
THE BRAIDER

VOLUME III

ALBERTUS GEORG SCHAAKE

THE BRAIDER

VOLUME III : Issue Numbers 31–45

ALBERTUS GEORG SCHAAKE

— August 2002 to February 2006 —

PREFACE

This is the third of four volumes on the Theory and Practice of Braiding. It brings together the third fifteen issues of a Journal called simply *THE BRAIDER*.

Albertus Georg Schaake was born in Holland in 1933. He studied Engineering at Delft Technical University, before emigrating to New Zealand in 1962. His career has been spent first as a Public Works Engineer, and then as a Tutor in Engineering subjects at the Waikato Polytechnic in Hamilton.

For the last thirty years he has devoted countless hours to the study and practice of braiding : to the creation of decorative braids in particular. Towards the end of the 1980s, he began a project to publish his discoveries, occasionally collaborating with other authors, to produce a stream of books, pamphlets, articles and research papers on a variety of topics in braiding theory. These publications range from books on Regular Knots, Fiador Knots and Herringbone Knots through to extensive pamphlets on the braiding of Wheel-knots. For a lengthy account of the progress and philosophy of this work up to 1995, the reader is referred to chapter twelve of *History and Science of Knots* edited by J C Turner and P van de Griend, and published by World Scientific (1995).

In 1995, such was the large output of Schaake's ideas on the subject, that he decided to produce a quarterly Journal which would summarize and extend the description of his work. He called the Journal *The Braider*; and in the next eleven years, virtually single-handedly, he produced 60 issues. Such was his industry and application, that when he stopped his researches, due to illness in 2006, he had already prepared quarterly issues which would take the series up to November 2009.

In total, some 1600 pages of ideas, philosophies, theories, and instruction on design and production of decorative braids, have flowed from his computer and have been included in the issues of *The Braider*. In all the issues there are numerous diagrams which illustrate the theories and techniques. All of these were produced by Schaake by means of a computer-aided design package.

Now, in 2007, it is my privilege to bring together all sixty of the issues, unchanged and unedited, into a collection of four spirally-bound Volumes. They will be available for future generations of braiders to study and further the great body of work that Schaake has initiated.

Georg Schaake may truly be said to be the father of Modern Braiding Theory; very little of consequence existed before he began his researches.

The four-volume collection may be taken as a text for all braiders, from beginners to the most advanced. It is essential reading for all serious decorative braiders.

John C. Turner,
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