

Patterns and the Molding of Cast Iron Banks

Supplement No. 3: Master Patterns*

Fritz Kokesh

Introduction

This is a supplement to the paper "Patterns and the Molding of Cast Iron Banks" that appeared in the *Penny Bank Post*.¹ The purpose of this and future Supplements is to expand on the subject, present new examples, and also to correct errors.

Supplement No. 3 provides additional examples of master patterns. The patterns shown were photographed during a visit with Frank Kidd at Kidd's Toy Museum in Portland, Oregon.

Master Patterns

Photos 1 and 2 show the wood master pattern for the "General Butler" bank, M-54.² This pattern is remarkable for its detail, and all the more incredible because although about 6 1/2" tall it weighs only 2 1/2 ounces! Notice that the seam between the parts does divide the pattern equally; in the area of the face the pattern maker put the seam to the left of the nose and then between the lips.



Photo 1. Wood master pattern for the "General Butler" bank, M-54.



Photo 2. The gaps in the base front and back are where pieces of the pattern have broken off.

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Photo 3 shows the master pattern (painted black) for the "Duck Bank," M-615, together with a cast iron bank. Notice that the master pattern is larger than the bank; this is the cumulative result of shrinkage during casting of a brass working pattern and then the iron bank. Why is the body of the duck painted but not the feet? I can only guess that this was done for decorative rather than functional purposes.



Photo 3. Wood master pattern (left) for the "Duck Bank", M-615, and example of cast iron bank.

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Please direct comments to Fritz Kokesh at fritz@toybanks.info or 177 Pemberton St. #1, Cambridge, MA 02140.

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References

¹ Fritz Kokesh, "Patterns and the Molding of Cast Iron Banks, Seminar by Bill Robison," *Penny Bank Post*, April 2003, p. 5.

² Andy and Susan Moore, "The Penny Bank Book: Collecting Still Banks," Schiffer Publishing Ltd., Exton, Pennsylvania, 1984.