



Lester Pinter FCSCL

Fellow of the Canadian Society of Creative Leathercraft
submitted by Lauch Harrison FCSCL

The Fellows gathered in Hamilton prior to the 2019 Annual to judge the entries for Weston Trophy and the work of Lester Pinter as he applied for Fellowship. The judges were very impressed by the Craftsmanship and Design in the many pieces presented. Lester wanted the breadth of his work to be shown, rather than submit 4 items Lester submitted a suitcase full of items, more than ten, and asked the Fellows to pick the pieces. We had lots to chose from, a fully rigged and decorated Western Saddle, Set of Longhorns with decorated mounts, Leather Vest, Leather Chaps, Spurs & Straps, Belts, Purses & Clutch Wallets, Stool Seat all decorated mostly in Western Floral Carving and Stamping.



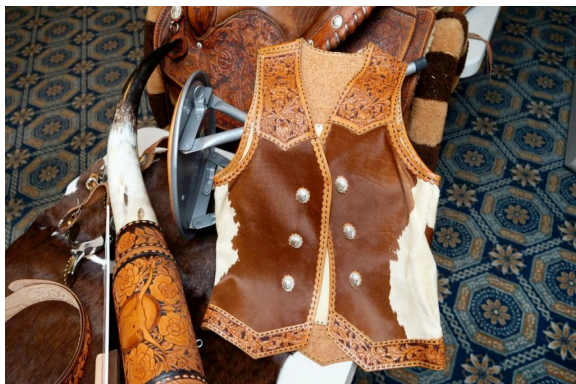
Fully Rigged Saddle

The Cowboy Theme comes from a time when Lester lived out West, he comes by it honestly. He was born in Budapest, Hungary spent his youth there then emigrated to Winnipeg with his parents. His time as a Boy Scout fed his interest in Leatherwork, and College Training in Dental Technology using fine tools making dental appliances was a lead in to fine leather Carving and Tooling.



Saddle Plate

He was doing Western Florals in Winnipeg from Craftaids and purse kits and sent them into The Craftsman Magazine, The magazine rejected the article saying it was from a kit. The picture of the purse and a small blurb about the Craftaid were printed near the back. The manager at the Winnipeg Tandy Store said he couldn't keep the kit in stock it was a best seller. Lester recalls seeing his design carried over the shoulder of a lady getting on to a bus, he asked her and she bragged about her son and how he made it, Lester didn't want to brag and still speaks of it with nostalgia. When Lester moved his young family, wife and three kids to Calgary to open his own business he decided to live out of town in the rolling Foothills. Now the owner of a Ranch what else to do but get some goats & horses... hence fulfillment of the Hungarian Cowboy in the Rocky Mountains.



Vest w/conchos



Spur Strap

His training in Dental work was again put to work casting silver conchos and findings for the Saddle and other work pieces. Wax Casting, Bone and Antler Carving are still some of Lester's most recent work. Presentation Awls with carved Antler Handles and Sterling Silver Ferrules are a wonder to behold.

When it comes to leatherwork Lester has a very broad background of experience, he has done workshops on floral design, carving, tooling, you name it he's done it braiding, whipmaking, box construction, lacing galore, graving, tool making, lost wax casting, bone carving, stitching and sewing the list goes on...It was a pleasure for the judges to see his body of work and when the judging was done Lester's score of 94.5% was one of the highest seen in many years.



The Canadian Society for Creative Leatherwork is pleased to welcome Lester F. Pinter to the Fellowship of our Society