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The Rooster's Immortal Perch, Hand Crafted Weathervanes

By Dana

The weathervane is most often thought of as a metal rooster on the top of a barn that points in the direction of the blowing wind. That is a weathervane point in the direction of the origin of the wind. A compass rose is fixed below the rooster and points in the direction of the eight cardinal points of the earth. North, South, East, West and the four in between. Once long ago, it was believed that the winds were gods and in that ancient time, flags were used to tell archers the direction of the going wind. Aiming against the wind in archery and in favor of the wind in sailing are important things for civilizations at their birth.

A genius astronomer and architect from Greece built the oldest weathervane from those myths and legends, to immortalize them in stone and bronze. That was more than 2000 years ago, but just a little over a thousand years ago, the rooster became an immortalized sculpture upon the tops of domes and cupolas in all the world of Christendom, when the pope proclaimed that in honor of the apostle Peter, each church should have a rooster weathervane to remind followers. In Luke 22:34 at the last supper, Christ prophesies that Peter will deny he is a follower or even knows who Jesus is exactly three times before the rooster will crow, and as he denies for the third time that night, the rooster crows. The Holy Roman Empire of the church passed this legacy onward and influenced culture the world over. Even the metal working Vikings would craft weathervanes of roosters, both for spiritual as well as artistic reasons.

Ever since the very first Merman Warrior weathervane known as a Triton. The careful melting down or softening of different metals kept at constant temperatures while mixed with other elements, pounded, sculpted into weapons and crafted. Weathervanes have been made by hand. The hands of a metalworker are usually course and calloused, from the fires and hot coals of the blowing forge. Billows would be used to heat the raw material (bronze, copper, iron, steal, silver, gold...) or any combination of raw materials until such time as the forge was no longer necessary. But till this very day, the forge and anvil are used by blacksmiths to mold and carve the general shape and desired balance of a weathervane.

Sculpting a weathervane however once shaped, can be one of the most detailed and subtly elegant aspects of the art. It takes a lot of time and energy to sculpt a piece of solid metal into a detailed

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figure, and unless a smith has these skills, she or he will spend great portions of their time on it. Metal sculpting in fine detailed chiseling work is restricted to only a precious few, and those in America that do so are slowly disappearing. One of the greatest metalworking artisans of the 20th century said on many occasions before departing from this world; "Mine is the art of the dinosaur, I will not have my son learn it." - Grizzly Lee Burton in Portland, Oregon Highland Games, while forging a Scottish sword.

The weathervane for this reason is a prize possession. The weathervane is a possession crafted by the human hand with emotion. Weathervanes are symbolic of a time when things were simpler and far less stressful than they have become in the 21st century. The peaceful life on a farm seems to make life slow down somewhat. Even though time still passes, the sun rises and sets, the rooster is immortalized upon the roof tops of churches, barns and homes as a reminder of peace and harmony, like that of times gone by.

This article was written by Dana at

<http://www.weathervanesrus.com/>

where only the finest,

handcrafted contemporary and traditional copper weathervanes are made. Continue the historic tradition with a striking weathervane for your home. Please feel free to reproduce this article with a link pointing back to

<http://www.weathervanesrus.com/>

Weathervanity

By Tim Lapkovski

People don't think that it's important, but the appearance of your house outside is just as vital as the interior decorations. When you bring people to your house, the first thing they will see is the outside appearance. If you have a crappy look outside, even if your house has a great design and well built inside, they will always have that impression that your house is terrible because of the outside appearance. More and more people are conscious about their house's outside appearance as time goes by.

– Yard decorations – Custom mailboxes – Wind chimes – Birdbaths

1. Why Weather Vanes?

People want their yards to look good and ornaments of different sorts that shout their personality and

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individuality are being bought and decorated on the exterior of their house. These decorations got almost all of the places in the hose covered: the lawn, the porch, the garden, the fences and almost everything that you can see outside your house may be decorated. After much decorating, you might notice that there's still something missing. Somehow, you're still missing something. And you know what? You probably forgot o decorate your roof. The popular decoration and personalization of roofs are weather vanes. Weather vanes are those things perched on top of the roof of the house. These weather vanes are useful if you want to know what direction the wind is blowing.

2. They're Also Functional

Most weather vanes may be seen in airports and other structures where it is crucial to know where the wind is coming from. Now, people make use of weather vanes, not just to tell where the wind is coming from, but for the decoration of their roofs. Since the popularity of outdoor design blossomed, a number of types of weathervanes have been developed over the years. This is good, because now, there are more designs and types that will suit any kind of roof you may have.

3. Price

Consider your options. If you're buying a weathervane, you should first check out the second hand shops for very cheap vanes. If you're serious in finding the perfect weathervane for you and you still want to save some cash, I suggest that you surf the net for weather vanes. Usually, the internet has a lot of sites regarding sale of this product and you will have a larger selection to choose from and some of them are even cheaper than those in the stores. It is convenient to shop online because you won't have to go far and wide just to secure your very own wind vane. The prices vary according to the size, the make and the design of the vane. Prices range from \$10 to more than \$200.

4. Style

There are so many styles of weathervanes out in the market now. Choose the type that is appropriate for your household.

– Aluminum – Copper – Stained glass – Windcup – Bronze – Cottage – Tabletop – Extra large

5. Size

Weather vanes come in different sizes. There are weathervanes that are just a few inches tall while some of them are really huge. If your roof is not that high off the ground, then do not purchase a very big weather vane. It will look awkward, perched there and it will just cause eyesores for you and your guests. Now, if your roof is wide, then you should consider buying a wider vane. Make sure you have your ratios set up right. If your roof is tall, get a tall vane; if your roof is wide, get a wide vane. An appropriate ratio for the weathervane to roof height is 1 inch of weathervane for every foot of the house.

6. Design

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You should choose appropriately when it comes to design. Take into consideration where you're going to put it: whether it be a barn or your own home. If you want a classic weathervane design, go for the usually rooster vane. It goes well with any roof, as long as the color is appropriate. There are a lot of other designs like: eagles, fowls, pigs, cows, dogs and other animals that will look good when placed on top of any barn. There are also specialized weathervanes like: firemen, trucks, tractors, houses, barns and whatnot. Always consider what you want, and what will represent your personality more. Also, consider the color of the design whether or not it will clash with your roof or walls.

For more great weather vane related articles and resources check out

<http://weathervanes.outdoorvista.com>



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