



MANGANESE BRONZE CASTING

Figure 4 shows a slight modification of the standard bronze rowlock, in case somebody should feel like making his own, or a manufacturer should think of improving the design. The only alteration is the change in the inside shape from a circular arc to part of an oblong, to stop the oar from riding up the front of the lock as it takes the thrust of the stroke-- a small nicety that wouldn't complicate manufacturing in any way. Figure 5 is a more drastic modification, copied from a British design I once saw. This has the advantage of the thole pin type in that the bearing of the oar doesn't swing around appreciably with the

stroke and stand out of position through the recovery, which is the reason for the oar tending to walk inboard in the usual type of lock. The oar can be laid in further without taking it out of the lock, and isn't restricted in how far it can be laid in as with double thole pins, which have to be much too far apart for convenience in other respects for this reason. On the other hand, there's no difficulty about taking the oar out of the lock and no undue friction if you choose to feather. A lock like this will punish an unleathered oar much less than the usual symmetrical rowlock. This particular design will fit the standard half-inch

sockets and the trial pair were substituted for the original pair in my Thomaston Galley. The movable seat in the Galley made the slightly different relationship of oars and socket position no problem, but in a rowboat with fixed thwarts there would probably be enough margin in the exact placement of one's bottom on the thwart to take care of the difference of slightly over an inch. These locks are available from Erik A. R. Ronnberg, Jr., E Summer St., Rockport, Massachusetts 01966, for the time being.