

From the Editor

READERS MAY WONDER HOW AND WHY WE PRINT AND DISTRIBUTE THE TRADITIONAL ROOFING MAGAZINE FREE OF CHARGE.

Well, for one, advertiser support covers our basic printing and distribution costs, so please review the ads and keep our advertisers in mind when you need what they have to offer. Secondly, the content is contributed voluntarily — no one is paid for writing Traditional Roofing articles or for taking photos. The content of this magazine is important and valuable to the traditional roofing trades, therefore, providing related information is one of our voluntary contributions to the industry.

Our overhead is low as well. TR is produced, edited and published by one person — me — under my business, Joseph Jenkins, Inc. I am not paid to do this; I do it when I have the time and the editorial material because I enjoy the process, the creative outlet, and the contribution it makes to the industry. That is the main reason why the magazine is not published on a regular schedule: there is no dedicated staff, and there is a limited budget (thank-you advertisers). I publish the issues only when I have content that is useful, interesting, important or valuable. When I have accumulated the content, I create the magazine as time allows.

As a slate roof consultant (SlateExperts.com), author (Slate Roof Bible) and purveyor of slate roofing tools, material and supplies, I am constantly barraged with questions about slate roofs. Often it's the same question over and over. There are not enough hours in the day for me to answer all the phone calls, letters, faxes and emails that I receive, so publishing these articles, then posting them on the internet at TraditionalRoofing.com allows me to make information and answers available to everyone by a simple click of a mouse. Want to know why you have a problem with "shedding slates?" So do a lot of other people. I'm tired of explaining it on the phone or via email. That's why I wrote the article about slipping slates in this issue. Installing a slate roof but don't understand headlap? Call my office and a secretary will direct you to the article in TR#6, so I won't have to try to explain it to you. Better yet, just Google "slate roof headlap" and go directly there.

Our illustrated "how-to" articles provide information on elements of slate roofing that you won't find anywhere else. TR also provides us with an opportunity to showcase the non-profit Slate Roofing Contractors Association of North America. It allows others in the roofing trades to publish information that is of interest to the general readership. It keeps readers updated on what's happening in the national slate roofing field. It includes information about tile roofs, copper roofs, asbestos roofs and other durable roof systems that have been around a long time, but are not widely understood.

My motives are not altogether altruistic, however. Traditional Roofing Magazine also allows me to promote our online stores. Looking for snow guards? We have the largest selection in the U. S. at SnowGuardWarehouse.com. Need soldering devices and materials? SolderWarehouse.com is the place to go. And for general traditional roofing tools and supplies, SlateRoofWarehouse.com has all the hard to find stuff right at your fingertips. Look for the ads in this issue.

We also provide a variety of free online video clips about aspects of slate roofing, including installation procedures, mistakes people make, and the use of tools, at SlateRoofCentral.com/videos.html. Traditional Roofing articles give us an opportunity to mention the instructional videos, so when you finish reading an article, you can take a look at the related video clips.

In short, TR is a labor of love in one sense, providing free articles and information to the general public, but it also stimulates business for the entire traditional building industry. When you're done with your issue and don't need it anymore, don't throw it out — recycle it by passing it on to someone else!

Joseph Jenkins — editor, publisher, author

1. V-Tiles for Hips and Ridges
2. Historic Copper Cupola
3. Gone to Moose Camp
5. Yankee Gutters
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13. Bits and Pieces
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23. Copper Snow Aprons
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27. Installing Copper Ridge
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34. Slate Roofers Convergence
35. So You Have Slates for Sale?
35. Don't use Strap Hangers

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On the Cover: Liam Tower's Slate Moose (Photo by Liam Tower); Kevin McConnell of Marin Custom Metal Works (Photo by Joseph Jenkins).