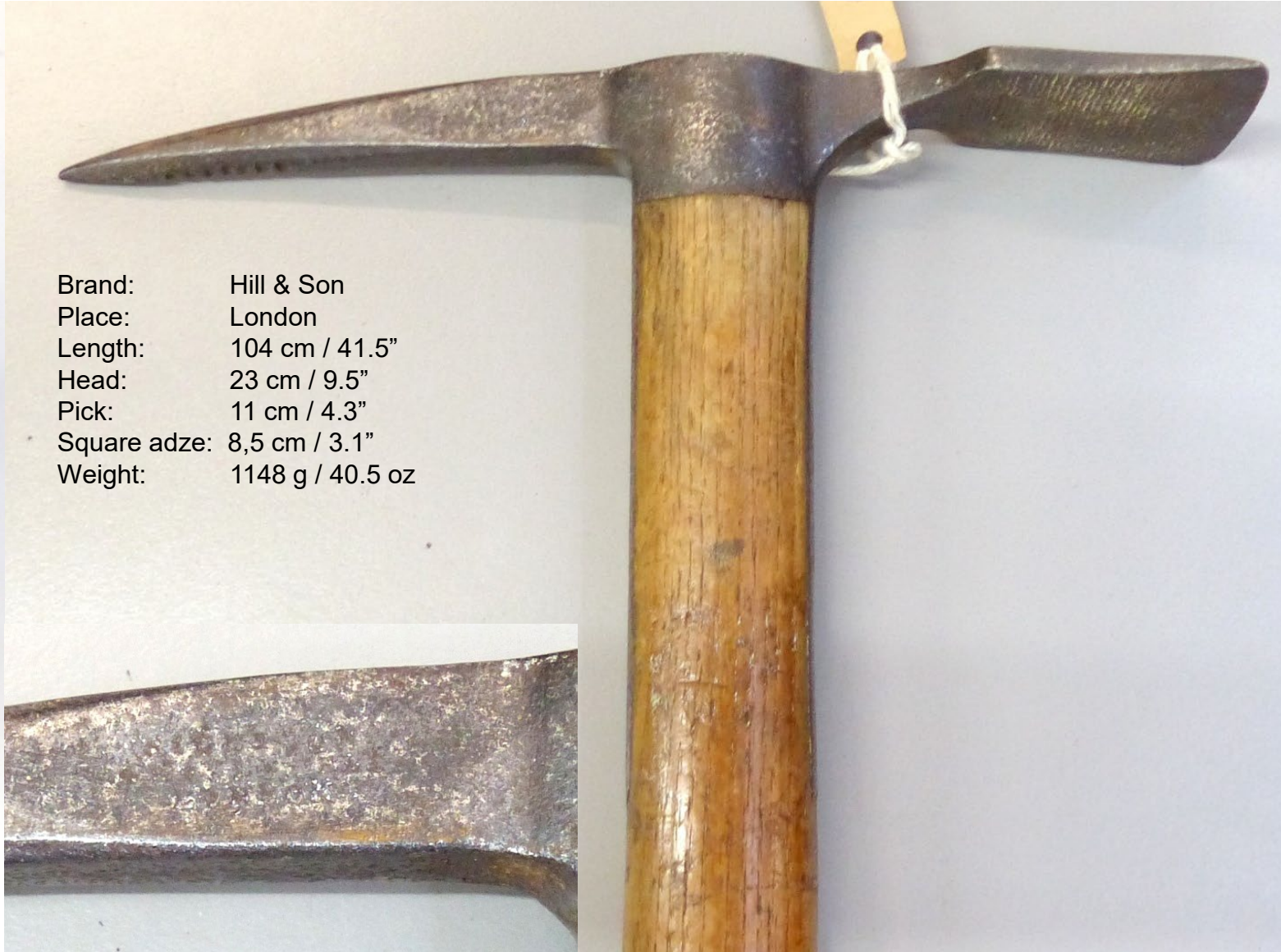
# Martin Conway (1878-1901)

(-)



# Unknown owner (circa 1890)

(114E)



Brand: Hill & Son  
Place: London  
Length: 104 cm / 41.5"  
Head: 23 cm / 9.5"  
Pick: 11 cm / 4.3"  
Square adze: 8,5 cm / 3.1"  
Weight: 1148 g / 40.5 oz



**Unknown owner** (circa 1890)

(114E)



# Manufacturer: HILL & SON – London (ice axes circa 1878 to 1930)

The cutler, Thomas R. Hill, was the founder of the business at 4 Haymarket, London, opposite the Opera House. Thomas was born about 1823 and had one son, Edwin A. B. Hill, born around 1851. Thomas was listed in the cutlers' section of the 1855 London Post Office Directory, as a desk and dressing case manufacturer and so at this time was a retailer, rather than a manufacturing cutler. By 1880, the business was called Hill & Son and the father Thomas had moved to 127 Finborough Road Kensington, where he was described as a cutler employing 10 men. Between 1885 and 1890, the business was called Edwin Hill & Son and still located at 4 Haymarket. In the 1901 UK census, Edwin now aged 50 years was a "skate maker's assistant" living in Croydon and so presumably was not personally running the business at 4 Haymarket at this time. In the 1902 London Post Office Directory the business is shown as: "Edwin Hill & Son at 4 Haymarket: cutlers, skate and Alpine axe manufacturers" and in 1910 as a manufacturing cutler and razor maker.

SEASON 1880.

## HILL'S LONDON-MADE ALPINE AXES.

Every part of these Axes is tested before being sent out. Always in stock.  
Any pattern made to order.

*Climbing Poles and Sticks, Loose Steel Points, Alpine Rope and Climbers' Nails.*

TINDER and other LIGHT BOXES, FLASKS, COMPASSES, &c.  
ANEROID BAROMETERS in variety.

ETNAS AND COOKING APPARATUS OF DIFFERENT KINDS.  
*A multitude of things for Sporting purposes.*

MECHANICAL CONTRIVANCES AND NEW AND USEFUL INVENTIONS.

### HILL & SON'S

CUTLERY AND SKATE MANUFACTORY,  
**4 HAYMARKET, LONDON** (opposite the Opera House).  
ESTABLISHED OVER HALF-A-CENTURY.

*Catalogues gratis.* *Five per Cent. for Cash, or Coupons given.*

**HILL & SON,**  
4, HAYMARKET, LONDON, S.W.  
Established nearly a Century.

MANUFACTURERS OF  
SPORTING, TABLE, TOILET, and POCKET  
CUTLERY, ALPINE ICE AXES, SKATES, and  
FINE STEEL WORK GENERALLY.

### Alpine, Mountaineering, and Travelling Goods


*Of Warranted Manufacture and at Moderate Prices. Lists Free.*

#### ALPINE ICE AXES

OF VARIOUS PATTERNS BOTH FOR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.  
Alpenstocks. Alpine and Mountaineering Sticks.  
Aneroids. Roping Belts. Compasses. Boot Cogs, Studs,  
Screws, and Spikes, &c. Drinking Cups.  
Damp Bed Detectors. Portable Heating Apparatus.  
Folding Lanterns. Rucksacks, &c.

#### ALPINE CLUB ROPE,

As Supplied to Members of the English and Continental Clubs and to the  
Swiss Guides at Chamounix and elsewhere. 4d. per yard.



Rucksack, as recommended in  
Dent's "Mountaineering," 23/-  
The "Siren" Call,  
for Signalling,  
8/-; Postage, 3d.  
Leather Wrist Slings,  
for Ice Axes, 2/6.



1893 advertiser

Manufacturer:

HILL & SON

(Conway, 114E & 102E)

SERIES NO. 16.

LIST OF

**Alpine Axes,**  
**Alpenstocks, Alpensticks,**  
**Lanterns, Rope,**

AND

SUNDRY GOODS USED IN CONNECTION WITH  
 MOUNTAIN ASCENTS.

**HILL & SON,**  
 4, HAYMARKET, LONDON, S.W.

Four Doors from Pall Mall East, and opposite Her Majesty's Theatre.

Established nearly a Century.

With H. & S.'s Respectful Compliments.

HILL & SON, 4, Haymarket, London.

**Hill & Son's Ice Axes** are made with every care in London, the Heads and Points being produced from a specially prepared mild Steel, the Points and Cutting Edges being tempered. The Heads, A to B, including the Side Straps, E and F, are made from one piece of Steel, with neither brazing or welding. The Points, D, including the Socket, H, are also made from one piece of Metal—this Ferrule or Socket being of quite thin material, enabling a full amount of wood to be left to fill it up. It is held on to the Shaft by two Rivets, going entirely through. The opening in the centre of the top of the Axe Head, G, is covered in and protected by a Steel Plate. All Shafts are made from Seasoned Straight Grained Ash.

H. & S.'s Axes are well-known both in England and Abroad, and are largely used by Members of Alpine Clubs and others. Every Axe of their make bears their Name and Address.

In ordering Axes, the height of the person ordering should be stated.

**ICE AXES.**

No. 1. Fan Shaped Edge under side of Head View	No. 1. Side View.	No. 2. Square Shaped Edge, under side.	No. 2. Side View.
---	-------------------------	---	-------------------------







A Useful List "UTILITIES FOR TRAVELLERS," Free on Application.

Fol. \_\_\_\_\_ London, *July 23* 1915  
 Opposite His Majesty's Theatre,  
 4 HAYMARKET, S.W.  
 ESTABLISHED NEARLY A CENTURY.

*John Batell beg*  
**Co HILL & SON,**  
 Manufacturers of . . .

SPORTING, TABLE, TOILET AND POCKET CUTLERY.  
 ALPINE ICE AXES, SKATES, AND FINE STEEL  
 WORK GENERALLY.  
 JEWELLERY & SILVER-WARE, TRAVELLERS' UTILITIES.  
 Mechanical Contrivances and New and Useful Inventions.

Trade Motto: "Others' Wants, Our Guide."

LONDON, 1872.  
 SKATE MAKERS TO THE "SKATING CLUB" AND PATENTEES  
 OF VARIOUS SKATE FASTENINGS, &C.

LONDON MADE ALPINE AXES, ALPENSTOCKS AND STICKS,  
 LOOSE POINTS, NAILS, ROPE, AND ALL NECESSARY GEAR.

POST OFFICE ORDERS PAYABLE AT  
 16, CHARLES STREET, ST. JAMES'S, S.W.

CHEQUES CROSSED  
 COCKS BIDDULPH & CO.

Interest charged on Extended Credits.  
 H. & S. beg respectfully to direct attention to the TERMS  
 on which the undermentioned goods are sold.

TERMS—

*1/2 Grass Cutters 144/*

*Recd July 23 15  
 No. 144/  
 J. H. Batell  
 Wt. Thanks*

*Start slowly at first. Keeping left hand steady &  
 working with right. Very long coarse grass should be  
 avoided. It will be found most useful for grass under  
 sheets, round trees, fences, walls etc. If grass long  
 would suggest first clearing it & then keeping it  
 close with above. Thoroughly use roll after mow.*

With H. & S.'s respectful Compliments.  
 Trusting the Lists enclosed may interest you.

Our Active Service Goods  
 LIST IS NOW READY. MAY  
 WE SEND YOU ONE?

← Hill & Son catalogue circa 1920

↑ 1915

# Unknown owner (circa 1890)

(133E)



# Owen Glynnne JONES (1890's)

(100E)



Blacksmith: Adolphe Simond  
et Frères – Chamonix  
Logo: Chamois 3 (1886-1912)  
Length: 113 cm / 44.49"  
Head: 24,5 cm / 9.45"  
Pick: 12,5 cm / 4.72"  
Adze: 8,5 cm / 3.15"  
Weight: 897 g / 31.6 oz

Ice Axe  
USED BY  
OWEN GLYNNNE  
JONES  
1890's

Og. Jones  
Ice Axe  
1890's

A. SIMOND & FRÈRES  
A. CHAMONIX

Ice Axe  
USED BY  
OWEN GLYNNNE  
JONES  
1890's

# Owen Glynne Jones (1890's)

(100E)



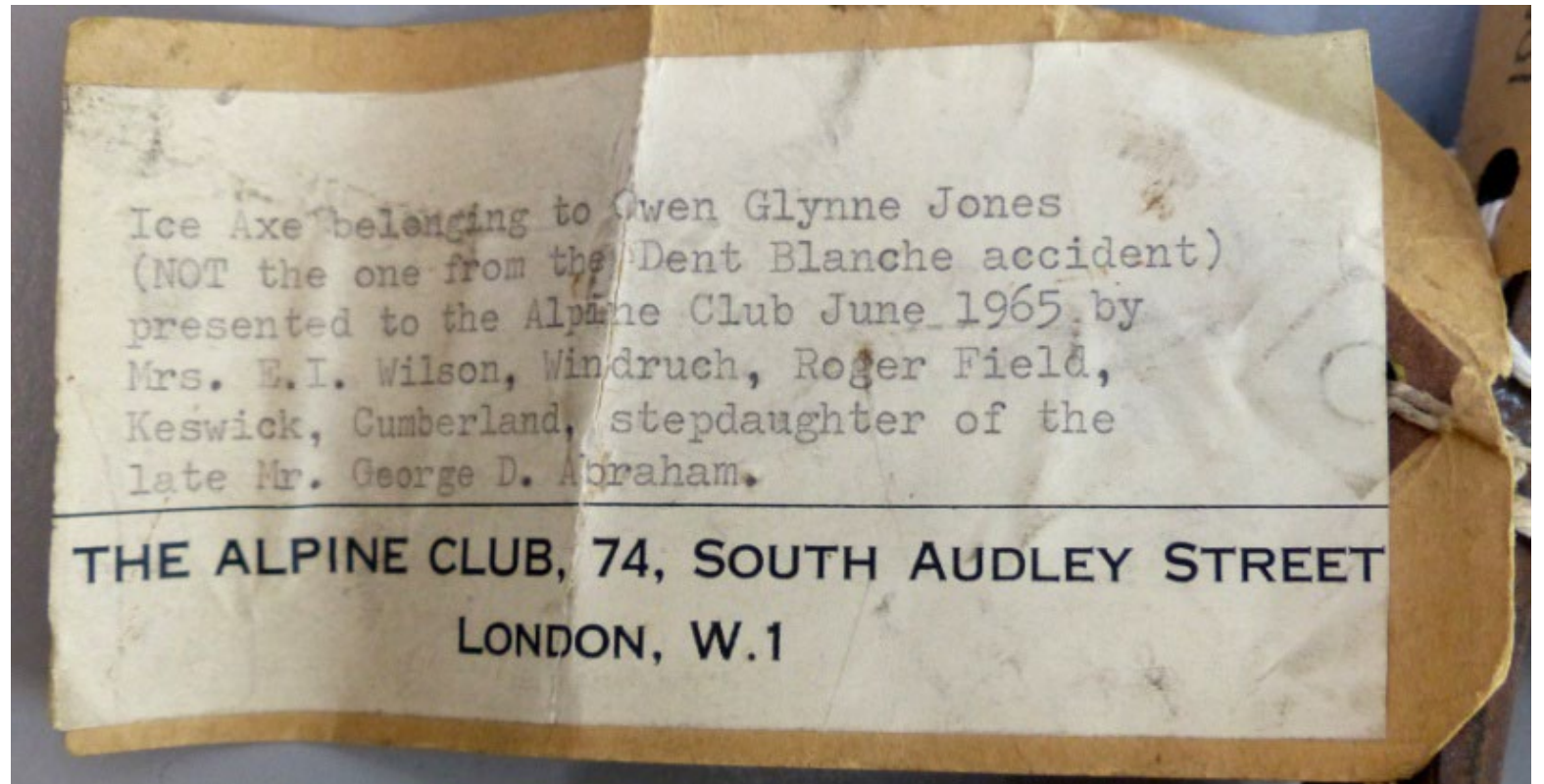
Owen Glynne Jones (1867 – 1899) was a Welsh rock-climber and mountaineer.

He began climbing in 1888 and established many new routes in the Lake District and elsewhere, often climbing with George and Ashley Abraham, brothers who photographed the climbs for posterity.

In 1897 O. G. Jones published, with George Abraham, his classic *Rock Climbing in the English Lake District*. Jones's exuberant style did much to popularize the sport.

He was killed, at the age of 32, in a climbing accident on the Ferpècle arête of the Dent Blanche in Switzerland.

(See AJ 1965 359-381 In Memoriam)



# Manufacturer: Adolphe Simond & Brothers – Chamonix

(100E)

The Simond family comes from several generations of farmers in the Chamonix valley. When his father died, Adolphe Simond (1854-1934) was 13 years old. He became the head of 8 siblings, the youngest of whom (François) had just been born. He broke from the family tradition by learning the blacksmith trade with Michel Devouassoud (1827-1901), manufacturer of bells and ice axes in Chamonix. Adolphe thus became the first Simond of the dynasty to forge bells in 1869 and then ice axes in 1871.

When their mother died in 1883, Adolphe joined forces with his two brothers, Michel (1861-1933) and François (1867-1946). The production sign becomes “A. SIMOND & Brothers ». The Simond brothers were the designers of their ice axes and mass production gradually replaced unit production.

In 1922, François (55) left the production of bells to Rodolphe, son of Adolphe. He founded the company "FRANCOIS SIMOND & SONS" which extended its production to all equipment for mountaineers of his time. Simond became one of the leading brands in the industry, its equipment was used by crowned heads of state and the mountaineering elite.

Claudius Simond (1905-1984) took over from his father around 1940 and change the company name to “CLAUDIUS SIMOND”. Very inventive, he filed numerous patents and developed industrial-type production. His equipment accompanied the conquest of the greatest peaks outside Europe: Himalaya, Karakoram and the Andes.

In 1967, Ludger Simond (1944) continued his father’s work. He modernized and revolutionized ice equipment thanks to many innovations that marked the evolution of mountaineering. In particular, in 1975, the first ice axe with a “banana blade”, which enabled the fabulous development of ice climbing and in 2000, the first ice axe with an offset handle, paving the way for the new dry-tooling activity.

In 2004, Ludger Simond retired shortly after the sale to the Wichard group, a French blacksmith, leader in marine fittings. The Decathlon group took over the SIMOND brand in 2008 and successfully developed other product categories: ropes, harnesses, slacklines, backpacks, footwear, shoes, crash pads, tents, sleeping bags and clothing.



© Simond

François (L) & Adolphe (R) Simond, in 1905



© Simond

L to R: Hector, Claudius, François, Narcisse & Philibert Simond, father & sons in 1930

# Félix-Valentin Genecand, aka «Tricouni» (1897)

(110E)



**Félix-Valentin Genecand, aka «Tricouni» (1897)**

(110E)



# Félix-Valentin Genecand, aka «Tricouni» (1897)

(110E)



A mes Chers Amis Lawrie	To my Dear Friends Lawrie
En souvenir de mon père	In memory of my father



C'est avec ce piolet que j'ai ..... dès 1897  
"Aime la montagne comme je l'ai aimée mais sois PRUDENT"

It was with this ice axe that I ..... since 1897  
"Love the mountain as I loved it but be CAREFUL"



Félix-Valentin Genecand, alias "Tricouni" (1878-1957) was also a well known alpinist (several mountains were named after him: Mount Genecand in Antarctica, Tricouni Peak in Canada). He was a jeweler from Geneva and inventor of the Tricouni nail in 1912.

# William Norman Ling (1900?)

(102E)



Brand: Hill & Son  
Place: London  
Length: 113,5 cm / 44.5"  
Head: 27 cm / 10.6"  
Pick: 12 cm / 4.7"  
Fan adze: 10,5 cm / 3.9"  
Weight: 1316 g / 46.4 oz



**William Norman Ling** (1873 - 1953) was President 1919-22 of the Scottish Mountaineering Club and Alpine Club member. He acquired an almost unrivalled knowledge of the Scottish mountains and made many first ascents in Norway (1903), Alps and Caucasus (1913). (see AJ59 1954 336-338 *In Memoriam*)

Regarding Hill & Son, see pages 20 and 21.



# William Norman Ling (1900?)

(102E)



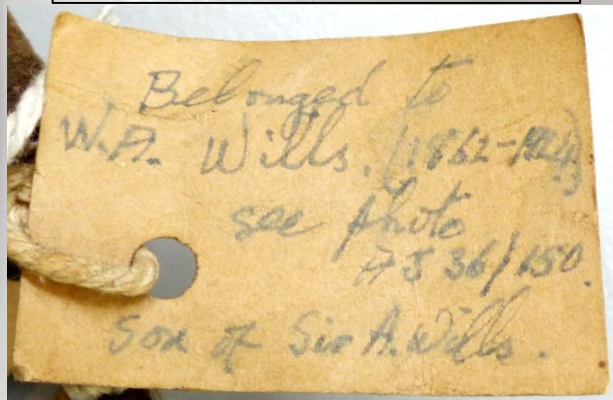
# William Alfred Wills (circa 1900)

(109E)



Brand: Hennig & C°  
Metal-worker Hill & Son?  
Place: London  
Length: 90 cm / 35.4"  
Head: 25,5 cm / 9.8"  
Pick: 12 cm / 4.7"  
Fan adze: 9 cm / 3.5"  
Weight: 964 g / 34.0 oz

Belonged to W. A. Wills (1862-1924)  
See photo AJ36/150 (1872)  
Son of Sir A. Wills



Hennig & Co was a maker of knives, razor, skates and cutlery located at 26, Coventry St, London from 1890 to circa 1905. They also marketed also ice axes for a short period. Their metal worker was the same individual who worked for Hill & Son. Subsequently, Henning & Co. changed their interest to become a diamond company.



# William Alfred Wills (circa 1900)

(109E)

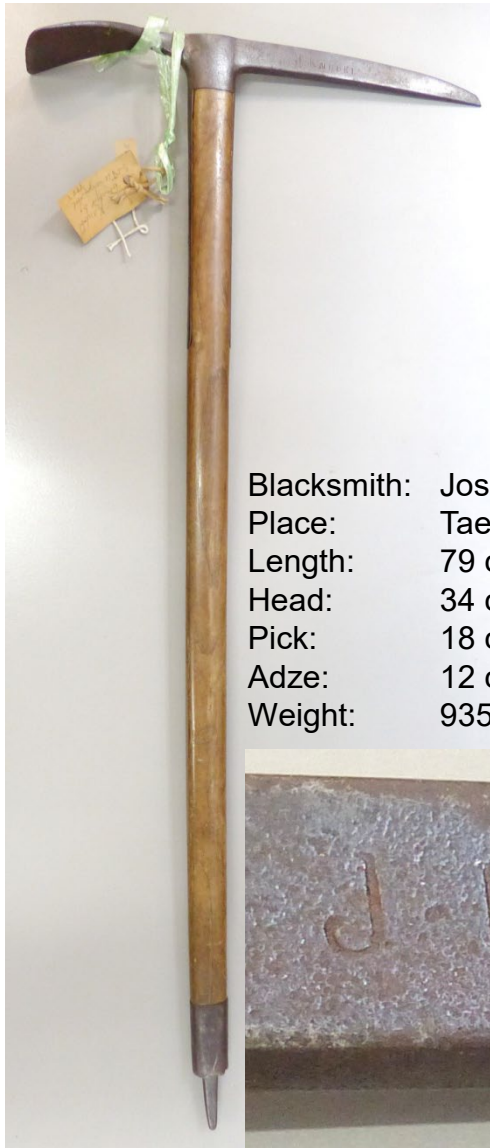


CLAUDE WILSON. W. A. WILLS.

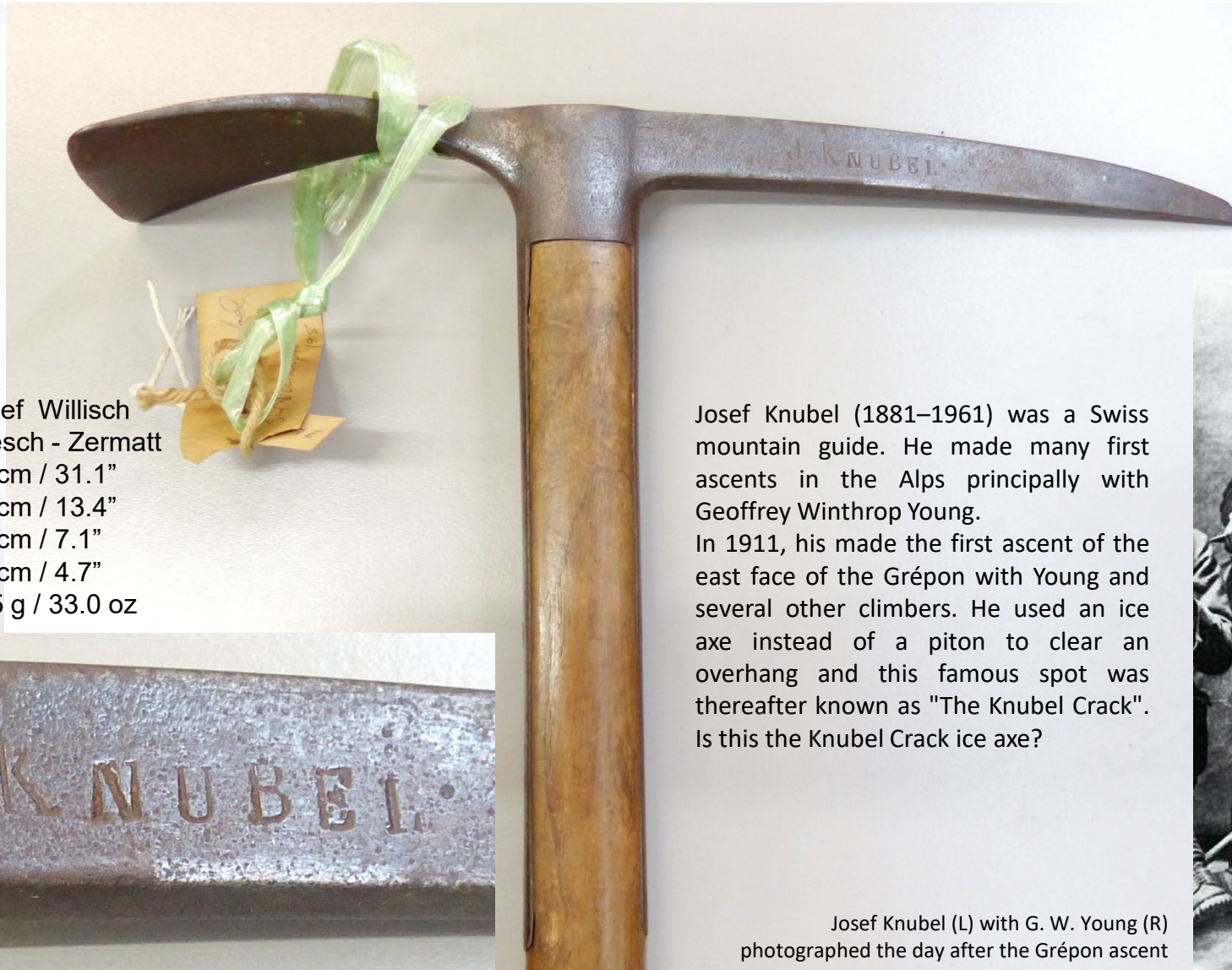
**William Alfred Wills** (1862 - 1924) was a physician in London. He served as Hon Secretary of the Alpine Club from 1892 to 1900. He climbed from 1887 to 1920 with E. H. F. Bradby, C. Wilson and J. H. Wicks.

# Joseph Knubel (circa 1910)

(107E)



Blacksmith: Josef Willisch  
Place: Taesch - Zermatt  
Length: 79 cm / 31.1"  
Head: 34 cm / 13.4"  
Pick: 18 cm / 7.1"  
Adze: 12 cm / 4.7"  
Weight: 935 g / 33.0 oz



Josef Knubel (1881–1961) was a Swiss mountain guide. He made many first ascents in the Alps principally with Geoffrey Winthrop Young.

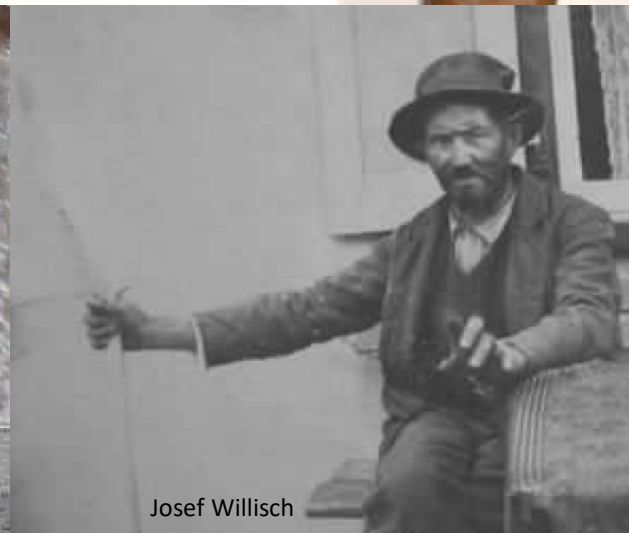
In 1911, he made the first ascent of the east face of the Grépon with Young and several other climbers. He used an ice axe instead of a piton to clear an overhang and this famous spot was thereafter known as "The Knubel Crack". Is this the Knubel Crack ice axe?



Josef Knubel (L) with G. W. Young (R) photographed the day after the Grépon ascent

# Joseph Knubel (circa 1910)

(107E)



Josef Willisch



Josef Willisch (1872-1943) started making ice axes circa 1900 as side business to his mountain guiding. Josef was a lifelong bachelor and had no children. His brother Konstanz Willisch (1880-1957) and his sons Max (1910-1945) and Roman (1913-1977) took over axes manufacturing around 1936. The 3rd generation, the brothers Konstanz Willisch (b. 1946) and Gottfried Willisch (b. 1949) took over the business in 1967. Roger Willisch (b. 1975) represents the 4<sup>th</sup> generation.

# Dorothy Pilley Richards (1914)

(104E)

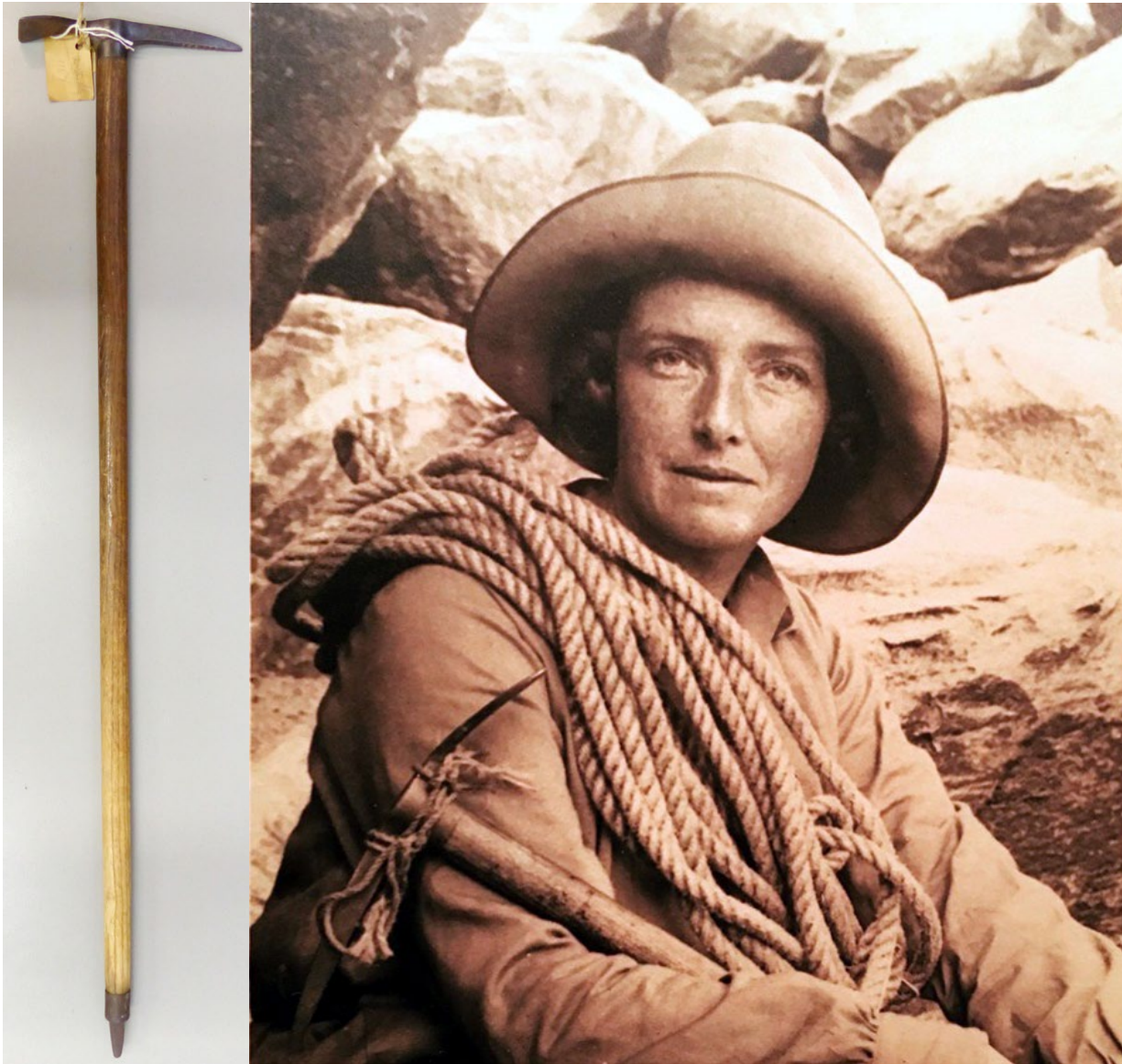


Brand: Hupfauß  
Place: Einsiedeln (Swiss)  
Model: Prima Marke Tödi (C7)  
Serial #: 14681 (1914)  
Length: 84,5 cm / 33.1"  
Head: 19 cm / 7.5"  
Pick: 10 cm / 3.9"  
Adze: 6 cm / 2.4"  
Weight: 490 g / 17.3 oz

C7 indicates the head size, from C1 for the largest to C7 for the smallest.

# Dorothy Pilley Richards (1914)

(104E)



Dorothy Pilley Richards (b. 16 September 1894 in Camberwell, London, d. 24 September 1986 in Cambridge) was a prominent mountaineer. She began climbing in Wales and joined the Fell & Rock Climbing Club, later helping found the Pinnacle Club in 1921.

In the 1920s, she climbed extensively in the Alps, Britain, and North America after her marriage (1926) to educator, literary critic and rhetorician Ivor Richards.

In 1928, she made the celebrated first ascent of the north ridge of the Dent Blanche, described as "one of the last great problems" in the Swiss Alps, with her husband, Joseph Georges, and Antoine Georges, which she described in her well-regarded memoir, *Climbing Days* (1935).



*DEP* : Dorothy Eleanor Pilley

from

*WHL* : Walter Henry Lewin

*16-9-19*: date of Dorothy's 25<sup>th</sup> birthday

This ice axe could be a birthday present from Mr. Lewin to Miss Pilley.

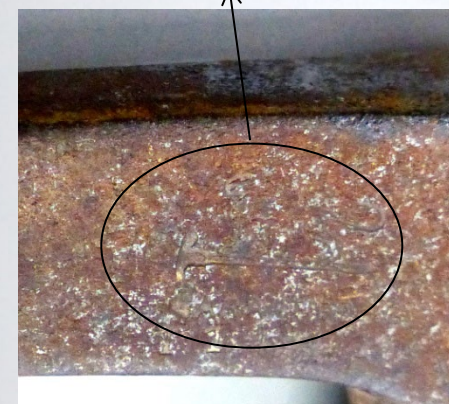
Her first experience of mountaineering in the Alps took place in 1920 with Mr. Lewin, his guides and using probably this ice axe.

# Unknown owner (1914)

(131E)



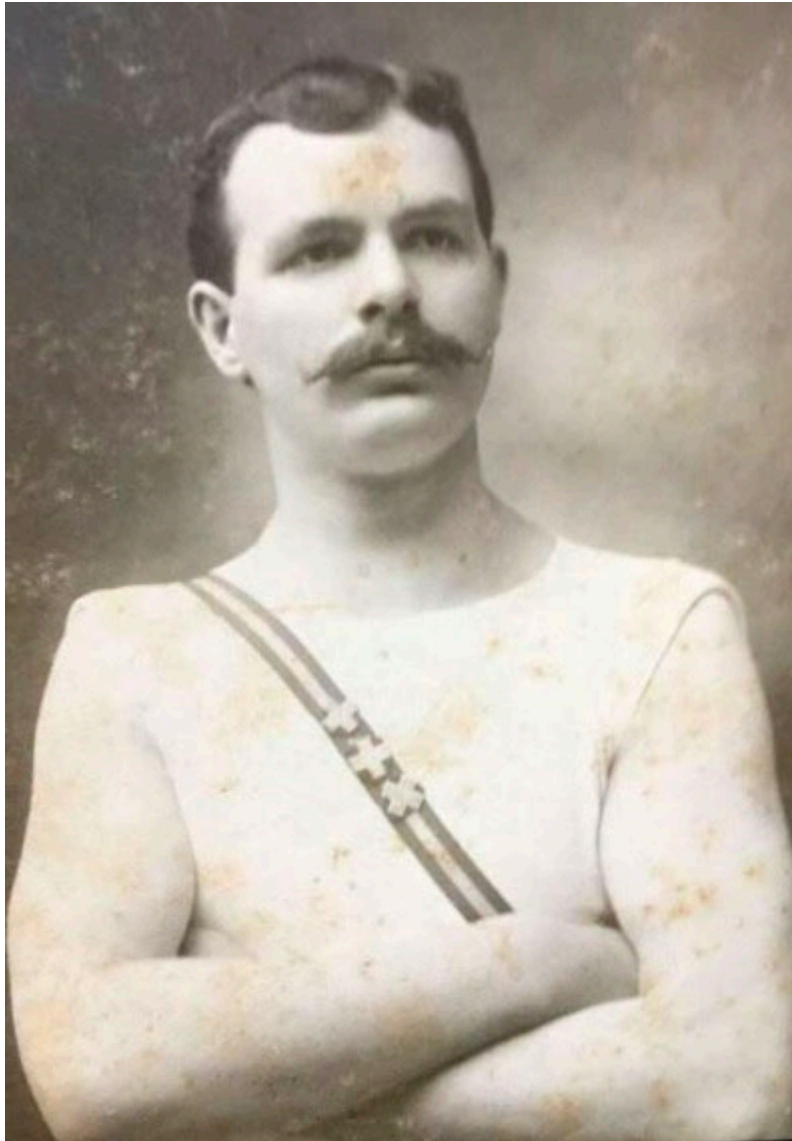
Brand: Hupfauß  
Place: Einsiedeln (Swiss)  
Model: Garantiert (C2½)  
Serial #: 1441x (1914)  
Length: 84,5 cm / 43.5"  
Head: 28 cm / 11.75"  
Pick: 15 cm / 5.9"  
Adze: 10,5 cm / 3.9"  
Weight: 1300 g / 45.9 oz



# Manufacturer:

# Anton Hupfauf (1871 - 1916)

(104E & 131E)



The first Hupfauf (Anton Hupfauf) was born in Fulpmes, Tyrol, Austria, where he was trained as a blacksmith. Then in 1898, he moved to Einsiedeln, Switzerland, where he opened a blacksmith's workshop. Initially he made agricultural implements and cutlery, but gradually he also made ice axes and crampons. His products were exported abroad and he won a gold medal at the 1911 World's Fair in Turin, Italy. In 1916, Anton Hupfauf I died in an explosion at his factory. After his death, his wife with the help of one of his employees, Melchior Ochsner, ran the factory until the second generation. In 1924, he opened a shop next to the factory selling metal products and household goods. Anton Hupfauf II (1908 – 1993) studied metalworking at Fulpmes Technical College in his father's home town of Fulpmes. He graduated there in 1926 and took over his father's factory in 1933. During the Second World War, the company also supplied products to the military. The factory had 15 employees in its heyday, but was closed in 1948 after the war. Hupfauf II's son became an engineer, but the ice axe forging business ended as he did not follow in his father's footsteps. (Alex Linert forged for Hupfauf in Einsiedeln, partly also under his own name). The trading business, opened in 1924 and was closed in 1979.

**Specialità**

- Piccozze
- Bastoni-Piccozze
- Ramponi
- Ferri da ghiaccio
- Equipaggiamenti per ragazzi esploratori
- Martelli per geologi
- Alpenstocks
- Bastoni per Sky con piccozza smontabile
- Guancie in ferro per Sky
- Chiodi per broccature

**A. Hupfauf, Fabbricante di Utensili  
Einsiedeln (Svizzera)**

The advertisement is set against a light blue background. On the left, there is a vertical list of product specialties in Italian. On the right, there is a color illustration of two mountaineers in a snowy, mountainous landscape. One climber is in the foreground, crouching and adjusting his crampons. The other climber stands behind him, holding a red object. The illustration is signed 'G. M. 1916' in the bottom right corner.

# Unknown owner - Pilkington (1920's)

(126E)



Brand: Pilkington  
Place: Manchester?  
Logo: -  
Length: 105,5 cm / 41.5"  
Head: 27,5 cm / 10.6"  
Pick: 13,5 cm / 5.1"  
Adze: 9,5 cm / 3.5"  
Weight: 1300 g / 45.9 oz



# Denis Fielden Pilkington (circa 1925)

(101E)



Brand: Pilkington  
Place: Manchester?  
Logo: -  
Length: 105 cm / 41.3"  
Head: 28 cm / 11"  
Pick: 12,5 cm / 4.9"  
Adze: 10 cm / 3.9"  
Weight: 1240 g / 43.7 oz

M.F. BAKER  
from  
D.F. PILKINGTON

Born in Prestwich in 1893, Denis Fielden Pilkington was the third son of Charles Pilkington. He graduated as an engineer in 1927 and worked all his life in the coal industry. He was a Scottish Mountaineering Club member in 1925 and then joined the Alpine Club and the Rucksack club two years later.

Denis Fielden Pilkington  
(1893 – 1986)



# Pilkington (1920's)

(126E/101E)



126E



101E



126E

101E

# Manufacturer:

# Pilkington – Manchester (ice axes 1850-1918)

20

WHYMPER'S GUIDES ADVERTISER.

1897

**ICE AXES** "Pilkington's" Pattern 25/6 each.  
FORGED FROM SOLID STEEL, ABOUT 8 LBS. WEIGHT,  
FROM 42" TO 46" LONG. EVERY AXE IS CAREFULLY EXAMINED, TESTED, AND PASSED BY  
C. PILKINGTON, ESQ. **SPECIAL AXES TO ORDER EXTRA. LEATHER COVERS FOR HEADS, 4/- EACH.**  
**J. CARTER, SONS, & CO.,**  
NEW BAILEY STREET, SALFORD, MANCHESTER.



Spherical  
(1875's)

The Pilkington family were prominent in the coal industry in Lancashire and later in pottery and glass. The most eminent climbers in the family were Charles and Lawrence, both members of the Alpine Club. While working as an engineer at the Haydock Colliery, Charles (1850-1918) took advantage of his position to manufacture ice axes in the company workshop. Several other family members were climbers, but not necessarily members of the Alpine Club.

Charles Pilkington was president of the Alpine Club from 1896-98. He was an outstanding mountaineer with many first ascents and guideless climbs to his name. The blacksmith who forged the early Pilkington (1875) ice axes is unknown. IN the 1880's, Pilkington axes were apparently manufactured by Hill & Son and then by John Carter (1890's). Per C.D. Cunningham's classic *Pioneers of the Alps*, 1888, "by far the most perfect form of axe we have, is the one designer by Charles Pilkington, which bears his name." The cross-shaped wedges intended to lock the shaft into the head are characteristic of the Pilkington design.



J. Carter's (1890's)



126E (1920's)



101E (1925's)



L to R: Charles Pilkington, Eustace Hulton & Lawrence Pilkington (~1882)

# Andrew Comyn « Sandy » Irvine (circa 1924)

(120E)



Blacksmith: Josef Willisch (see 107E)  
Place: Taesch - Zermatt  
Length: 90 cm / 35.4"  
Head: 25,5 cm / 9.8"  
Pick: 13 cm / 5.1"  
Adze: 9,5 cm / 3.5"  
Weight: 822 g / 29.0 oz



# Andrew Comyn « Sandy » Irvine (circa 1924)

(120E)



In 1933, nine years after the disappearance of Mallory and Irvine, Percy Wyn-Harris, a member of the fourth British Everest Expedition discovered an ice axe around 8,460 metres (27,760 ft), about 20 metres (66 ft) below the ridge and some 230 metres (750 ft) before the First Step. It was found lying loose on brown 'boiler-plate' slabs of rock, which though not particularly steep, were smooth and in places had a covering of loose pebbles. The Swiss manufacturer's name (Josef Willisch) matched those of a number supplied to the 1924 expedition, and since only Mallory and Irvine had climbed that high along the ridge route, it must have belonged to one of them.



# Andrew Comyn « Sandy » Irvine (circa 1924)

(120E)

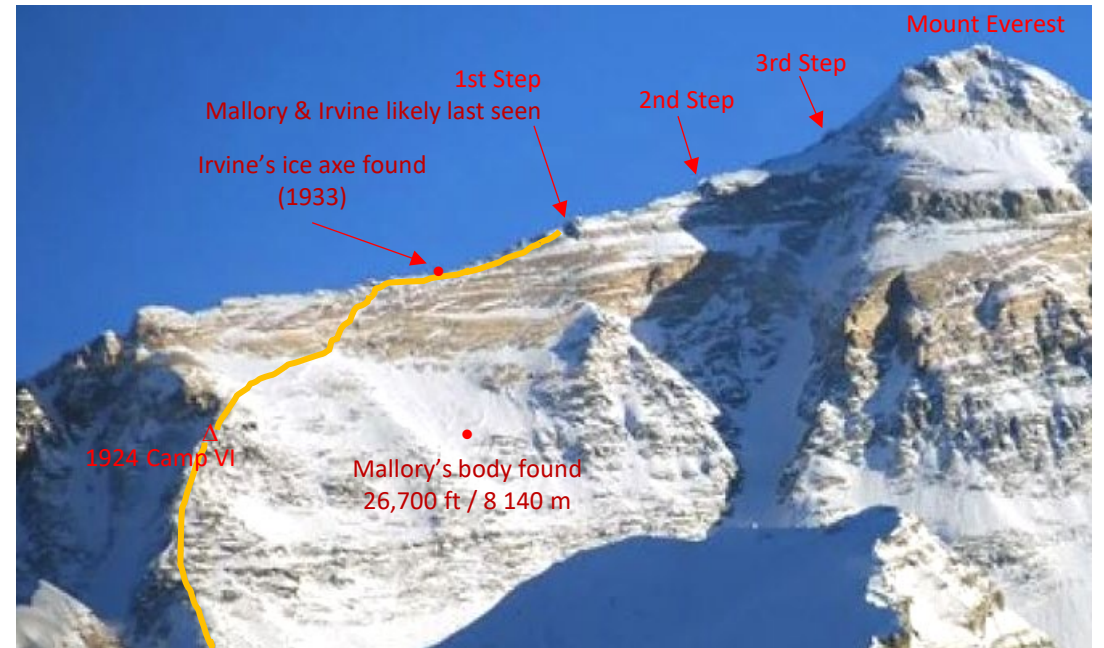


It was found that three linear notches made on the handle matched an those of an army swagger-stick that had belonged to Andrew Irvine, solving the problem of ownership.

The ice axe itself was lying flat on a slab, not wedged in a crack or at any sort of odd angle suggesting it had come to rest there. It was as if it had been placed in its position on purpose. Support for this comes in the form of Andrew Irvine himself. The theory is that, as a young and comparatively inexperienced mountaineer, he was really used to carrying such an implement over a ridge composed mostly of dry and exposed rock. He found it more of a hindrance than a help and had put it down with the intention of picking it up on his way back.



The cross mark was made by Percy Wyn-Harris that found it in 1933 to avoid it being mixed up with their ice axes.



# Manufacturer:

# Willisch - Taesch

(107E, 120E)

## 1<sup>st</sup> generation : the brothers (1900-1936)

Josef Willisch (1872-1943)

Constance Willisch (1880-1957)

Josef



1900

## 2<sup>nd</sup> generation : Constance's sons (1936-1967)

Max Willisch (1910-1945)

Roman Willisch (1913-1977)

Roman



≈ 1910



## 3<sup>rd</sup> generation : Roman's sons (1967)

Konstanz Willisch (1946)

Gottfried Willisch (1949-2005)



Konstanz

Gottfried



≈ 1920



1936

## 4<sup>th</sup> generation : Gottfried's son

Roger Willisch (1976)



1955

Josef Willisch (1872-1943) started making ice axes in 1900. Josef was a lifelong bachelor and had no children.

His brother Konstanz Willisch (1880-1957) and his sons Max (1910-1945) and Roman (1913-1977) took over ice axe manufacturing in 1936.

The 3rd generation brothers, Konstanz Willisch (1946) and Gottfried Willisch (1949) continued the activity in 1967.

Roger Willisch (1976) represents the 4<sup>th</sup> generation.



≈ 1967



1980

# Dr Scott Wallis Swindells (circa 1920)

(123E)



Blacksmith: Fritz Jörg  
Place: Zweilütschinen  
Model: Nr. 3  
Length: 99,5 cm / 33.1"  
Head: 29,5 cm / 7.5"  
Pick: 15 cm / 5.9"  
Adze: 10,5 cm / 3.9"  
Weight: 1176 g / 41.5 oz



Dr Swindells was a member of the Fell & Rock Climbing Club from 1919 to 1934.



# Manufacturer:

# Fritz Jörg - Zweilütschinen

(123E)



Jörg catalog 1911



Model Nr. 1



Model Nr. 2



Model Nr. 3

The Jörg family is one of the most famous blacksmith dynasties in Oberland (Switzerland).

- Fritz (Friedrich) Jörg (the first) manufactured ice axes from 1882 up to 1907 and marked the axe with: F. JÖRG ZWEILÜTSCHINEN.



- then FRITZ JÖRG

ZWEILÜTSCHINEN BERNER-OBERLAND.



- Fritz Jörg, the second, manufactured ice axes from 1908 up to circa 1930 and marked the axe with:

- FRITZ JOERG

ZWEILÜTSCHINEN BERNER-OBERLAND.

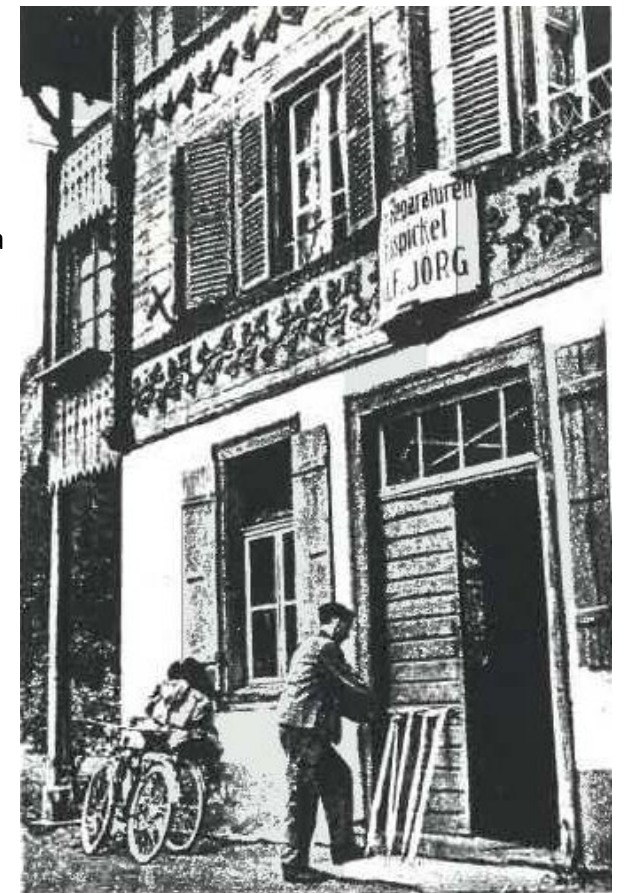


-Then F. JÖRG

ZWEILÜTSCHINEN BERNEROBERLAND.



- Alfred Jörg manufactured circa 1930 up to 1970 and marked with: A.JOERG ZWEILÜTSCHINEN BERNEROBERLAND.



# Herr W. R. Rickmers (circa 1920)

(112E)



# B.J. H.W (circa 1930)

(144E)



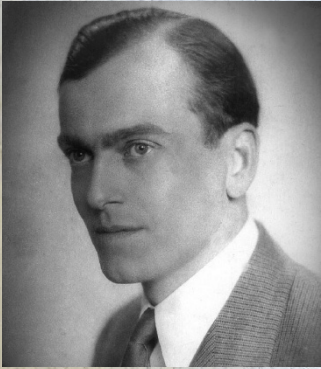
# R. GREENE (circa 1920)

(122E)

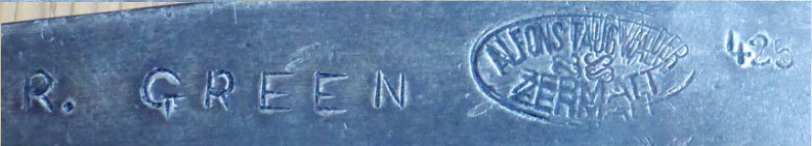
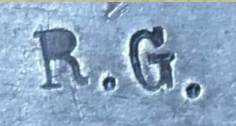


Blacksmith: Alfons Taugwalder (1<sup>st</sup>)  
 Place: Zermatt  
 Length: 85 cm / 33.5"  
 Head: 31cm / 12,2"  
 Pick: 17 cm / 6.7"  
 Adze: 10 cm / 3,9"  
 Weight: 956 g / 33.7 oz

R. Greene mid- 1920s



Raymond Greene (1901-1982), doctor and mountaineer, was the older brother of the novelist Gaham Grenne. He climbed extensively in the Alps with the Oxford University mountaineering club. In 1931, he reached the top of Kamet (7816 m) the highest mountain to have been climbed at that time. He was a member of the 1933 Everest expedition and as a doctor, he worked on the effects of high altitude and cold on the human body.



# Manufacturer:

# Taugwalder – Zermat

(122E, 144E)



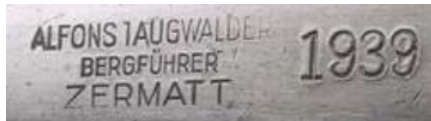
≈ 1920



≈ 1930



≈ 1938



With copper or steel rivet to lock the head with the shaft.

Made for the Swiss army



Alfons Taugwalder (1<sup>st</sup>)  
Alfons Taugwalder (1904-1982)

# Unknown owner (circa 1930)

(-)



Blacksmith: Pierre Bovier  
Place: Evolène (Swiss)  
Model: Marque Le Valais  
Length: 82 cm / 32.3"  
Head: 31,5 cm / 12.2"  
Pick: 17 cm / 6.7"  
Adze: 9,5 cm / 3.5"  
Weight: 988 g / 34.9 oz

Advertiser 1920

## PIOLETS

Spécialités de piolets en acier forgé - Outils en tous genres

PIERRE BOVIER, ÉVOLÈNE

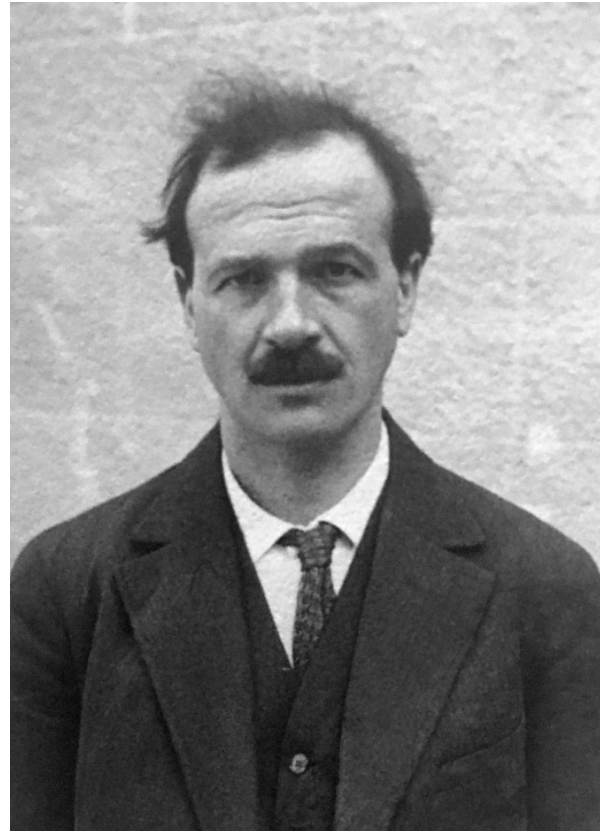
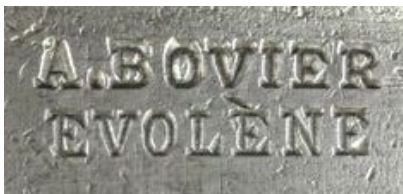
# Manufacturer:

# Bovier ices axes - Evolène



© J-N. Bovier

First generation: Antoine Bovier  
(1851/06/16 – 1928/03/13)  
Blacksmith and mountain guide in 1883



© J-N. Bovier

Second generation: Pierre Bovier  
(1898 – 1981)  
Blacksmith and aspirant-guide



© J-N. Bovier

Third generation: Gilbert Bovier  
(1930 – 2008)  
Blacksmith



Same hallmark for  
Pierre & Gilbert

# Manufacturer:

## Bovier - Evolène



The Bovier family is a long standing family of blacksmiths in Evolène (Valais mountain range, Switzerland). Jean Bovier (1807) and his son, Jean Jr (1833) were blacksmiths. Jean Jr Bovier helped the first tourists around 1857 thanks to his knowledge of the Vallée d'Hérens and his skill as a blacksmith.

His son, Antoine, learned blacksmithing and mountaineering as a teenager. He started making ice axes at the end of the 19th century. In 1873, he married Catherine Pralong with whom he had 5 children. He became a guide in 1883 and was quickly appreciated for his skills. He guided Owen Glynne Jones (see ice axe 100E) to the Dent Blanche in 1893.

His son, Pierre, took over the blacksmithing business with the help of his son Gilbert until the 1950s. Pierre shared this work with that of an aspiring-guide, mainly in the summer. Part of the ice axe production was sold to Adolf Attenhofer, first ski manufacturer in Switzerland, in Zurich. Then their ice axes manufacturing was replaced by carpentry and plumbing activities.

Jean-Noël Bovier, fourth generation, currently works as a mountain guide.

Antoine Bovier



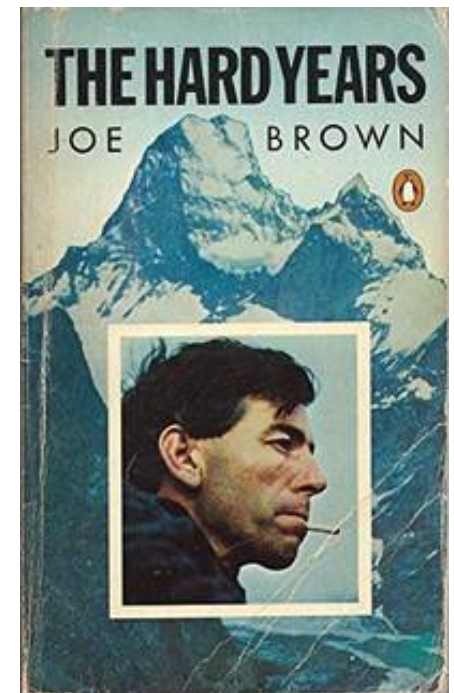
Antoine Bovier's wife,  
Catherine Pralong

# Joseph aka Joe Brown (circa 1960)

(-)



Joe Brown (1930 – 2020) is regarded by many as the finest British climber of the twentieth century. Together with his early climbing partner, Don Whillans, he was one of a new breed of British post-war climbers who came from working class backgrounds in contrast to the upper and middle class professionals who had dominated the sport up to the Second World War.



# Manufacturer:

# Charlet-Moser – Chamonix

(-)



Gérard Moser (left) and Germain Charlet (right) in 1960



René Charlet (1903-1971)



Gérard Moser (left) and Germain Charlet (right) in 1960's

Joseph Charlet (1863-1948) apprenticed with the Simond brothers in Les Bossons, Chamonix valley. In 1880, he moved to the next village to only make ice axes in his own name.

His son René (1903-1971) took over in 1940 and started the production of complementary mountain gear: crampons, pitons and hammers.

In 1958, in the absence of descendants, he gave the factory to his two nephews, Germain Charlet (1929-2015) and Gérard Moser (1914-2002). The brand achieved worldwide success thanks to the quality and innovation of its products.

An excellent blacksmith but a poor business manager, Germain had to sell the brand in 1983 to Leborgne company which industrialized the production in Arvillard, Savoie.

In 2000, Leborgne Group sold the Chalet-Moser company to Petzl, world leader in climbing equipment. The brand Charlet-Moser disappeared gradually to be replaced by Petzl in 2020.