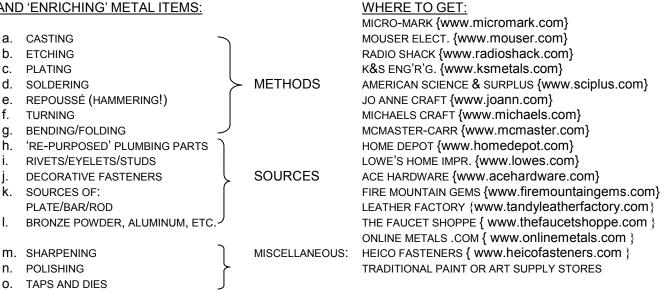
Dooo! Shiny! Metalwork - 101

FORMING AND 'ENRICHING' METAL ITEMS:



METALS -- APPLICATIONS:

- Easy & common uses of wire in costuming include wire boning for corsets, hoop skirts, bustle bases etc. Other fairly easy things using wire are soldering frames, (i.e., for wings).
- Bending strips of metal & soldering them into shapes can be done with a bit of elbow grease (see crown example).
- Hammering sheet or plate metal to form it for things like belt buckles is more elaborate, but is more a matter of having the nerve to start swinging a hammer than it is of being built like Hulk Hogan...
- Engraving &/or etching metal props can also add a level of detail that can make a costume really pop.
- Some more advanced metal techniques include casting for things like: buttons, pins, rank insignia, medals, etc. (see ••• button & pin examples). Usually things like this can be found objects that are altered, but sometimes you just can't find that exact thing you need for a costume & casting what you can't find is an expeditious solution.
- Turned metal is another advanced method that can make interesting accessories for a costume. A lathe is the best tool for ** this, but a drill press or even a clamped power drill can work well. Turned metal rods can be made into: bun sticks, wands, scepters, staffs, canes, etc. (see bun stick example). You can do quite a bit to a spinning metal rod using just a metal file or rasp, and some sandpaper.
- ٠ A grinding wheel and/or belt sander can sculpt metal as well as wood—just more slowly. But they're really useful.
- ** Rivets, evelets, grommets, snaps, & studs are also easily set with a hammer or fancier setting machine. When doing historical costumes it's hard to do without eyelets; using metal eyelets makes things a lot easier than hand-sewn eyelets.
- * Special fasteners--nails, brads and screws--can spiff up relatively mundane objects.
- \div 'Re-purposed' plumbing fixtures and parts can become really great brass and chrome 'steampunk' props.
- ••• "Bronze powder" and similar metallic powders, useful for a metallic finish on epoxy or resin castings.

