

Machine Dossier for
Benton Engraving Machine
Type 2a, No. 53

ID: BEM2a-53

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CircuitousRoot
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Dedication

To the memory of Gregory Jackson Walters (1953–2022), who saved this machine.

Acknowledgments

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The photograph on the cover is by Dr. David M. MacMillan and, of course, is of BEM2a-53.

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The current distribution of this machine dossier is at:

<https://www.CircuitousRoot.com/artifice/letters/pantocut/benton/machine-dossier-bem2a-53/index.html>

0.1• General Prologue

0.1.A• What This Is

This is a “machine dossier” for the Benton Engraving Machine (BEM) Type 2a, Machine Number 53, in the workshops of CircuitousRoot (ID: BEM2a-53).

A machine dossier, as this term is used here, is a collection of documents and other media which describe as completely as possible a potentially complex historical machine. A machine dossier is in part an operator’s manual, in part a rigger’s and millwrights’s manual, in part a curator’s analysis, and in part an engineering study. It is in part a “technical data package,” but is also a historical study. For a more complete discussion, see the monograph “Machine Dossiers”: <https://www.circuitousroot.com/artifice/past-future/index.html#machine-dossiers>

This machine is a Benton single-arm vertical pantograph intended for use as a typographical engraving machine.

This machine dossier is not a single document. It is a collection of documents, images, scanned notes, CAD models, reprinted historical texts, possibly video recordings, and other media. It is distributed on a web page within the CircuitousRoot website, at:

<https://www.CircuitousRoot.com/artifice/letters/pantocut/benton/machine-dossier-bem2a-53/index.html>

This present “General Prologue” is just a kind of a cover sheet with the overall tables of contents. The easiest way to access the actual material is via the web page.

0.1.B• Contents of the Divisions

[TO DO - automatically integrate the tables of contents for each L^AT_EX/PDF format section.]