



The Parting Shot Jack Champaigne

The Crystal Ball

The Shot Peener staff spent a lot of time deliberating the theme of this issue. Does the crystal ball image on the cover over-sell our look into the future? Yes. We are taking a short-term look into the future of shot peening in this issue. And no—we aren't overselling our mission to be continually evaluating and promoting the future of all of our livelihoods.

For a process that had a slow beginning, changes in shot peening are coming faster and faster. (But doesn't all technology seem to be evolving at an exponential rate?) Metal Improvement Company has achieved a marketable product with laser peening. It's gaining broad acceptance in critical applications where deep compressive stresses are needed. In a satisfying merger of timeless design with new technology, Materias Primas Abrasivas is using lasers to blast clean historic Spanish architecture. Dr. Pfeiffer's work with ceramics opens all kinds of possibilities. What other materials could benefit from shot peening if we develop the materials and processes to accomplish it?

We went to CastExpo 2005 to check the pulse of the foundry business and found it strong and healthy. Leading blast cleaning manufacturers are producing new and innovative products to support foundries. How much foundry business moves to Asia is a transition to be reckoned with.

Many of the changes are ones that we have worked hard to achieve. For example, as trainers for FAA inspectors, we are enjoying the new awareness by the FAA of peening benefits and their understanding of the consequences of improper peening. NADCAP and FAA auditors are now being trained to perform shot peening audits. Universities, especially in Germany, Japan, UK, USA, and now Singapore, have endeavored to provide curriculums for students to understand concepts of stress, fracture, fatigue and the application of shot peening as a palliative. This gives shot peening the validation that it deserves.

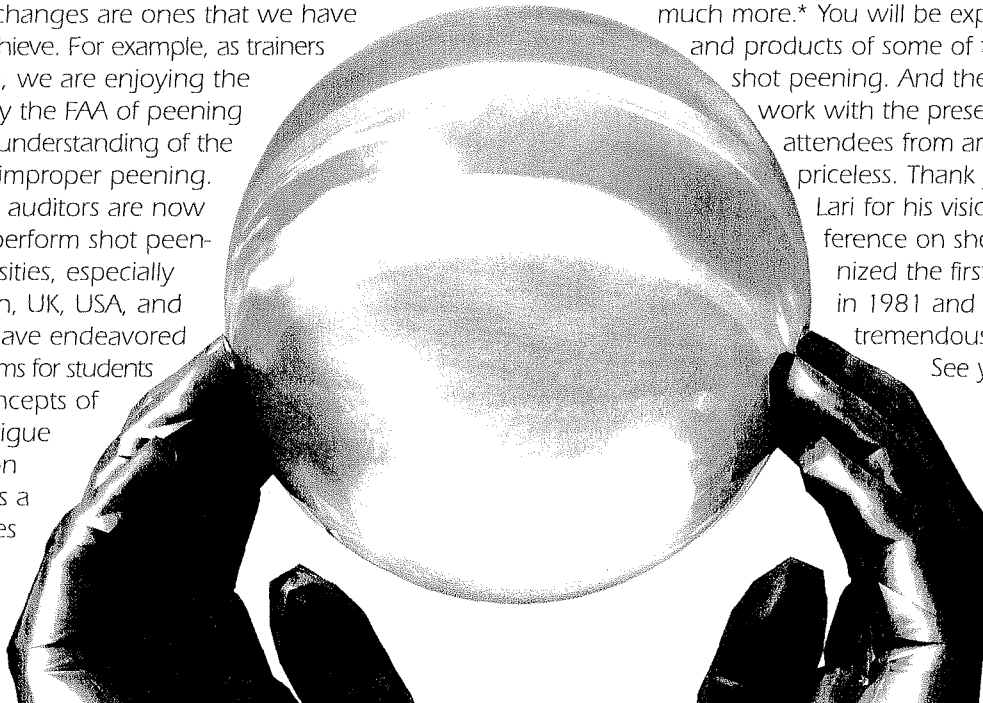
Everyone in the industry will benefit as will consumers who will purchase stronger, better products.

We have some tree-huggers on our staff and they enjoy putting together the Environment column. I have to admit it, instead of sounding like activists, they sound like savvy business people. We're sure that companies that recycle, reuse and reduce are using good business practices and have a better chance of survival than those who don't.

The big impediment to discussing the future of shot peening is also our biggest frustration as publishers—it's the secretive nature of our business. The unique applications, the amazing solutions on the drawing board... and we can't share them. The biggest users of shot peening—automotive, aerospace, medical, military—have to keep their products and processes under wraps. Many of us need to protect the identity of our customers. This is all completely understandable and the very nature of business and competition. But then again, do you ever feel like you are working without the whole picture?

That is the biggest benefit of ICSP9. It is a look into the future thanks to the researchers and manufacturers who share their work with us. Presenters at ICSP9 will cover alloys, laser peening, burnishing, non-destructive testing, non-conventional shot peening methods and much, much more.* You will be exposed to the research and products of some of the greatest minds in shot peening. And the opportunity to network with the presenters, exhibitors and attendees from around the world is priceless. Thank you to Abbas Nikulari for his vision of a global conference on shot peening. He organized the first conference in Paris in 1981 and he is doing a tremendous job with this one.

See you in Paris this fall.



*For a complete list of ICSP9 papers and presenters, go to www.shotpeener.com

For more information on ICSP9, go to www.icsp9.iitt.com