

# DECEMBER

As Christmas approaches, there's no respite from work for **STANLEY POTTS**, but a well-earned seasonal bonus hits the spot

## 01 WEDNESDAY

That Newark chap phoned again today... Tony or Toby I think it was. He wanted to know if I could give him any work. I suppose I could do with a hand, but it's a bit risky taking on someone fresh from violin making school – quite likely to be completely useless.

At one time I did have great hopes that it might be 'Potts and Son', but Frank hasn't shown the slightest interest – well not for some years anyway. I can still remember how he used to enjoy playing in the wood shavings or digging away at a piece of spruce with a thumb plane. I really can't see what the attraction is with merchant banking, but he seems to be doing all right for himself.

## 03 FRIDAY

Late this afternoon a lady brought in an old wreck of a violin in one of those coffin cases. Usual story... it belonged to her grandfather, hadn't been touched for 50 years, used to have a 'wonderful tone', etc etc. She was wanting to sell it to raise a bit of money for Christmas presents. The fiddle was a chestnut roaster, but the bow caught my eye. I thought at first it had a plastic frog, then realised it was silver mounted. Turned out to be a very fine Hill bow (Albert Leeson) with a black tortoiseshell frog. Momentary hesitation as I considered the possibilities... but of course I ended up telling her what it was, and what it might be worth. It needed some restoration work so I sent her off to Brian – he should be able to come up with a buyer. Merry Christmas to her!

After she left I finished off the last of the Glenlivet. Honesty can really be something of a curse in this business.

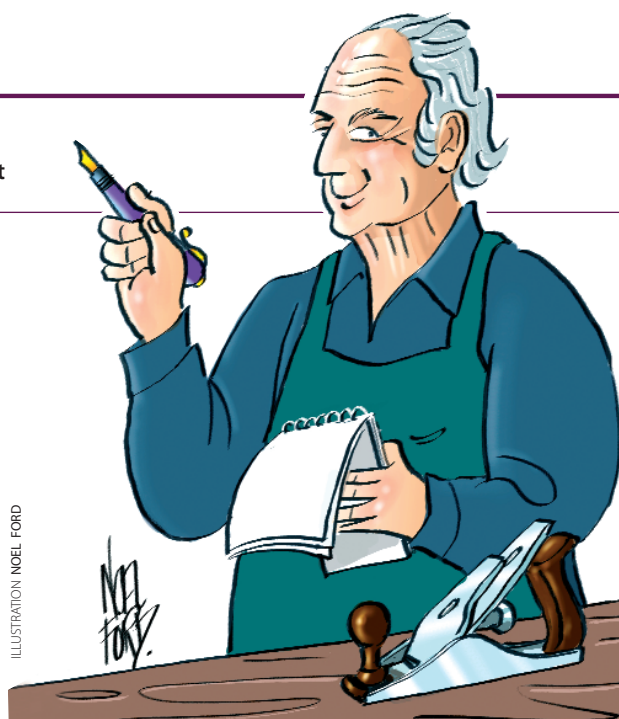
## 10 FRIDAY

Three more bills came today! Thankfully there was also a cheque from St Mark's for the work I did in September (they have someone new in accounts, so the payments are coming through much faster now). Still no sign of the money for the Klotz.

## 15 WEDNESDAY

Oh dear! Albert L\_\_ rushed in to see me... He had taken his 'Gagliano' to Jenkins in Reigate for another bridge (don't know why he would go to Jenkins – he can't cut a decent bridge, his feet are too thick and he's very full around the waist). Anyway, the fool let on that it was a Voller. Now Albert is wanting my opinion on the matter. I tried to point out that it was the sound that was important, and that the Vollers were fine makers and he should be proud to have a British-made instrument, etc etc. But to no avail. It is not Italian and it can't possibly have the 'Italian sound'.

Milroy's order arrived today. Caol Ila 12-year-old and my Christmas bonus, the rather expensive 18-year-old Macallan. (What was I thinking when I ordered that? I deserve it of course, but can I afford it?



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Better not let Rose see the bill, especially after I told her we couldn't afford the expensive plum pudding.) Annoyingly the Macallan label has been put on at an angle – the left side is a good 1/8" lower than the right. You'd think at that price they could have done a neater job.

## 17 FRIDAY

Received a cheque for £100 towards payment on the Klotz job. Don't expect I'll see the rest of the money now until he needs some more work done.

Frank phoned – wants to take me and Rose out for dinner tomorrow night. I said we could walk around to the Spotted Dog, but he had already made a booking at some fancy restaurant in Guildford – probably wants to show off the new BMW.

Haven't had a spare moment for my own fiddle. I might be able to get to it if things slow down over the Christmas break.

## 18 SATURDAY

Brian phoned about the Hill bow. He managed to sell it quite easily – seems it was an excellent one and she did very well out of it. Haven't heard a word from her, of course... but one never expects to be thanked for helping people out.

Can you believe it? Peter K\_\_ phoned at 3:20pm wanting an urgent soundpost adjustment before the concert tonight. Luckily I had the answering machine on.

To find out more about Stanley Potts and his world, visit [stanleypotts.co.uk](http://stanleypotts.co.uk)