

THE ANTIQUE GEAR SHOW

We're hoping many fans of Addendum are also fans of the PBS program *Antique Roadshow* or the History Channel's hit reality series *American Pickers*. One features antique appraisers traveling around the world to put a value on lost treasures, the other follows two self-proclaimed "pickers" that travel around the United States in search of rare oil cans, bicycles and gas station signs.

While the cable networks seem to be inundated with collectible television shows, the Addendum staff believes there's room for one more. *Antique Gear Show* would combine the best elements of both programs, putting a price tag on rare gear artifacts while roaming the globe in search of gear manufacturing's vibrant history.

Take for instance The Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park in Sacramento, California. This site boasts a gristmill and granary built with local materials, including Douglas firs and coast redwoods. The mill includes a 36 ft. overshot wheel with an unusual external gear system featuring wood on wood and metal on metal gears. A fascinating find, indeed, though historical preservationists will likely frown upon asking them what they want for it!

The Corliss Bevel Gear Cutting machine (pictured right) was used in cutting large bevel wheels. It was featured in the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition in 1876 and was also illustrated in the July 29, 1876 issue of *Harper's Weekly* (a wonderful addition to any gear aficionado's collection if you happen to have the trunk space).

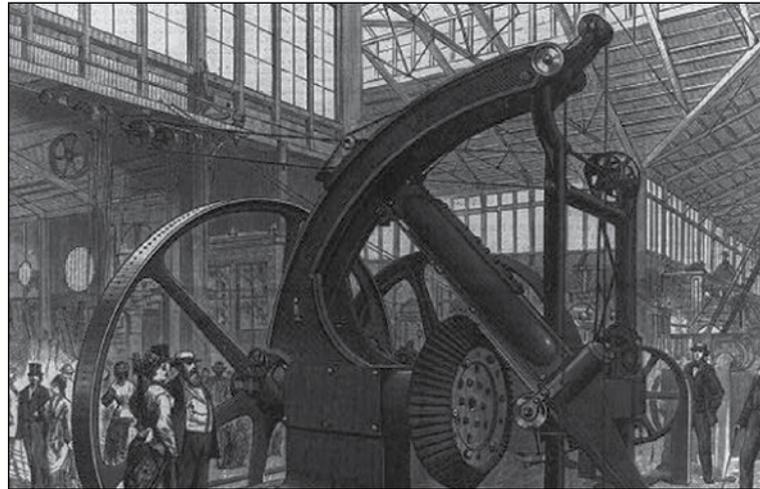
For the right price you can find a copy of *Gleason's Spiral Bevel Gears Teeth Proport Manual*—published in 1922—on Ebay. You can keep this in your machine shop library to remind your staff that books used to have covers, pages and illustrations, or you could hand it over to one of your young gear engineers and tell them to study for the test the next morning.

In order to validate our claims that a reality television series on gears could work—and could make us a lot of money in the process—we spoke with Bruce Rosenbaum, owner of Modvic, a home restoration firm in Massachusetts (www.modvic.com). Rosenbaum knows the reality television genre very well as his steampunk-inspired house has recently been featured on MTV's *Extreme Cribs* and the Discovery Channel show *Oddities*.

"It's been lots of excitement, but also a lot of work and waiting," Rosenbaum says. "Our recent MTV *Extreme Cribs* appearance was about 13 hours of filming with only about eight minutes of actual footage that made it on TV. The episode did not appear until about seven months after filming."

For the *Oddities* program, Rosenbaum filmed a perfect segment at the New York City antique shop that the director was extremely proud of. "I got a call about two weeks later saying the producers loved the filming, but I did not look 'steampunk' enough and they wanted me to reshoot the whole segment."

Rosenbaum is in the middle of pitching his own steampunk design reality show that combines elements of *American Pickers*, *American Restoration*, *Pawn Stars*, *This Old House* and *Oddities*. "Three high-profile L.A. reality television producers are pitching the show to cable network executives for the Fall/Winter 2011."



If you happen upon a Corliss Bevel Gear Cutting machine like the one seen here at the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition in 1876, give the Addendum editors a call (courtesy of the Library of Congress).



Bruce Rosenbaum's steampunk-inspired home was recently featured on episodes of MTV's *Extreme Cribs* and the Discovery Channel's *Oddities*.

So would Rosenbaum watch a program that digs up old gear artifacts and gives cable television viewers a slice of gear manufacturing history?

"Steampunk is all about gears and physical mechanisms where you can see and understand how things work," Rosenbaum says. "A whole show on gears and how gears work in different applications from past, present to future is sure to be a winner!"

Have your agent call our agent.