

Weathervane

## THE ROMANTIC HISTORY OF WEATHERVANES AND THEIR USE

The weathervane being basically comprised of a sail or flat area for wind to blow against, and an arrow to point into the wind, afforded an opportunity for artistic expression of every conceivable kind. Everything has been cut out of these sails, including initials, dates, hearts, horseshoes, heraldic devices, sometimes even just a pattern of holes. Likewise, the sail was decorated with a fancy border in the form of fleur-de-lis or balls, and then there seemed to be tails added to counterweight an overly heavy arrow.

Who generally made weathervanes? This is an excellent question and it seems that weathervanes most generally were made either by blacksmiths or sheet-metal workers, and in the latter part of the 19th century metal spinners began to play an important role in the making of weathervanes. There were many firms specializing only in parts for weathervanes such as the spun balls, spun terminals and ornaments such as fish, roosters, arrows, etc. These parts were furnished in either zinc or con-

per and were spun or stamped was left to the who was genersheet-metal or blacksmith to these pieces and them into weath-



#### INTRODUCTION TO WEATHERVANES AND THEIR SPECIFICATIONS

weathervane is not only a piece of architectural furniture but it is also an instrument to tell the direction of the wind. Mounted as high as possible, it is generally installed on a spire or a cupola. Many times a lightning ground wire is attached to the main shaft.

Kenneth Lynch & Sons has been making weathervanes now for more than fifty years. Experience has taught us that a weathervane should be from 2" to 3" in length for each foot of elevation of a one-story building. This depends largely on the location of the building for certainly a one-story building situated on a high hill and having no cupola on it might require a larger weathervane than that same building on the same high hill with a cupola on it where the weathervane stands out in greater silhouette.

A weathervane on a church steeple or on the top of a tall building is another matter entirely and there is no general rule that can be applied. However, the recommendation about drawing the weathervane to scale on the building elevation is very important.

The two things about almost any building which attract immediate attention are the entrance and the roofline. A suitable weathervane enhances and dramatizes those important areas.

The weathervane is likely to be the only moving thing on the building. It tells a story of what is happening at that moment - which way the wind is blowing and also how the building itself is oriented, since you immediately see the cardinal points of the compass.

While most weathervane art in America is typically American, everything has been used from the famous American trotting horse to Indians, and other things of local interest. Likewise with many weathervanes brought here from Europe the influence of European weathervanes, particularly bannerets and monogram vanes, was certainly felt in American architecture. Weathervanes reflected the character and identity of the people who bought them, their trades, their hobbies, their sports, and in many cases their zodiac symbols. For sure a weathervane was put at a point where all could see and admire it, and, of course, enjoy it.

The use of wrought scrolls and balls does a great deal for a weathervane. Two of the best examples of this treatment are the Old North Church in Boston and

the Wren Building at William and Mary College at Williamsburg. Both of these spires are generously

decorated with wrought scrolls, balls and other treatment. This gets the weathervane up in the air where it belongs and gives it a very decorative connection with the building proper.

For the weathervane itself we use copper, aluminum or stainless steel paying attention, and guarding against as much as possible, the possibility of metal fatigue. The weathervane must be balanced, that is the sail must be counter-balanced by the opposite end of the weathervane in order to make it turn in lively enough fashion. The bearing system is as simple as using only one single ball for the weathervane to rotate on. Nothing more complicated must ever be used for a weathervane, once installed, is difficult to get to for adjustments. Always use a painted stainless steel shaft. The taller the weathervane the heavier the shaft must be as there is a great tendency for it to bend at the point where it penetrates the roof. All shafts must go through the roof and be fastened to a collar beam or some other such cross member underneath. On grand scale weathervanes we have used solid steel shafts as big as 3" in diameter. However, for the average weathervane, a shaft 3/4" to 1" in diameter is sufficient, but depending upon the "sail area" the weathervane maker will select a shaft that will do the job, for it must not bend. Needless to say, the weathervane shaft must be absolutely vertical. Otherwise the vane will tend to "lay" in one position. Generally three finishes are offered on weathervanes - gold leaf, acid patina (same as for bronze statuary on bronze and copper only) and paint on aluminum and stainless steel. Leaving a copper weathervane to "age" naturally is an option as well.

All of the foregoing should be shown on a simple shop drawing so that the design fits the condition and that all of the problems are solved, including the proper anchoring, etc.

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#### OLD NORTH CHURCH

enneth Lynch & Sons has made thousands of weathervanes for now famous buildings, but our restoration of the weathervane on the Old North Church is by far of greatest interest seconded only by the repair of the bannerette weathervane on the Old South Meeting House in Boston in 1982.

On August 31st, 1954, the steeple of the Old North Church in Boston was blown from its ancient moorings by one of the fiercest hurricanes that the East Coast had ever experienced to that time.

Although the steeple that fell was not the original one in which Robert Newman hung his "Lanthorns" in 1775 (that structure was blown down in 1884), one significant part of the first steeple remained: the banner shaped weathervane formed under the master hammers of Deacon Shem Drowne before the Union was born. Kenneth Lynch & Sons restored, regilded and assisted in reinstalling this historic weathervane.

We are very proud to be associated with this historic work. Paul Revere, who read the signal, "One if by land or two if by sea" from Mr. Newman's "lanthorn", was also a metal worker.

Photograph taken by passer-by at the crucial moment during August 1954 hurricane as Old North Church steeple begins to fall.

Using its old banner shaped weathervane, damaged but recognizable, as a symbol, an appeal

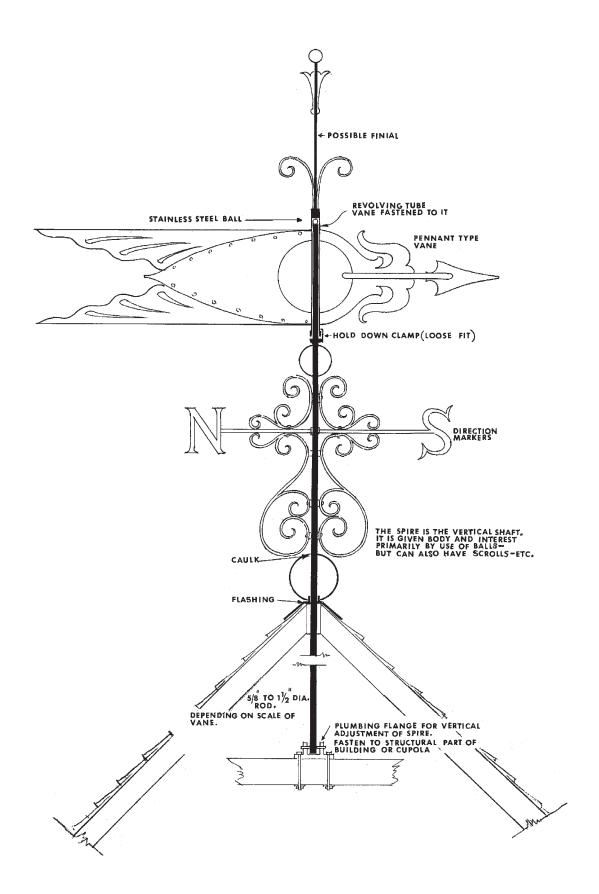
was made to Americans everywhere throughout the land. The response was not long in coming. Donations in cash, materials and services, from school children, private individuals, associations, clubs, and many large businesses across the country, poured into Boston on a flood of characteristic generosity and patriotism.

This special Vane of the Old North Church,in Boston, MA, was refurbished and regilded by Kenneth Lynch & Sons for the Bicentennial Celebration in 1976.







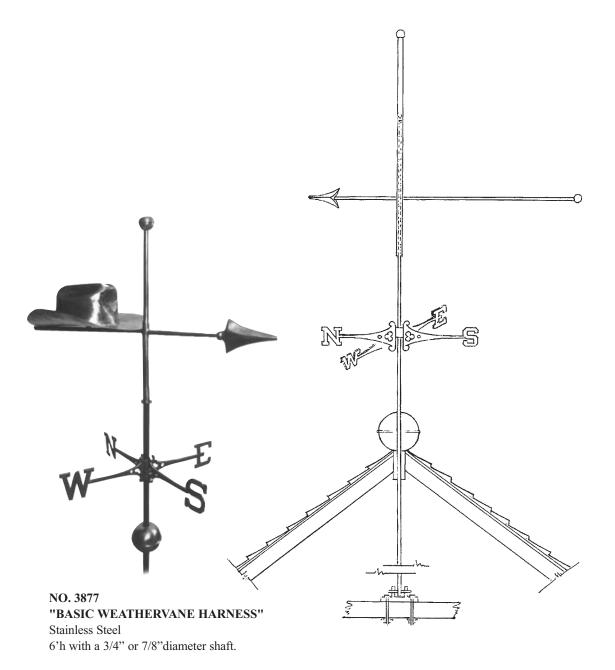


NO. 3826

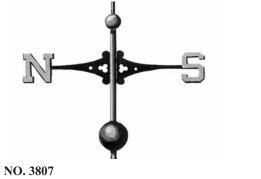
The above cross section shows a typical weathervane installation, including the garnishment on the spire. In most cases, a weathervane must be at least 2"to 3" in length for each foot of elevation. However, this rule does not always apply and it is better to send in a drawing of the building and to mention your preference in a weathervane so that you can take advantage of our long experience and expert advice.

The further down inside of the building the spire can be anchored, naturally the stronger the weathervane is going to be. As a general rule, you should have an absolute minimum of half the outside length on the inside or 1/3 the total shaft length for anchoring. Shortening this space can lead to difficulty.

Note that we have a mounting flange at the bottom of the spire to anchor it, and for making the spire vertical. While normally many weathervanes only have the cardinal points of the compass, this illustration above shows clearly how much added interest one can achieve through the introduction of scrolls, balls, and similar garnishments. See illustration of the Old North Church Weathervane.



This is a complete unit ready to receive any silhouette-type motif. The silhouette must work as a silhouette and it must be able to be welded to the frame, shown above. It should make contact at the bottom bar and at least at one or two points along the vertical spire. Note illustration on page 396, (No. 3876). The carpenter's feet are resting at the bottom bar and the plane and scroll shaving rest on another member coming out from the spire. Poor practice would be to have an illustration such as a dog with his nose touching the spire as this would tend to deform the figure. Good judgement must be used.



 "CARDINAL POINTS"

 LENGTH
 LETTER HEIGHT
 SPIRE DIA

 22"
 3 5/8"
 7/8"

 27"
 5"
 1"



**NO. 3804 COPPER BALL** 2", 4", 5", 6", 8", 10" & 12" Diameter



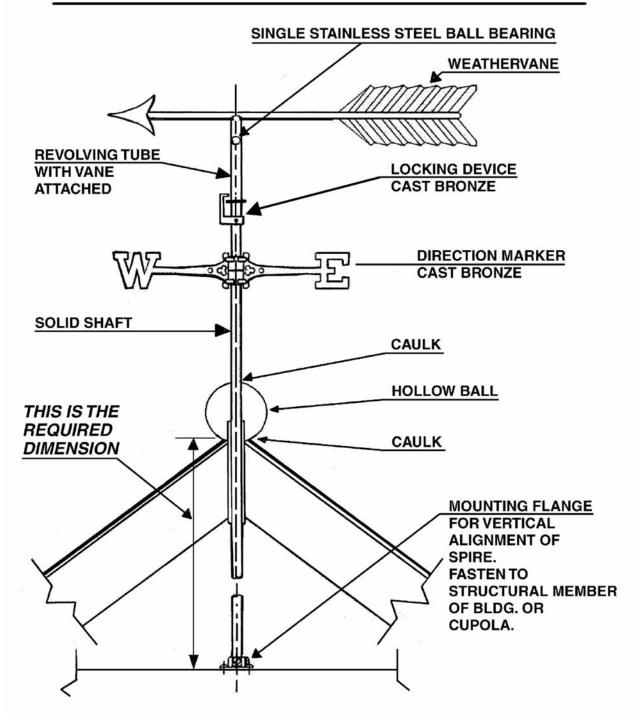
NO. 3875 "CARDINAL POINT HOLDER" Stainless Steel Hand made and special design

#### **CARDINAL POINTS**

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The above information refers to stock weathervane sizes only. For larger vanes, a shop drawing will be furnished showing the shaft size and letter size. Very large sizes and special scroll-type brackets "bespoke."

#### WEATHERVANE ANCHORING INSTRUCTIONS



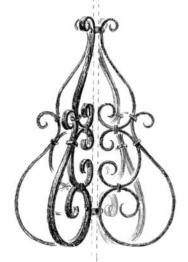
#### NO. 3827

Simple weathervane installation showing an ordinary arrow weathervane with the spire going down through to a collar beam. It is far better to have the weathervane a little oversized than it is to have it too small. Be sure to consider this advice when selecting the size for your weathervane. To make the shaft, we require the dimension shown.

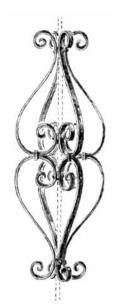
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#### **BESPOKE GARNITURES**

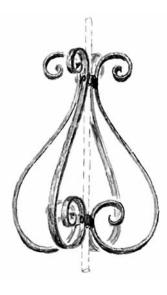
n this page we show the wrought scroll-like members which are used to garnish a weathervane spire. Many of the tall spires used on older buildings had great masses of scrolls to decorate the spire and give it body. These are now all made of non-rusting materials and are ready to be introduced on any spire of the desired diameter. When we speak of a spire we refer only to the metal shaft that supports the weathervane, not the spire of a church building. In one of our older books on weathervanes it refers to these garnitures as being "Bespoke." This is an old English expression meaning that they are custom made to order, made to measure and fit. Therefore, all of these spire garnitures are "Bespoke."



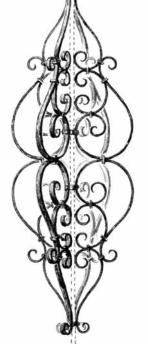
NO. 3801 BESPOKE GARNITURE Stainless Steel, 3'H



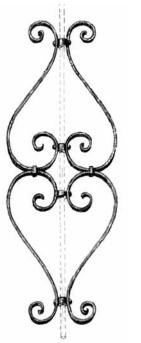
NO. 3802 BESPOKE GARNITURE Stainless Steel, 4'H



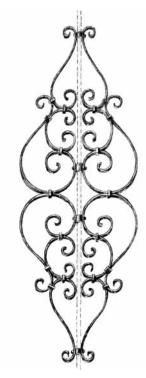
NO. 3803 BESPOKE GARNITURE Stainless Steel, 2'H



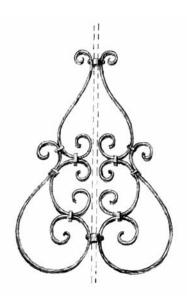
NO. 3805 BESPOKE GARNITURE Stainless Steel, 6'H



NO. 3806 BESPOKE GARNITURE Stainless Steel, 4'H



NO. 3809 BESPOKE GARNITURE Stainless Steel, 6'H



NO. 3810 BESPOKE GARNITURE Stainless Steel, 3'H

#### KENNETH LYNCH & SONS

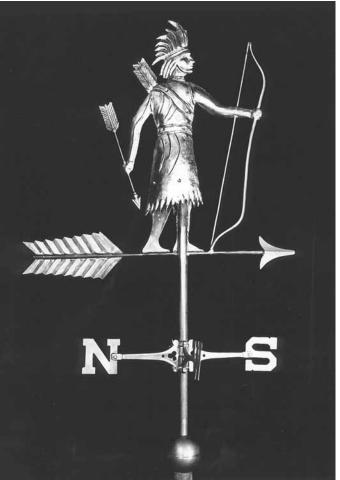
## WEATHERVANES

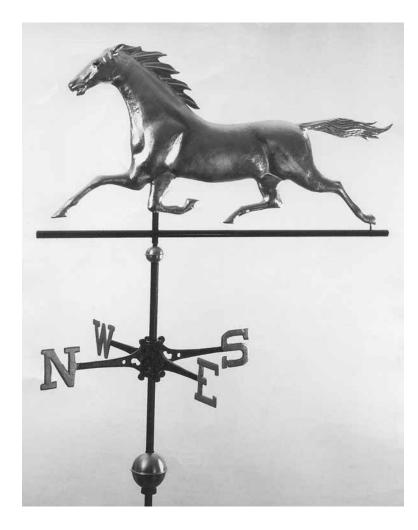


NO. 2525 AMERICAN EAGLE VANE Copper 18", 24", 30", 36", 42", and 48" wingspan, other sizes on application. Plain, Gold Leaf or Verde Patina



NO. 5576 INDIAN VANE Copper, 36" H Plain, Gold Leaf or Verde Patina





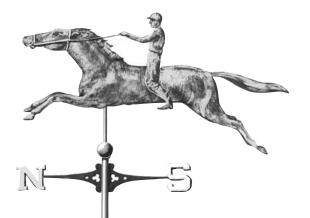
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**NO. 3825 JUMPING HORSE VANE** Aluminum, Copper or Stainless Steel, 48"L Plain, Painted, Gold Leaf or Verde Patina

#### **NO. 1534 ETHAN ALLEN HORSE VANE** Copper, 31"L

Plain, Gold Leaf or Verde Patina

We have made more of this horse weathervane than any other of similar design. We still have the same molds that we have been using for so many years. While this is certainly a middle 19th century piece of work, it has a rather primitive feeling to it and it is most attractive when on top of a barn.



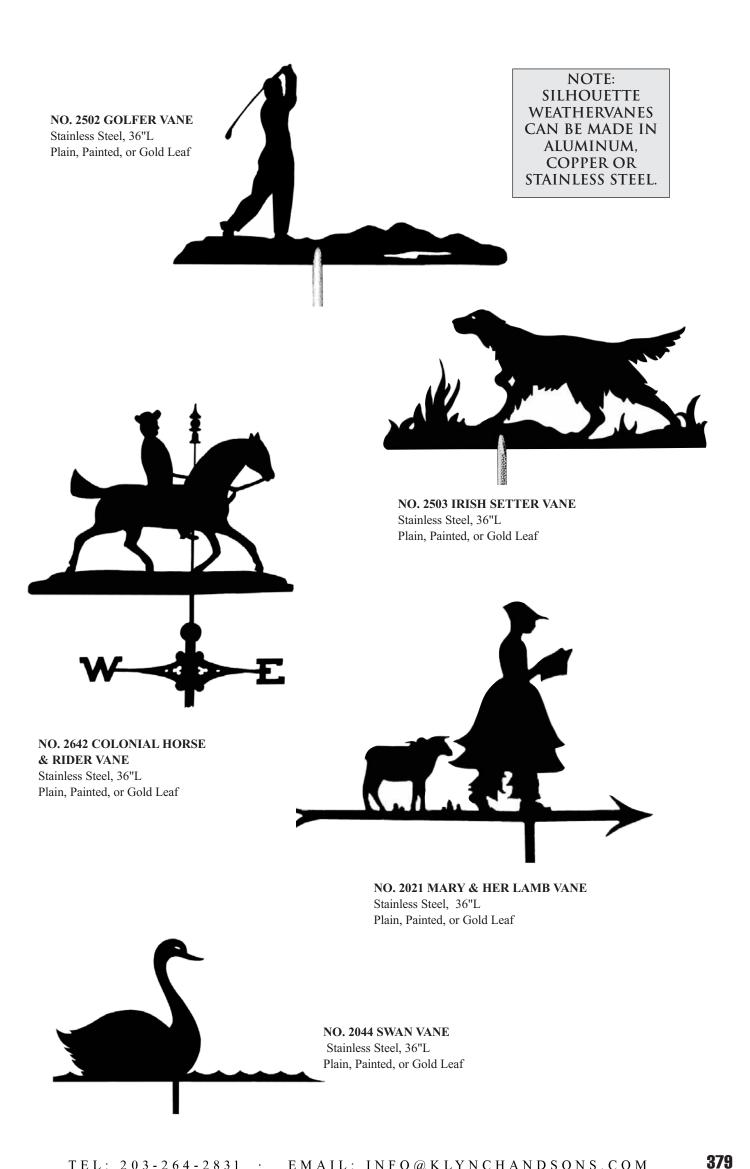
**NO. 1542 HORSE & JOCKEY VANE** Copper, 32"L Plain, Gold Leaf or Verde Patina This is also available with the Jockey in the traditional position.

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#### NO. 1536 TROTTING HORSE & CART VANE Copper, 34"L Plain, Gold Leaf or Verde Patina Furnished in swell bodied. Several makers offered this during the 19th century. However, the above illustration is the best we have ever seen.







NO. 2002 NEPTUNE VANE Stainless Steel, 36"L Plain, Painted, or Gold Leaf Neptune standing in a seashell, driving a horse on a wave-like base. Designed by Pierre Bourdelle and manufactured circa 1931 by Kenneth Lynch & Sons.

**NO. 2001 VALKYRIE VANE** Stainless Steel, 36" L Plain, Painted, or Gold Leaf



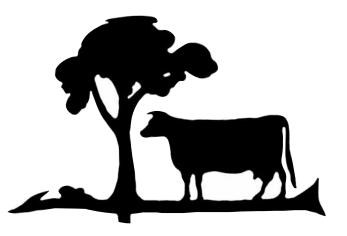
**NO. 2011 PLOUGHMAN VANE** Stainless Steel, 36"L Plain, Painted, or Gold Leaf



**NO. 2006 SWAN & CYGNET VANE** Stainless Steel, 36"L Plain, Painted, or Gold Leaf

NO. 2004 THE HUNT Stainless Steel, 42" L Plain, Painted, or Gold Leaf

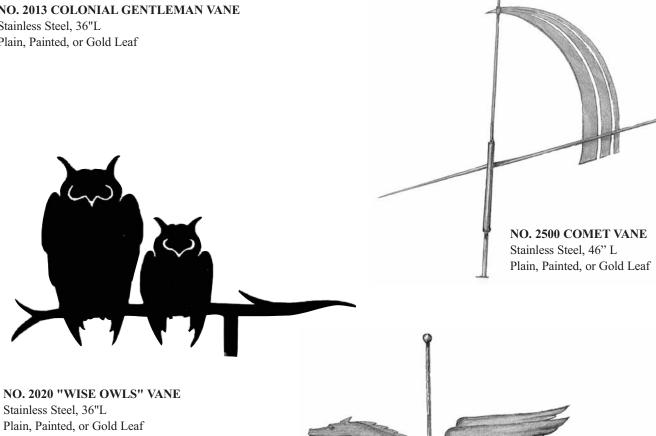




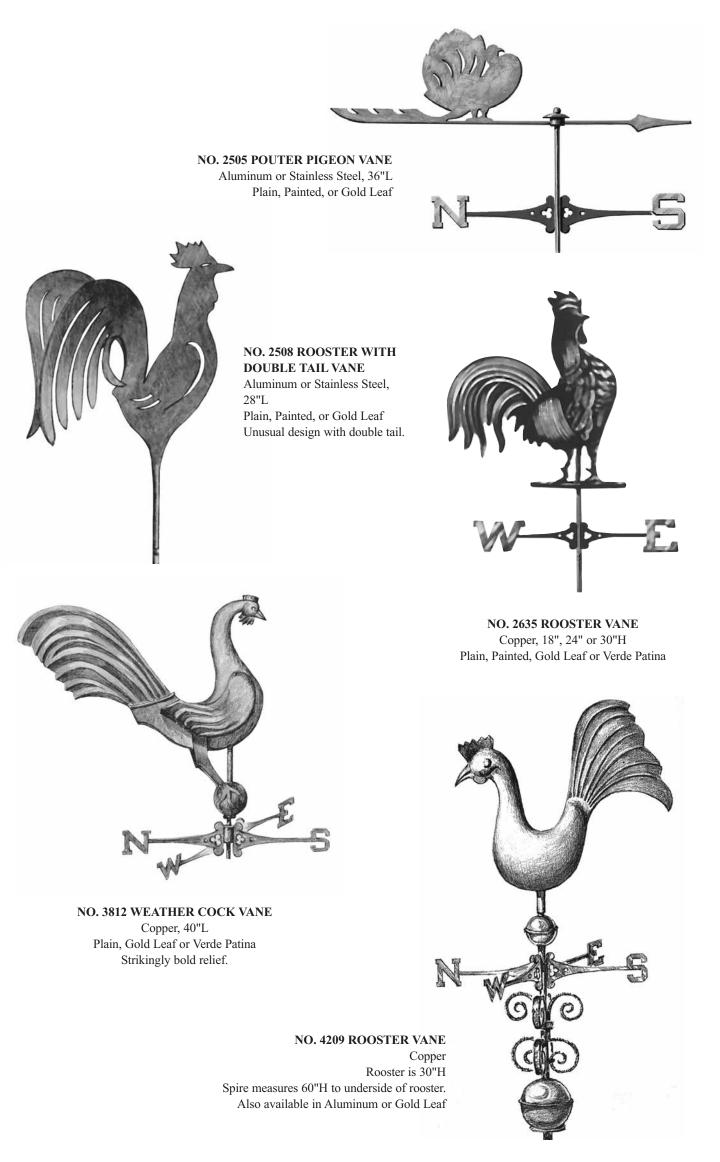
NO. 2019 GREEN PASTURES VANE Stainless Steel, 36"L Plain, Painted, or Gold Leaf



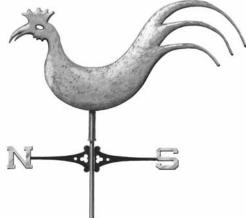
NO. 2013 COLONIAL GENTLEMAN VANE Stainless Steel, 36"L Plain, Painted, or Gold Leaf



NO. 3921 PEGASUS VANE Stainless Steel, 36"L Plain, Painted, or Gold Leaf







NO. 2509 ROOSTER VANE Aluminum or Stainless Steel as silhouette. Swell bodied copper on application, 28"L Plain, Painted, or Gold Leaf French antique reproduction.



NO. 2506 FRENCH ROOSTER VANE Copper, 30"L Plain, Gold Leaf or Verde Patina Brought from France many years ago.

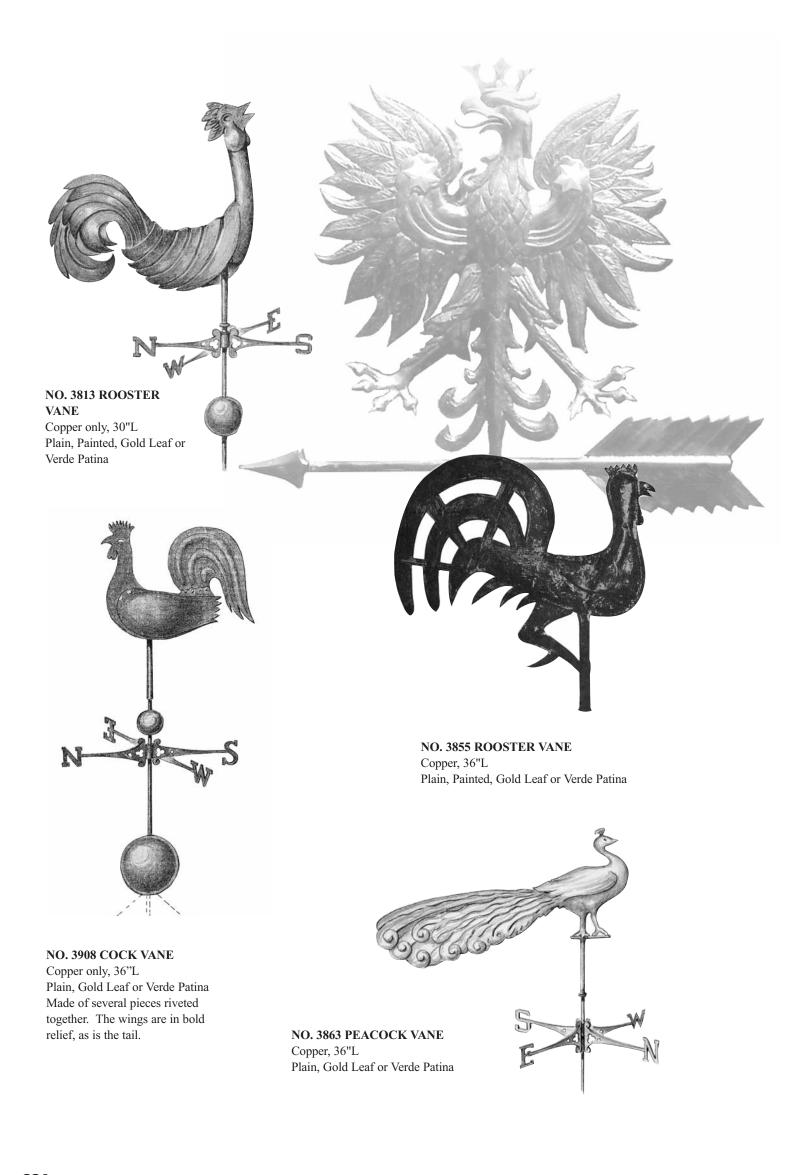
**NO. 1539 ROOSTER VANE** Copper, 18", 24", or 28"H Plain, Gold Leaf or Verde Patina This is furnished with the arrow. Old New England pattern.



NO. 2510 WEATHER COCK VANE Aluminum or Stainless Steel, 26"L Plain, Painted, or Gold Leaf



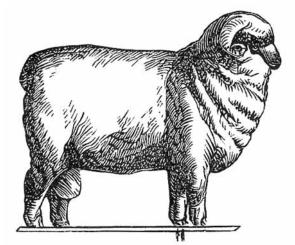
**NO. 2626 ROOSTER VANE** Aluminum or Stainless Steel, 34" L Plain, Painted, or Gold Leaf







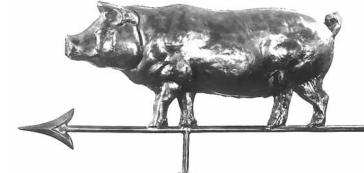
**NO. 2420 RUNNING FOX VANE** Aluminum, Copper or Stainless Steel, 28"L Plain, Painted, Gold Leaf or Verde Patina

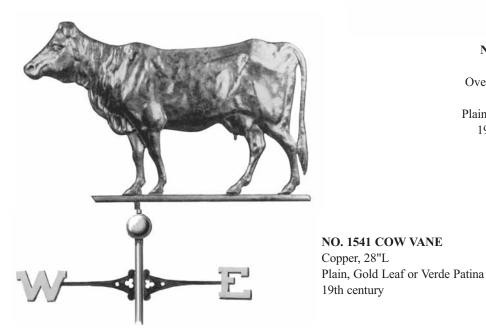


**NO. 3836 MERINO RAM VANE** Copper, 30 1/2"L figure. Plain, Gold Leaf or Verde Patina



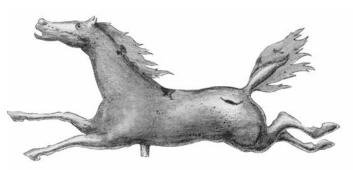
**NO 3164 BEAR VANE** Copper, 32"L From figure's nose to tail. Plain, Gold Leaf or Verde Patina





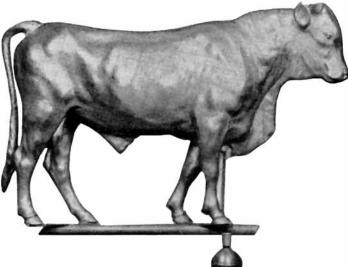
NO. 3811 "PIG" VANE Copper, Pig is 27"L, Overall length of Vane is 36" L (the length of Arrow) Plain, Gold Leaf or Verde Patina 19th Century reproduction

> NOTE: VERDE PATINA Is available For Copper Vanes Only.



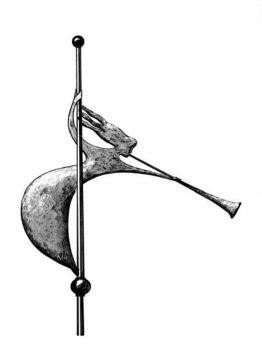
**NO. 5574 HORSE VANE** Copper, 42" L Plain, Gold Leaf or Verde Patina





NO. 1538 BULL VANE Copper, 28"L Plain, Gold Leaf or Verde Patina. 19th century.

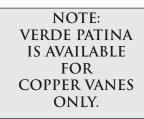
**NO. 3832 PRIMITIVE HORSE VANE** Copper, 40"L Plain, Gold Leaf or Verde Patina



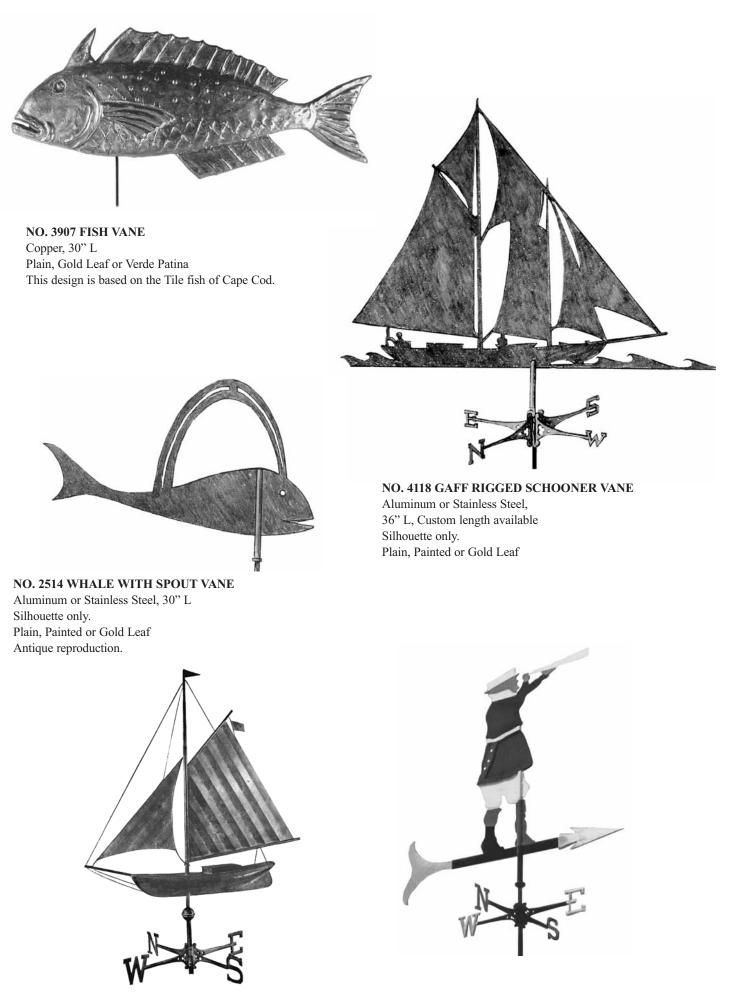
NO. 2636 ANGEL WITH HORN VANE Copper 38"H figure X 40"L Plain, Painted, Gold Leaf or Verde Patina



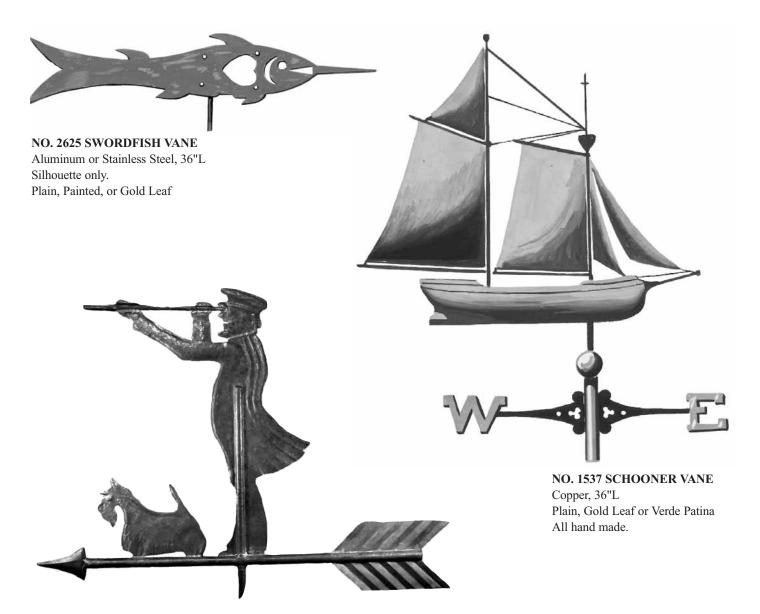
NO. 2632 ANGEL AND HORN VANE Aluminum only, 40"L Painted and some parts are Gold Leafed; horn, hair and indicators. Flesh colored body, white wings and blue painted ribbon on horn and around the figure.



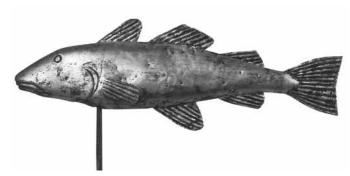
#### KENNETH LYNCH & SONS



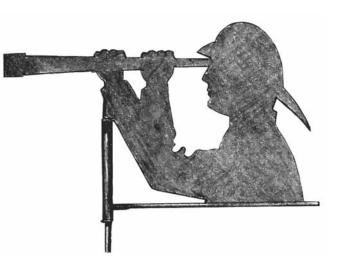
**NO. 2511 SLOOP VANE** Copper, 36" L Plain, Gold Leaf or Verde Patina NO. 3912 SEA CAPTAIN VANE Aluminum or Stainless Steel 36" H Plain, Painted, or Gold Leaf



**NO. 50A SEA CAPTAIN WITH SCOTTIE DOG VANE** Copper, 60"L X 34"H Can be made in any size as this is a silhouette.



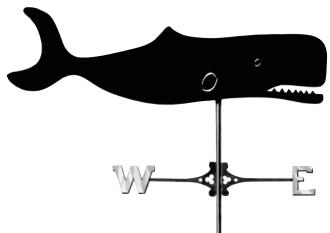
**NO. 3838 PRIMITIVE FISH VANE** Copper, 36"L Plain, Gold Leaf or Verde Patina



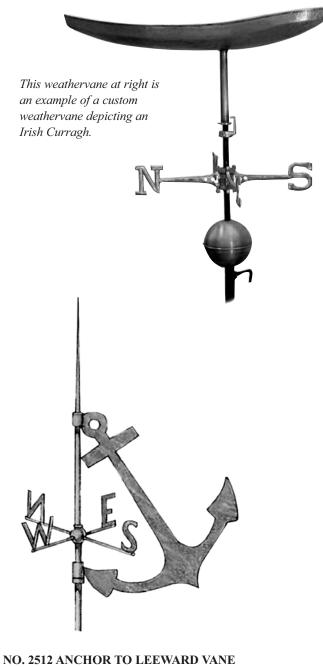
**NO. 2515 SOU'WESTER VANE** Aluminum, Copper or Stainless Steel, 26"L Silhouette only. Plain, Painted, Gold Leaf or Verde Patina



NO. 2653 PEG LEG VANE Aluminum or Stainless Steel, 6"L Silhouette only. Plain, Painted, Gold Leaf or Verde Patina



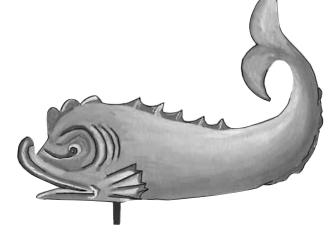
**NO. 2637 WHALE VANE** Aluminum or Stainless Steel 34"L Plain, Painted, or Gold Leaf



Aluminum, Copper or Stainless Steel, 24" Silhouette only. Plain, Painted, Gold Leaf or Verde Patina



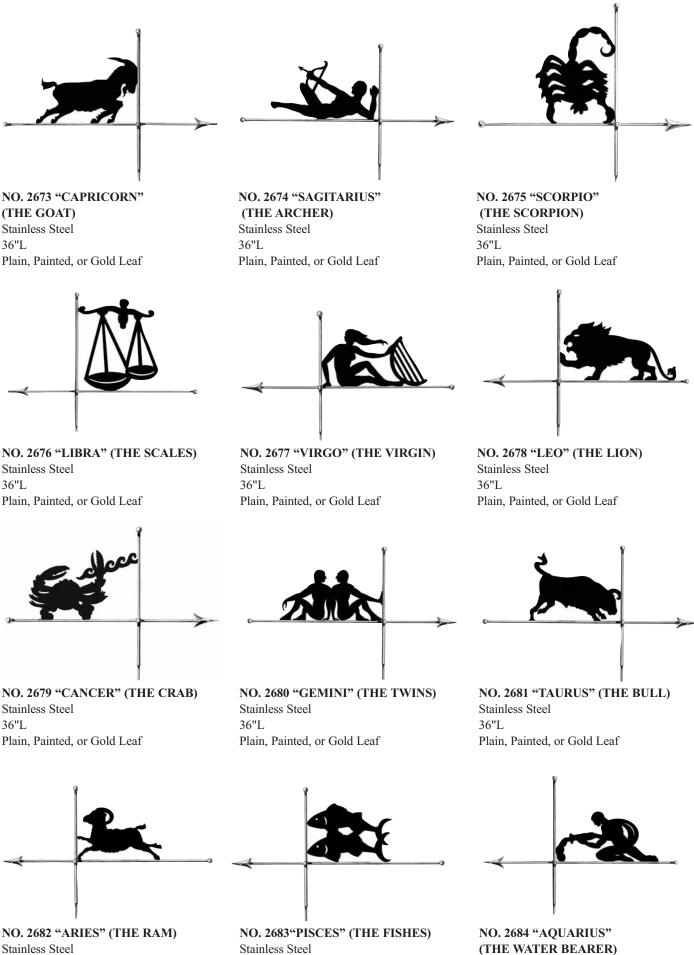
NO. 2638 MERMAID VANE Aluminum only 40"L Plain, Painted and hair, mirror and comb are always Gold Leafed.



**NO. 2639 DOLPHIN VANE** Aluminum only 30"L Plain, Painted, or Gold Leaf

### ZODIAC WEATHERVANES

odiac weathervanes have become so popular that we have done a special sheet on them. They are in silhouette only and are made of Stainless Steel. They are generally painted black or gilded and measure 36" overall. The 36" measurement is from the tip of the arrow to the ball terminal. They come complete with cardinal points.



Stainless Steel Plain, Painted, or Gold Leaf

36"L

Plain, Painted, or Gold Leaf

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Stainless Steel

Plain, Painted, or Gold Leaf

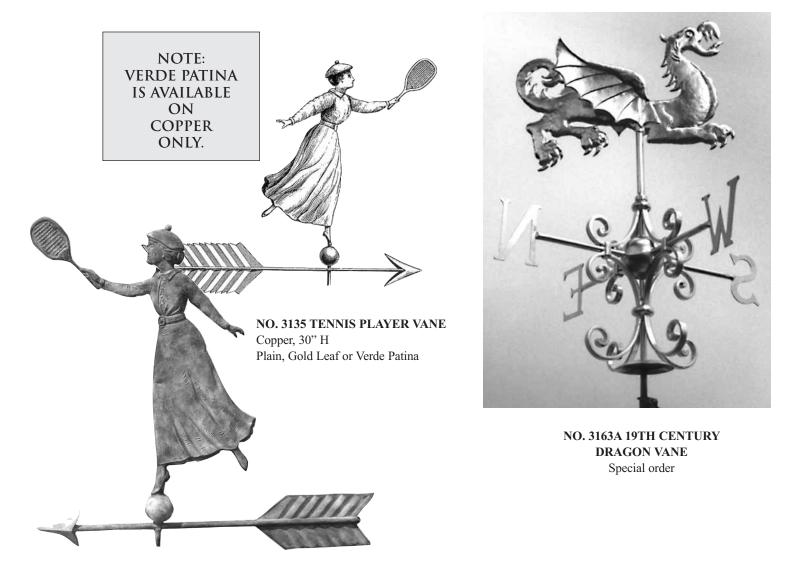
36"L

390

36"L

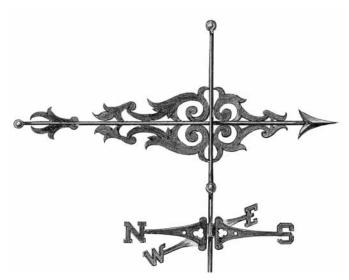
#### KENNETH LYNCH & SONS



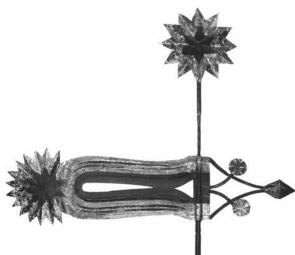


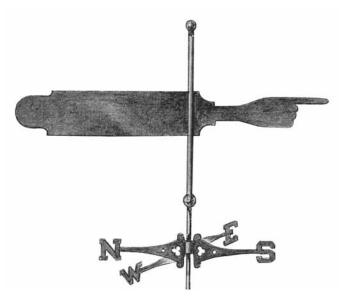


**NO. 2501 BANNER VANE** Aluminum, Copper or Stainless Steel, 36"L Plain, Painted, Gold Leaf or Verde Patina Manufactured with any monogram.

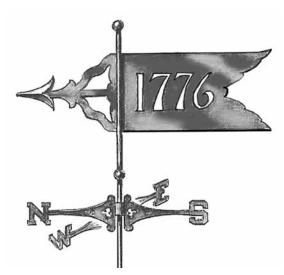


**NO. 3995 19TH CENTURY BANNER VANE** Aluminum, Copper or Stainless Steel, 40" L Plain, Painted, Gold Leaf or Verde Patina





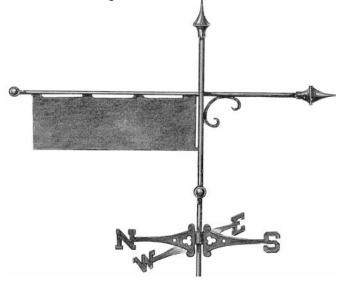
**NO. 3891 ARM & POINTING HAND VANE** Aluminum or Stainless Steel, 40"L Plain, Painted, or Gold Leaf



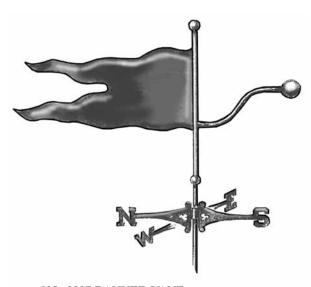
**NO. 3996 BANNNER SILHOUETTE VANE** Aluminum, Copper or Stainless Steel, 48" L Plain, Painted, Gold Leaf or Verde Patina May be inscribed.



NO. 3844 BLAZING STAR VANE Copper, 40"L Plain, Gold Leaf or Verde Patina Colonial Williamsburg Collection.

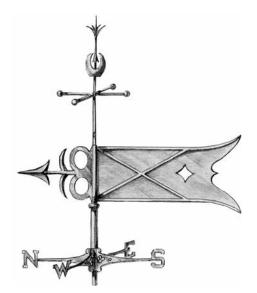


**NO. 3993 BANNERETTE VANE** Aluminum, Copper or Stainless Steel, 40" L Plain, Painted, Gold Leaf or Verde Patina Reproduction of the U.S. Army Headquarters, Governors Island, New York. The vane can be inscribed.

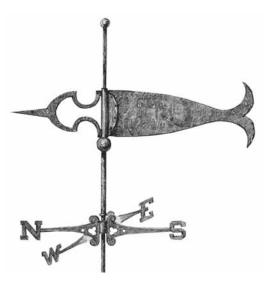


NO. 3997 BANNER VANE Aluminum, Copper or Stainless Steel, 46" L

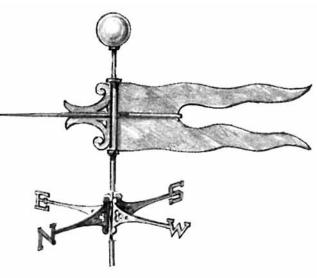
Plain, Painted, Gold Leaf or Verde Patina Vane with balancing counter weight in spherical shape.



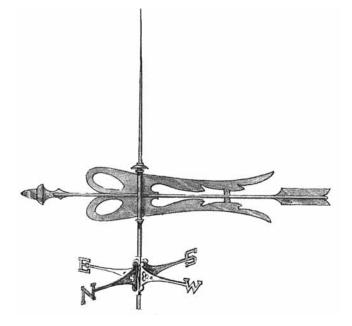
NO. 2629 BANNER VANE Aluminum, 34" L Plain, Painted, or Gold Leaf *Copper with Verde Patina finish on special orders only. Our most popular banner vane; usually kept in stock.* 



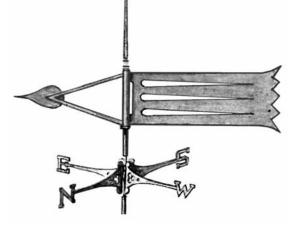
**NO. 3814 STYLIZED SWORDFISH VANE** Aluminum, Copper or Stainless Steel, 40"L Plain, Painted, Gold Leaf or Verde Patina The designer was inspired by an antique vane he had seen.



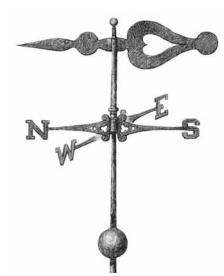
NO. 2504 BANNERETTE VANE Aluminum or Stainless Steel, 36"L Plain, Painted, or Gold Leaf



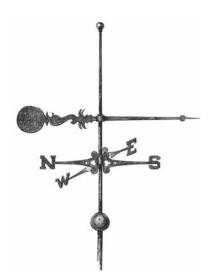
**NO. 2526 WINGED ARROW VANE** Aluminum or Stainless Steel, 32"L Plain, Painted, or Gold Leaf



NO. 2527 TUDOR BANNER VANE Aluminum or Stainless Steel, 28"L Plain, Painted, or Gold Leaf

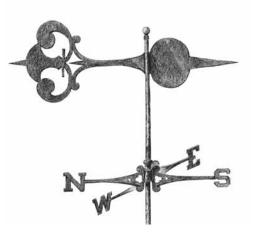


NO. 3815 "CLOCK HAND" VANE Aluminum or Stainless Steel, 36"L Plain, Painted, or Gold Leaf

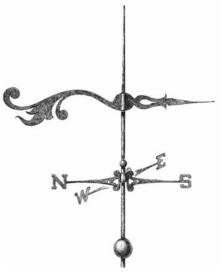


NO. 3817 CLOCK HAND VANE Aluminum or Stainless Steel, 54"L Plain, Painted, or Gold Leaf

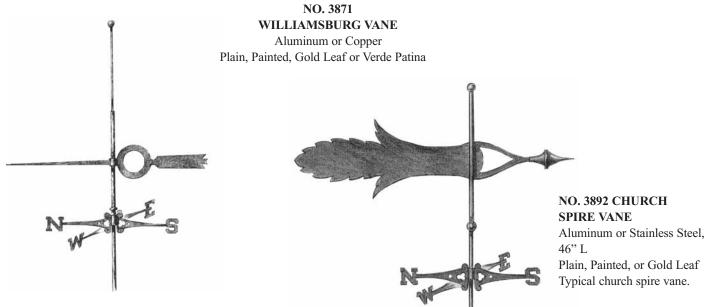




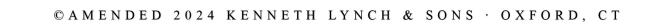
NO. 3816 "CLOCK HAND" VANE Aluminum or Stainless Steel, 36"L Plain, Painted, or Gold Leaf

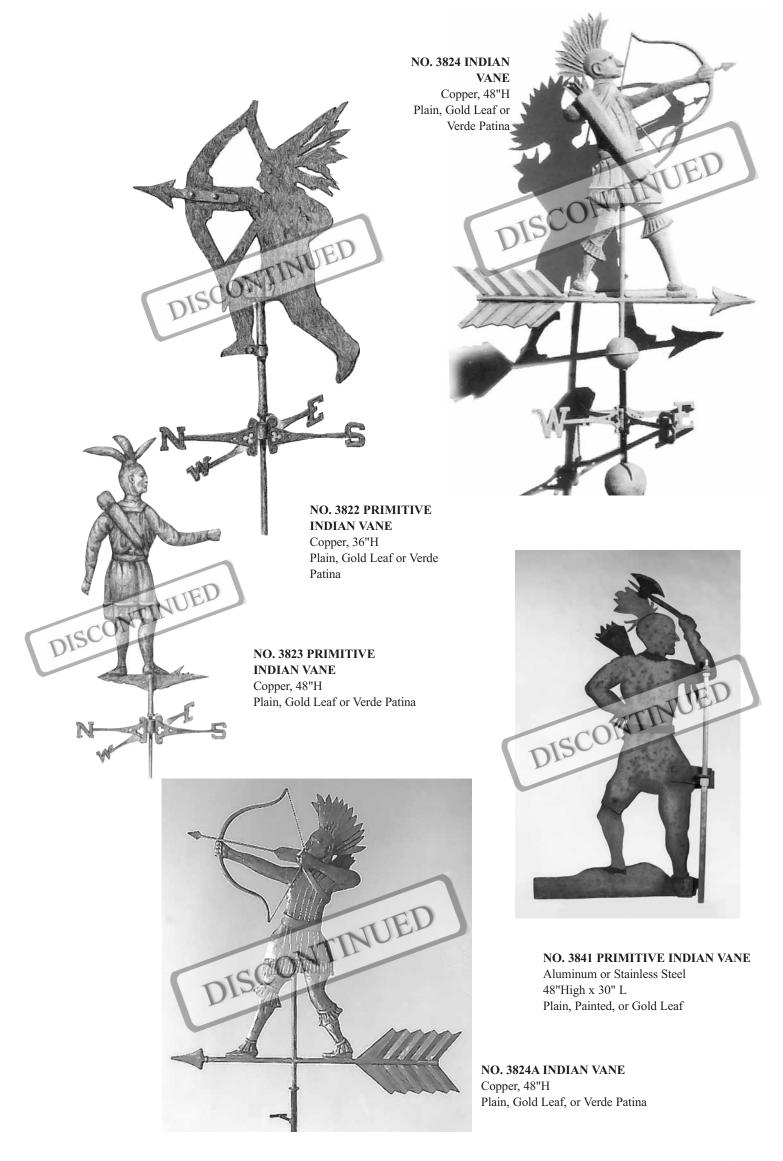


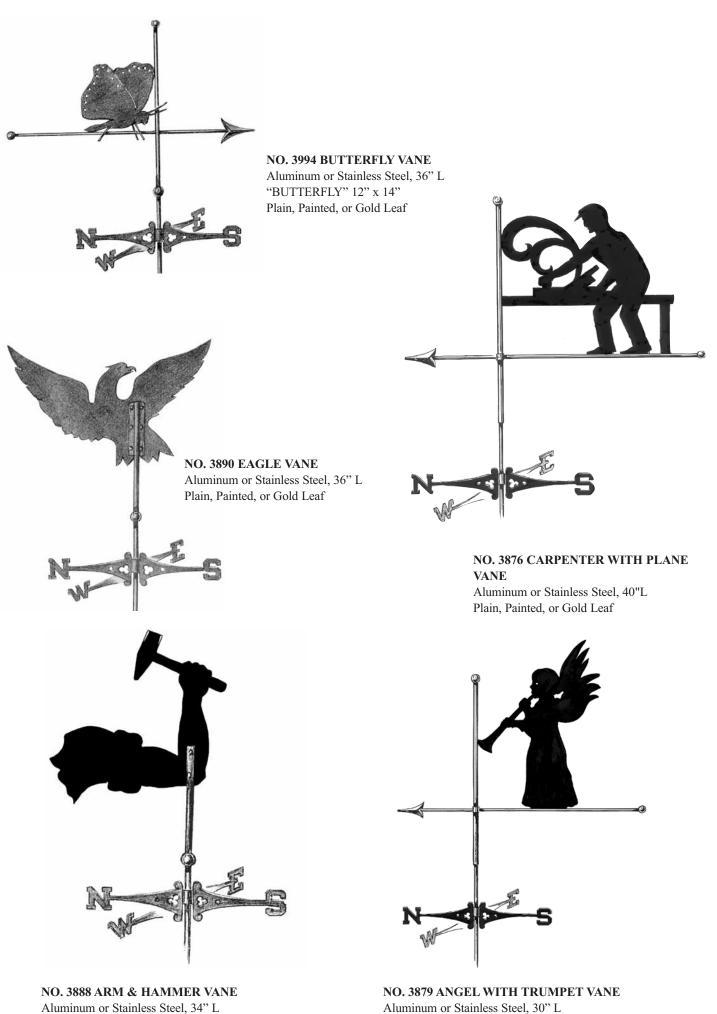
**NO. 3819 CLOCK HAND VANE** Aluminum or Stainless Steel, 48"L Plain, Painted, or Gold Leaf



**NO. 3820 LONG CLOCK HAND VANE** Aluminum or Stainless Steel, 54"L Plain, Painted, or Gold Leaf







Aluminum or Stainless Steel, 34" L Plain, Painted, or Gold Leaf

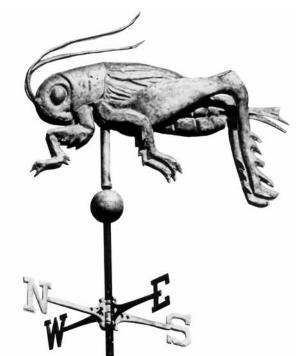
Plain, Painted, or Gold Leaf

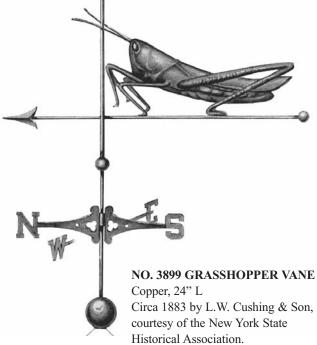


NO. 1535 DEER VANE Copper, 31"L Plain, Gold Leaf or Verde Patina Full bodied 19th century reproduction.



**NO. 3840 BUCK DEER VANE** Copper, 42"L Plain, Gold Leaf or Verde Patina



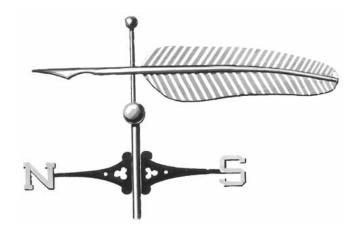


Plain, Gold Leaf or Verde Patina

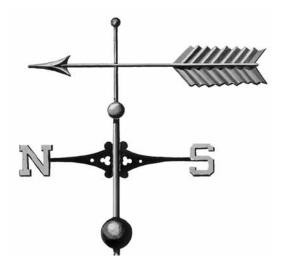
NO. 3906 CRICKET VANE Copper, 32" L Plain, Gold Leaf or Verde Patina

NOTE: VERDE PATINA IS AVAILABLE FOR **COPPER VANES** ONLY.

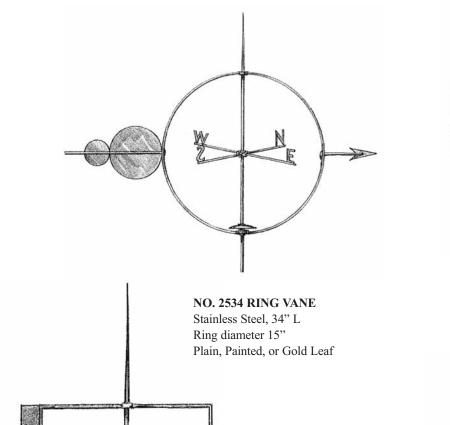
**NO. 3865 GRASSHOPPER VANE** Copper, 32" L Full relief, boldly executed by Sculptor Joseph Boulton.



NO. 1543 QUILL VANE Copper 24" and 36"L Plain, Gold Leaf or Verde Patina

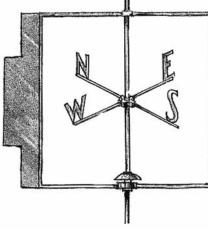


NO. 2533 ARROW VANE Copper 18", 20", 24" ,42", 48", 60", 72" L Plain, Gold Leaf or Verde Patina



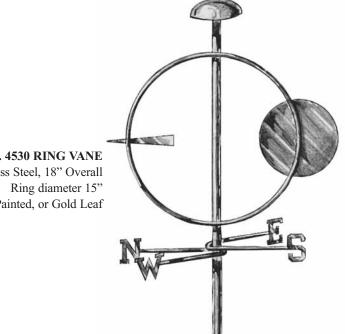
NO. 2535 RING VANE

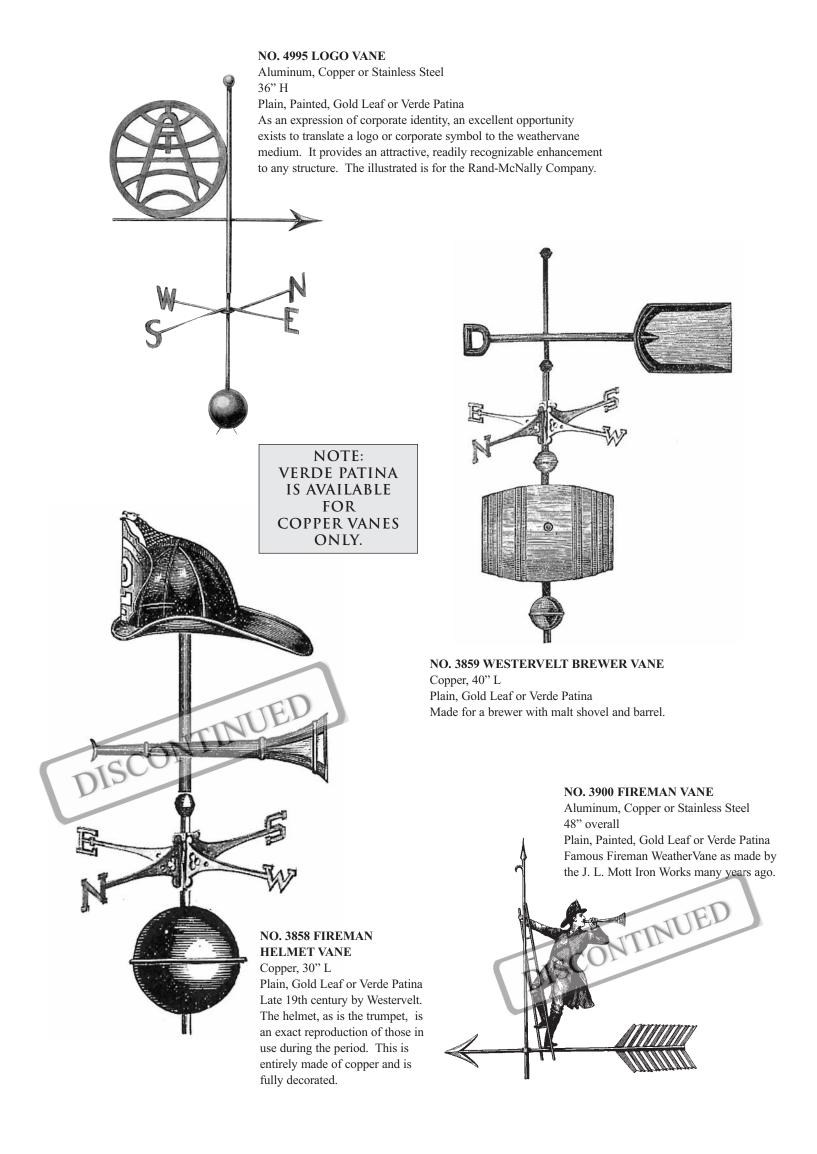
Stainless Steel, 23" L Ring diameter 15" Plain, Painted, or Gold Leaf



NO. 2542 BOX KITE VANE Stainless Steel, 22" L Plain, Painted, or Gold Leaf

NO. 4530 RING VANE Stainless Steel, 18" Overall Plain, Painted, or Gold Leaf

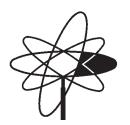




# NEW YORK CITY PARKS



The weathervanes shown on this page were all specified and made for the City of New York Department of Parks, for the use on the comfort stations in the various parks. All are extremely rugged and of stainless steel construction.



No.7001 Atom



No.7005 Bee

No.7002 Banner



1897

No.7006 Birds



No.7007 Butterfly



No.7004 Batter



No.7008 Carousel Horse





No.7009 Cat



No.7013 Eagle with Banner



No.7017 Hare and Tortoise



No.7021 Lion



No.7025 School of Fish

No.7010

No.7011 Dog

No.7015

Fox and Geese

No.7012 Dolphin



No.7016 Gargoyle

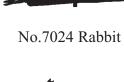


No.7020 Horse





No.7027 Sheep





No.7028 Squirrel



Cavalry Charge

No.7014 Fish



No.7018 Hawk

No.7022

Sycamore Leaf

No.7026

Sea Captain

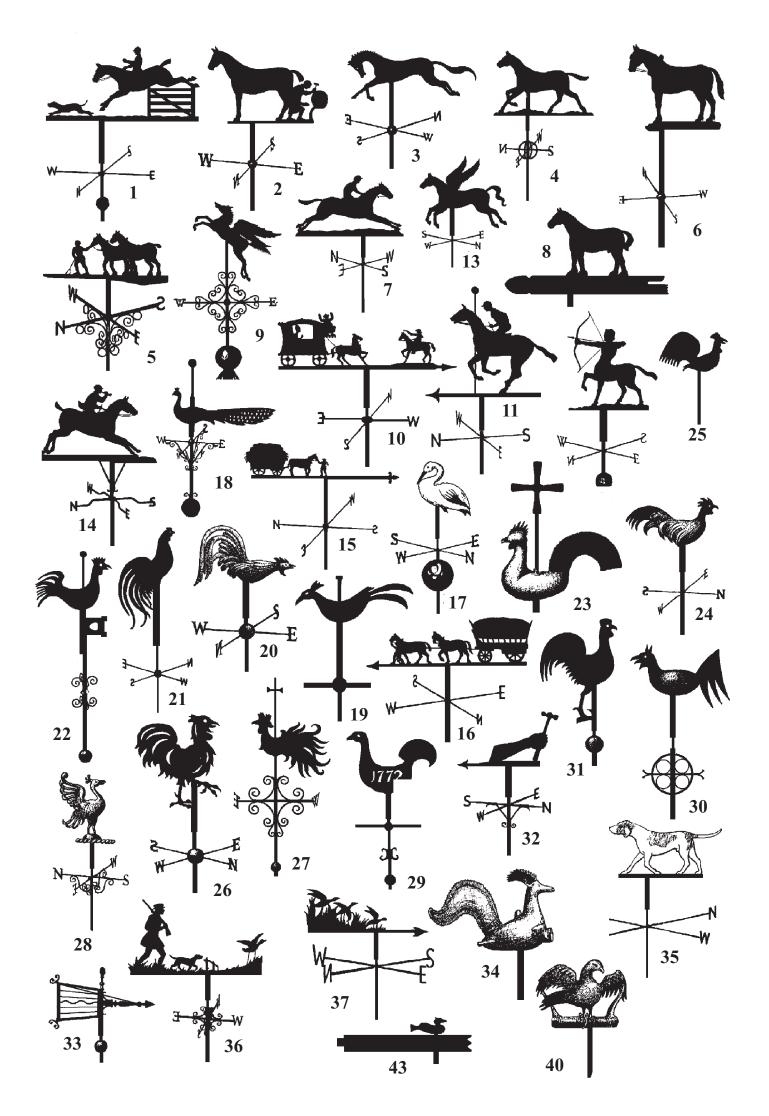
E

No.7019 Horse

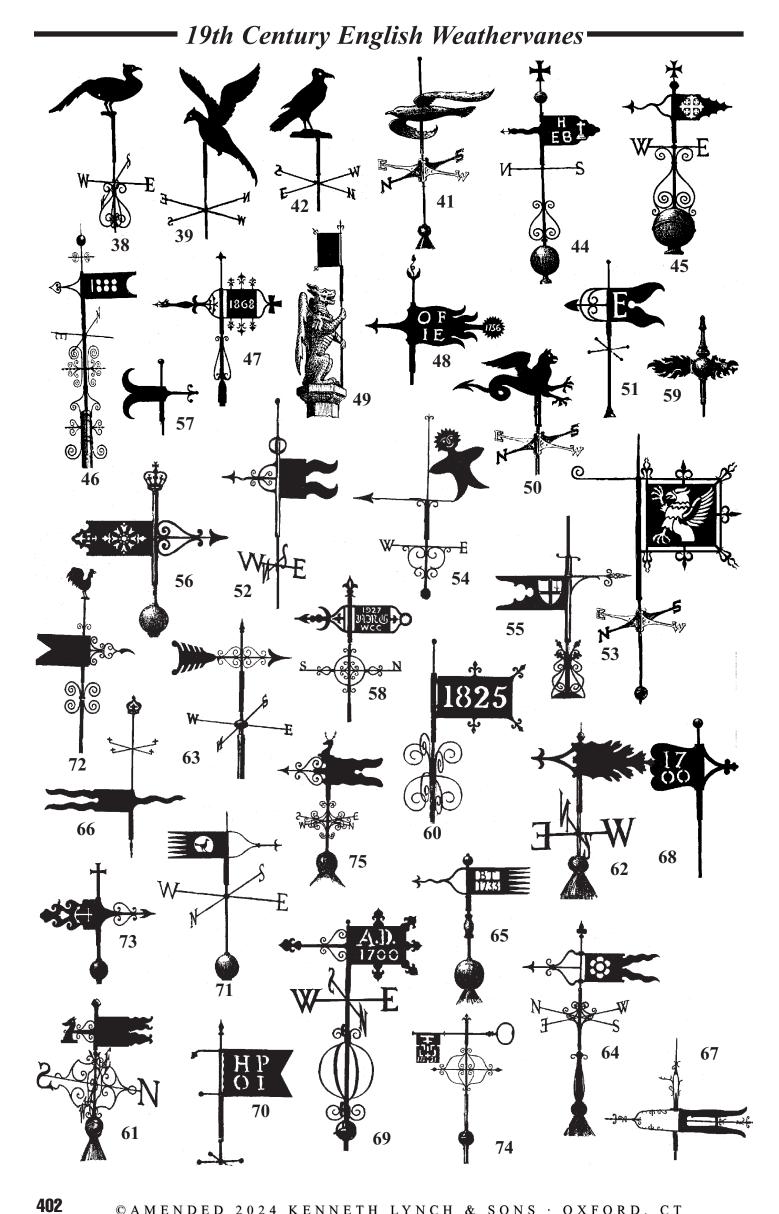


No.7023 New York State

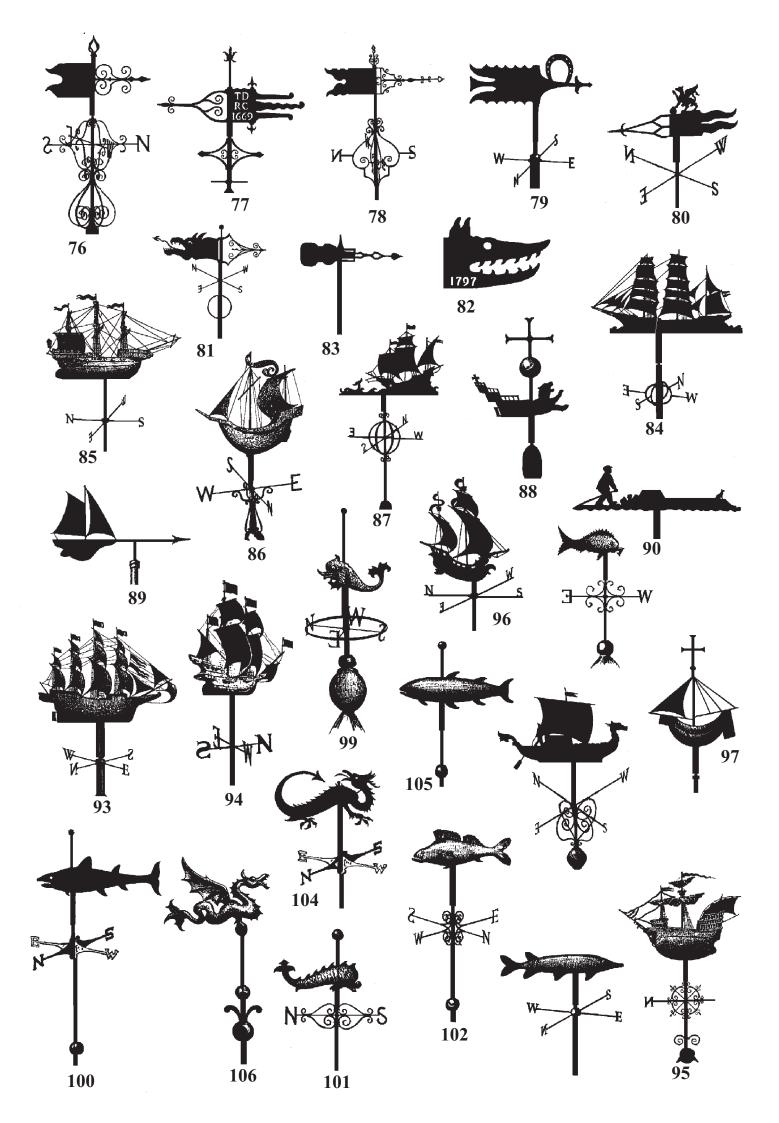




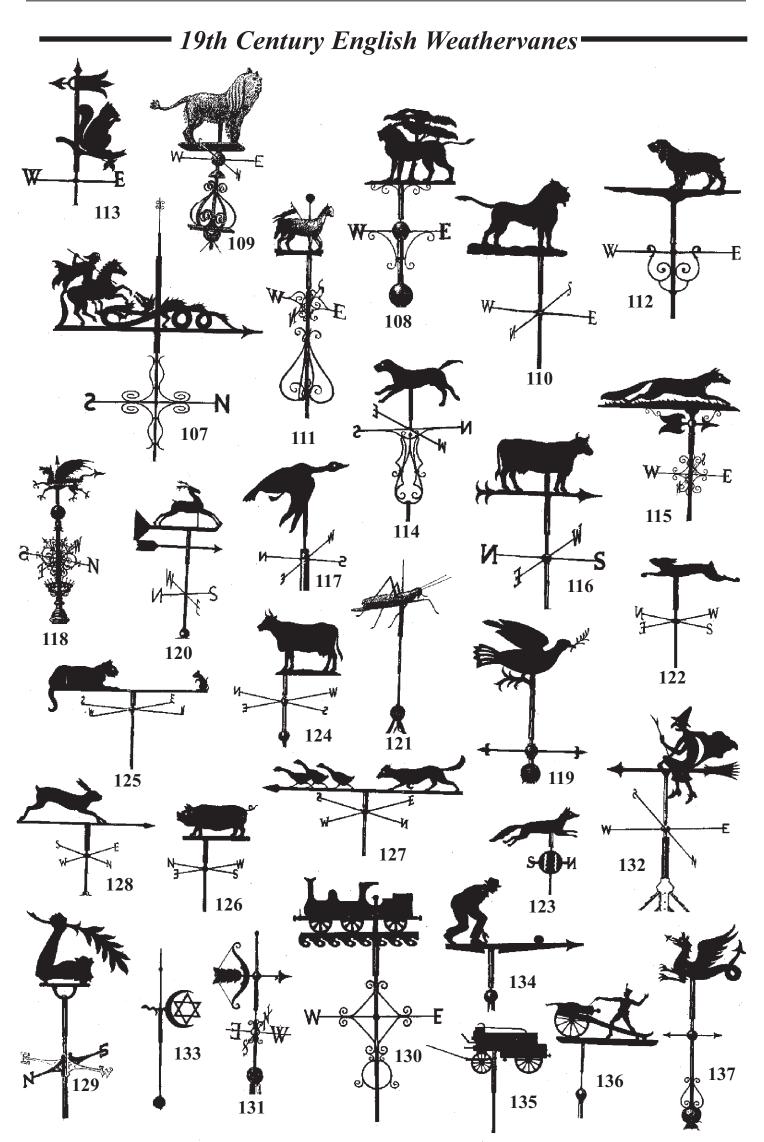
## 19th Century English Weathervanes



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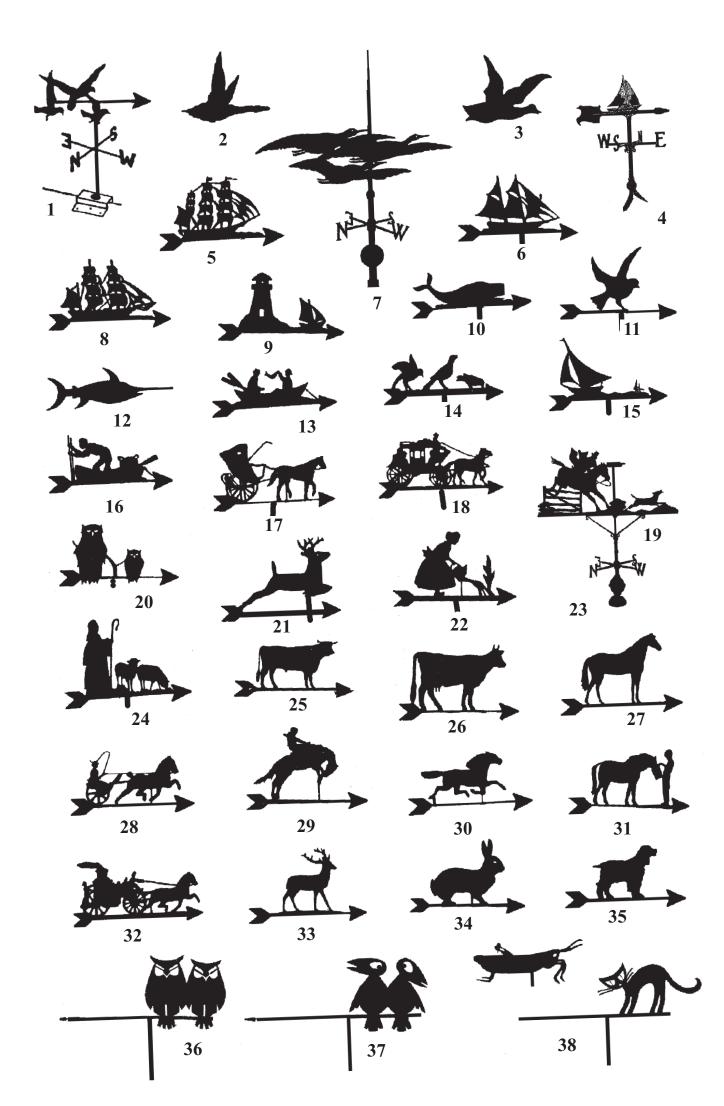


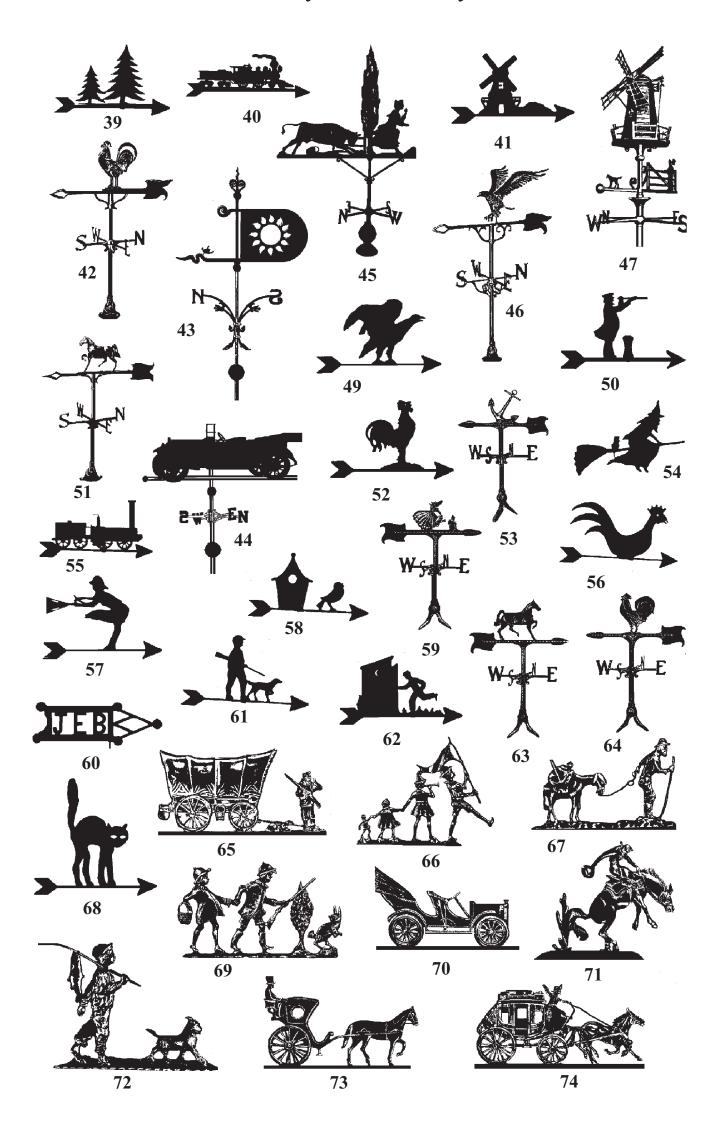
## - 19th Century English Weathervanes



404

### - Late 19th, Early 20th Century





Late 19th, Early 20th Century Weathervanes

