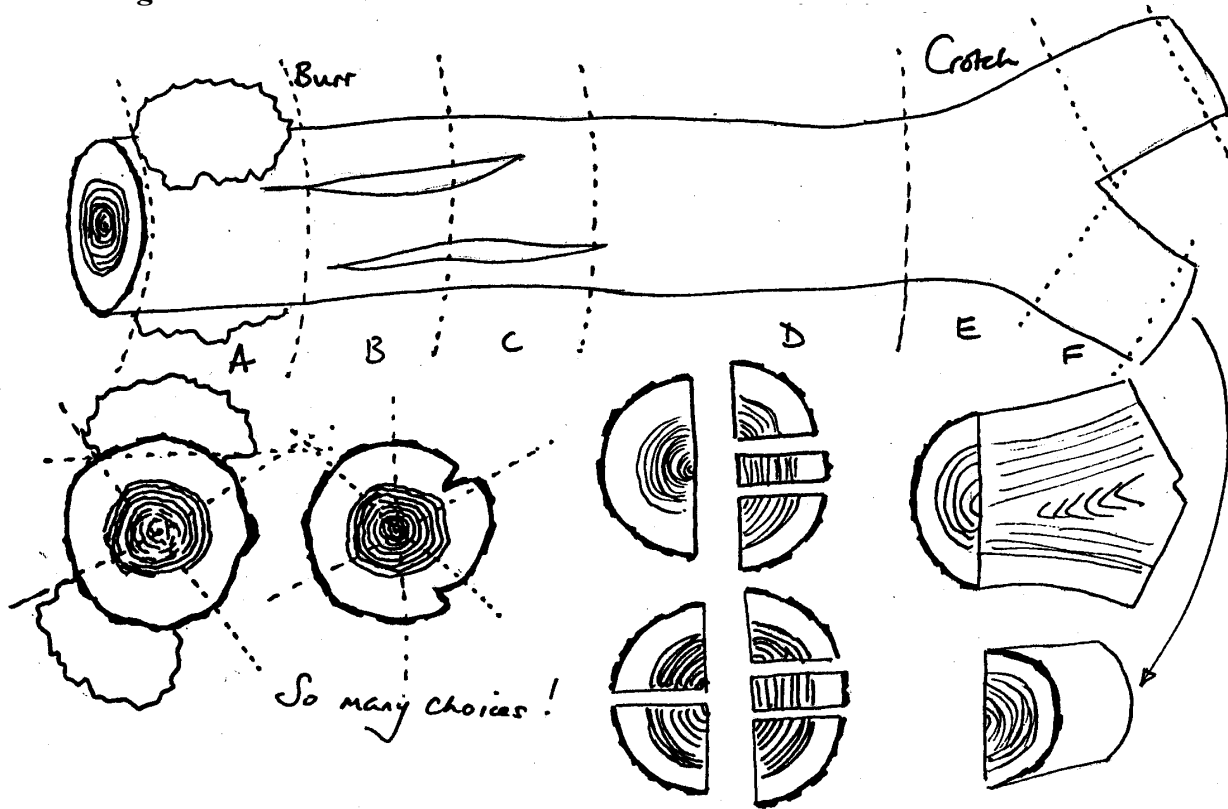


# Turning Green Wood

*William Edwards, from Co. Clare, shows how he harvests green wood to maximise use.*

The ideal log!

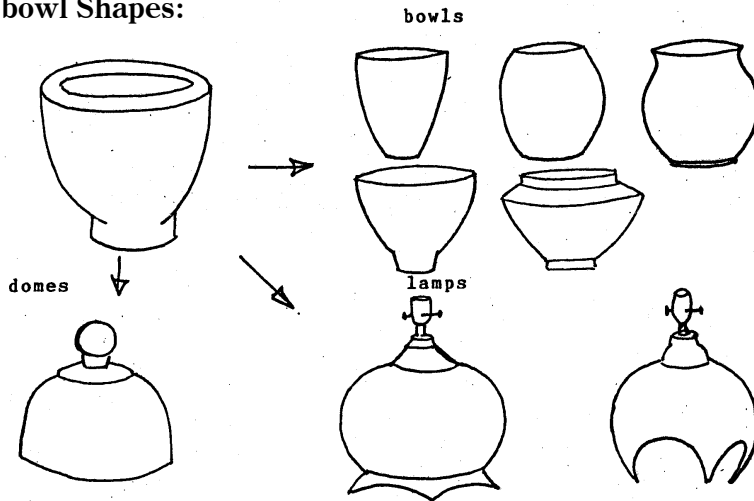


This log has plenty of features to tempt the woodturner - I would remove the straight grained section (d), rip it into halves or quarters and put it away to dry in the shed, for possible spindle work (lamps, candlesticks etc.). The sections with surface folds (band c) might make interesting natural edge bowls, perhaps with a hole or two situated near the rim, of course. Other short, straightish pieces (f) can be used for boxes, vases, twig pots or small bowls; natural edges do not have to be on the rims of bowls (see below). That leaves the burrs (a) and the crotch (e) regions, potentially the most beautiful figure will be found here. The wildness of the grain may make stability less predictable but as the saying goes ...."creativity requires risks to be taken". The timber should now be used as soon as possible, turning shapes which are versatile enough to give flexibility when it comes to the time to complete the job.

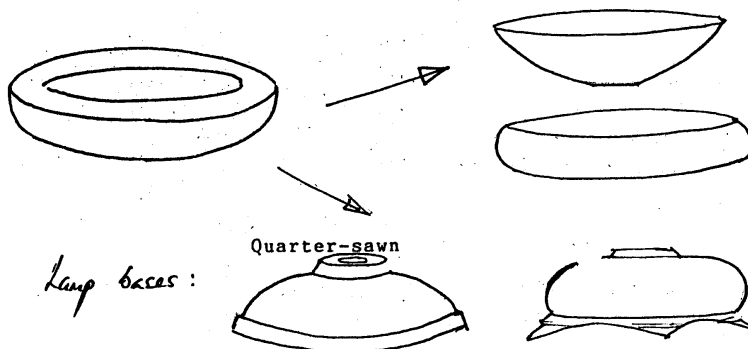
## WALL THICKNESS

This will depend on the timber and will also be a compromise - thin walls dry quicker but give much less flexibility in the final design. The movement of the wall during the drying process further reduces this flexibility. This is really a question of experiment based on personal requirements.

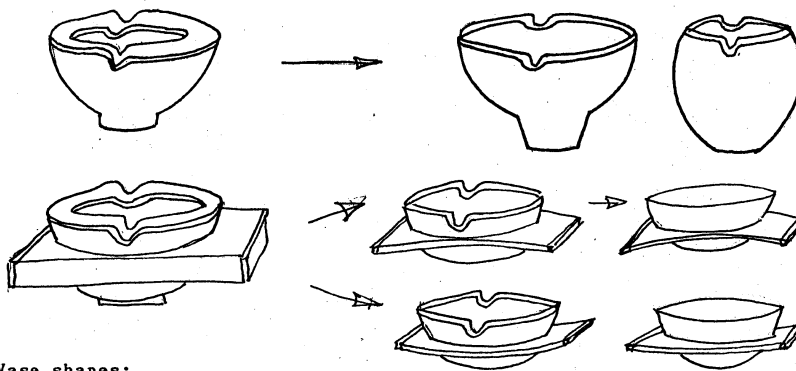
**Deep bowl Shapes:**



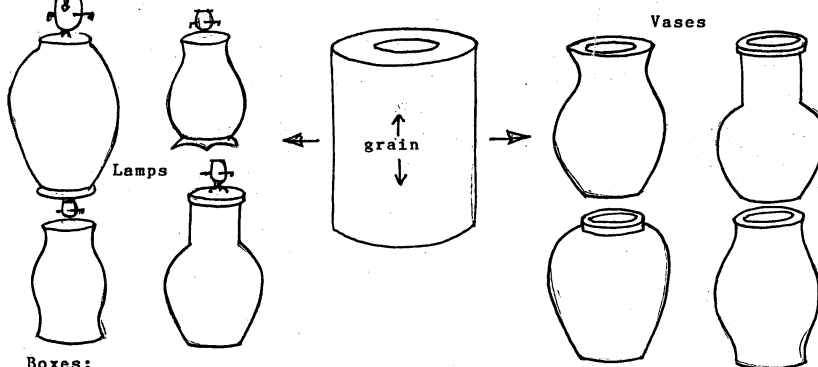
**Flat bowl shapes:**



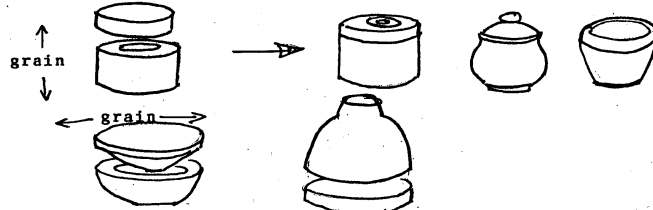
**Natural edges:**



**Vase shapes:**



**Boxes:**



**ARE ALL WOODS SUITABLE?**

The following are woods I use regularly and would classify thus:

**Reliable:** ash, maple, elm, cherry.

**Unreliable** (requiring more care): beech, oak, laburnum.

**Very unreliable** (requiring considerable care even for partial seasoning): holly, laurel, apple, plum, yew, whitethorn.

Of course it is possible to turn these timbers directly to a finished wall thickness but that is the subject for another occasion. Note that deep shapes with straight walls or closed forms are less reliable than open, flatter bowls.

**Movement**

Wood moves - we must either allow for this or accept it - even make use of it. We can choose the most stable part of the log when making lids, bases, platter, clocks, etc. if other considerations, such as good figure, mean that choice is removed we must incorporate safeguards in the design. For example we can have rounded bases on bowls or add three feet to lamp bases (see examples opposite).

This treatment of a log gives a stock of general forms which should later give a wide variety of choice when particular finished items are required.