

'Taken from Relative Thoughts'

THERE'S NO FOOL ... AFTER ALL

During the talk given at our September meeting, Susan Mildred quoted an old document where a man was described as an "Idiot". We all had a laugh of course and thought that they weren't very politically correct in those days, which they weren't. They said what they thought and called a spade, a spade, not a personal delving instrument! However, Tim discovered a little book at the recent Library sale, and on reading it, much to my surprise, I found, **coincidentally**, a reference to the appellation "Idiot". Apparently this word has degenerated in the language and originally came from the Greek "**idios**" meaning private or "of one's own", and signified a person in private life as against one holding a public office. Admittedly it doesn't say how long ago this was, but you can see where being a private person could have slipped into meaning someone in a world of their own to a "world of their own making" and so on down.. Interesting, isn't it?

Another expression from the same book I thought might interest Family Historians was the term Journeyman. This was what an apprentice became after serving his time and qualifying in his trade. I always thought that this meant he had to travel about for experience or some thing vaguely like that. Although he could, and possibly did, do that was only **incidental**. The term came from the French **Journee** "a day", as he was now paid proper wages for each days work. I live and learn!

- MARGARET WING