

## Spedding Steel Mill Replica Project November 20, 1999

Bob Kraft and Bob Samay are announcing the completion of their year-long Spedding replica project with the availability of 90 authentic replicas of the Science Museum, London, Spedding. We are offering these to serious collectors and museums at our out-of-pocket cost of \$280.00 each plus shipping and handling. This cost sharing does not include the 1500 hours of labor or the cost of bandaids. The shipping costs for this 8 pound package will be USA and Canada priority mail \$20.00, Europe air mail \$30.00 and Australia surface transportation \$25.00. The bronze and steel foundry costs of the project exceeded \$14,000.00 even though we made our own patterns.



Spedding steel mills were used for lighting in fiery coal mines of the 18th Century in England, Belgium and France. Their use was discontinued in 1815 with the invention of the safety lamp. A complete article on their history can be read with this link. The replicas, copied exactly from the London original, with the blessing and assistance of the Science Museum, are made of cast steel and cast bronze. They produce a steady stream of sparks and are appropriate for teaching demonstrations. If you are aware of a coal mining museum in your vicinity, let them know while the supply lasts. We do not intend to make more replicas when these are gone. A piece of flint is included with each Spedding. These can be ordered from: Robert A. Kraft, 971 Baileyana Road, Hillsborough, CA 94010 (650) 343-1976 rkraft1@flash.net