

THE IPM SCANNER

The official newsletter of the International Police Museum

320 South Highway 101, PO Box 165, Rockaway Beach, OR 97136

Inside the Washed Ashore Arts, Crafts & More and Ringing Anvil Design Blacksmith



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Welcome to the Scanner, the official newsletter of the International Police Museum at Rockaway Beach, Oregon

International Police Museum looks forward to a vibrant new year in Rockaway Beach at Washer Ashore Arts, Crafts and More. During 2023 IPM completed an expansion, entertained 8,409 visitors, and conducted two outreach presentations at other organizations. We had visitors from Belgium, England, Canada, and multiple areas in the United States IPM also held an art fair featuring local artists and acquired several new artifact donations. 2023 was, in all, a very successful year for IPM.

Washed Ashore Arts Crafts More and the building, will be closed during January so that we may refresh some of the displays. IPM will be showcasing some new items and newly donated artifacts, including items from Mark Miranda, retired Chief of Police from Newport, Oregon. One new display will feature the 1960s vintage radar donated by Chief Worthy of The Dalles. It is always exciting to obtain new artifacts, particularly items which are over 50 years old to show what policing was, so it can be compared to what it is today. Our new display, compares 1960 to modern day speed measuring equipment. Radar, as a traffic speed measuring device for police, was introduced in the late 40s and came into common use in the mid 50s. Over time radar has become more compact and more accurate. Along with these technological advances have come increased training and increased training requirements for the use of these devices. Training programs such as that required to use radar, communications, and other technical computer equipment, are always improving and may best be described as a continual process.

One such training which is the current focus of some publicity is the use of force, and the use of restraints. IPM is pleased to present a multi-part article, written by board member Jane McClain, on the history of handcuffs, fetters, and other restraints. Over the years these have evolved from something very barbaric to something efficient, yet humane, with emphasis on concern for the person restrained and ensuring that they are not injured in the process. Unfortunately, there is no nice or aesthetically pleasing way to handcuff an individual who does not wish to submit. The ensuing struggle for control often leads to accusations of police brutality and improper action. Restraint is, however, necessary to protect both the person restrained and the officers and citizens in the general area. Some offenders unfortunately, appear to submit at the scene but may, in route to the jail, change their mind and attempt to kick out the windows of a patrol car or try to harm the transporting officer. For this reason they are restrained prior to being put into the police vehicle.

Jane has done extensive research on the history of restraint and, as you will find in her articles, Control of subjects in custody has come a long way from the "tie 'em up" days of early law enforcement.

New Museum Artifact



IPM was excited to receive a 1950-60s traffic radar from Chief Worthy of The Dalles Police. Last certified on 11-11-1960, this unit represented the state of the art at that time. After WWII, John Baker, employed by Automatic Signal Company applied for a patent for his "traffic control device" developed from his radar work during the war. The Town of Glastonbury in Connecticut became the first to adopt Mr. Baker's technology. Back then, it was called the Electro-Matic Radar Speed Meter, consisting of two antennas that functioned as radar emitter and receiver. * Refinements in the 1950s resulted in a single unit for transmit and receive, as in our new Electro-Matic S-5 from The Dalles.

* <https://kustomsignals.com/blog/100-plus-years-in-the-making-the-incredible-history-of-the-police-speed-gun>

What's coming in 2024:

IPM looks forward to new displays, including artifacts from Chief Worthy. See our display of early traffic radar and items carried or used by early police officers. Watch for more "Capturing History" as we explore restraints.

Article Sources: for page 3

¹ <https://unitedlocksmith.net/blog/history-of-handcuffs>

² https://www.blueline.ca/a_history_of_handcuffs-23

³ <https://thecontentauthority.com/blog/handcuff-vs-shackle>

⁴ <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Virgil>

⁵ http://www.handcuffs.org/strand_1894/index.html

⁶ <https://collection.sciencemuseumgroup.org.uk/objects/co155245/handcuffs-handcuffs>

⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_police-related_slang_terms, citing Partridge, Eric (1972). *A Dictionary of Historical Slang*. Penguin Books Ltd. ISBN .

A Dictionary of Historical Slang. Penguin Books Ltd. ISBN .

⁸ https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sicilian_Wars

⁹ <https://richlandcreek.com/creek-prayer-guide/when-were-the-psalms-written/>

¹⁰ <https://biblehub.com/parallel/psalms/149-8.htm>

¹¹ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-Europe/The-Middle-Ages> (I am using Britannica's timeline for Europe, and have no idea what happened to 1-500 AD)

¹² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lock_and_key

¹³ <https://www.theoi.com/Text/VirgilGeorgics2.html> (fettters)

¹⁴ <https://www.poetryintranslation.com/PITBR/Latin/VirgilGeorgicsIV.php>

¹⁵ Amin, Osama Shukir Muhammed. "People of Lachish Deported and Relocated." *World History Encyclopedia*. World History Encyclopedia, 19 Jul 2014. Web. 0 Dec 2023.

¹⁶ Image by Mark Cartwright, World History Encyclopedia (www.worldhistory.org), <https://www.worldhistory.org/image/7167/greek-slave-handcuffs/>, ; "Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike".

¹⁷ <https://www.hiatthandcuffs.co.uk/#About>

¹⁸ <https://collection.sciencemuseumgroup.org.uk/search?q=manacles>

¹⁹ <https://thecontentauthority.com/blog/handcuffs-vs-manacle>

New acquisitions:

1950s Police Radar, Automatic Signals S-5: Chief Tom Worthy, The Dalles Police Department, Oregon

1940-50s "Faurot" brand ultra violet finger print detector: Chief Tom Worthy, The Dalles Police Dept.

Portland Police patches and challenge coin: Mr. Greg Lewis, Portland, Oregon

Challenge Coin, Chief Miranda, Newport Police, retirement: Chief Mark Miranda, Newport, Oregon

Cheyenne, Wyoming patch: Ms Jane McClain, Damascus, Oregon

"Avon" glass car collection: Mr Herman Doty, Rockaway Beach, Oregon

HANDCUFFS: CAPTURING HISTORY: Jane Fagan McClain, IPM Board Secretary

Someone asked me what I knew about the history of handcuffs. Well, not much, but I do like to do research. So off we go down the rabbit hole. But first, remember that all sources do not agree on all points. That may be more understandable when you recall that original historical documents have often been translated and retranslated. For instance, to describe a restraint, one translation may use the word “chains”, another “fetters” or “shackles”, or maybe “iron bands.” “Iron bands” is descriptive of “manacles”, another word that occasionally appears. Those words typically have distinct meanings, none of which were used by the original authors some thousands of years ago.

Some differences are more important than others. In this case we are looking at the evolution of handcuffs from vines and strips of hides to the modern handcuffs of today. The term used is not as important as the knowledge that the item being described existed. Sometimes an error may be made that, while incorrect, one can surmise what happened. E.g., some generally reliable sources say that Virgil wrote about the use of restraints in 70BC.^{1,6} But Virgil was born in 70 BC, and his poem that mentions the use of restraints is from circa 30 BC.⁴

In addition, the use of the word “recording” is fluid, and could be the written word, or a depiction in a carving or painting telling of a conquest. Our general understanding of the historical words shackle and fetter is that a shackle was a heavier, more restrictive device, often a U-shaped piece of iron fastened around the ankles and closed with a cross-bar, while a fetter was lighter and less restrictive, perhaps iron rings joined by lengths of chain.³ Manacles have been described as smaller shackles meant for the hands, but often are distinguished by a wide, flat band of metal that encircles the ankle or wrist.^{18,19} All of these words, and others, are used by translators, often interchangeably, and may be many, many times removed from the original source.

Let’s start with the origin of the word “handcuff.” Maybe the word refers simply to the hand and the bottom of a sleeve.¹ (Yes, that has been suggested.) Some believe the word stems from the earlier “handcop”. “Cop” and “cosp” are old English words meaning to bind. Indeed, “cop” may well come from the old Latin word ‘capere’, meaning, *interalia*, capture and seize. In old French dialects, “capper” also translates as “seize.” Later “cap” was used in old English to mean “arrest.”^{1,2}

The use of “cop” and “copper” are not new, “Cop” appears in the 1704 “Shorter Oxford Dictionary” and is used as in “to capture.”⁷ “Copper” was in use at least by the late 1800’s.^{2,5} The progression might have been “he who cops is a copper.” This is much more believable than the allegation that it was a reference to copper badges and uniform buttons, or an acronym for Constable on Patrol. But what were early restraints?

6000 BC

It doesn’t involve research to imagine what the first restraints used by mankind were like. Strips of rawhide, lengths of rugged plant vines, rope of twisted vines and fibers, and braided lengths of animal hair come to mind. Early Egyptian wall reliefs, spanning back to 6000 BC, depict prisoners bound with plant materials.⁶

Bronze Age (2300–700 BC)

With the Bronze Age and man’s eventual ability to create more sophisticated objects, and learn such techniques as casting, came forerunners of modern handcuffs. An interesting example of what might be a half-step between non-metal and metal restraints is in the collection of the ScienceMuseumGroup. Perhaps from as early as 1700 BC, two leather cuffs, each appearing to be made from one shaped piece of leather, wrapped around each wrist and fastened with a leather button.⁶ The two cuffs are joined by a bronze ring. One wonders how easy it might have been to be unbuttoned and removed by the prisoner.

Early restraints were a one-time use tool, not adjustable, and had no hinges or keys. They were closer to what we know as handcuffs only because they were worn on the hands. Similar to a small version of a shackle, these restraints had to be broken to be removed. Many of the early metals were brittle and could be removed by smashing the restraint – an advantage to the captured. There may have been a very minimal selection of sizes, but they could not be custom fitted. Prisoners with small hands might have escaped. Larger hands and wrists might not allow the use of the restraint, and a soldier or guard might simply crush the wrist^{1,2}. Later manacles and shackles would be made in two c-shaped sections designed to be held together on one side with a rod or rivet. The other end of the c-pieces had a flange that when closed together could be locked with a sleeve lock, i.e., by slipping a metal band over the two flanges.^{17,18} We think of these devices as heavy, crude, and cumbersome, but in their day, they were the state of the art.

See more beginning with “ 930-515 BC ” in the next newsletter



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See “Handcuffs: Capturing History” beginning in this issue



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