

CANADIAN



LEATHERCRAFT

Volume XXVII, No 2
0045-5121

December-January 1979

Ontario Heart Foundation
Arts and Craft Show
Civic Garden Centre,
Edwards Gardens, Toronto
Leslie and Lawrence Ave.
February 8, 10:00 - 7:30
Admission \$2.00, Luncheon \$3.00
For information call 962-3600

COMING EVENTS

West Oxford Women's Institute
Maple Sugar Festival and Craft Show
Woodstock, 313 Light Street
Contact M. Hartwick 519 539-2335

ORT
Craft Show
Sheridan Centre,
380 Wilson Avenue, Downsview
March 9, 10, 11
Call 787-0297

Science Scope /79
Hobby Show and Science Fair
Bancroft
April 18, 19, 20, 21
Contact L. Shouldice 332-1833

Leather '78 with drawings by Michelangelo from the Art Gallery
of Ontario. November 3 - 29, 1978 Etobicoke Civic Centre.

Leather '78 opened in the Etobicoke Civic Centre with an audience of some 63 registered guests. Bobbi Robinson welcomed the group of both leathercrafters and Civic Centre art group. She introduced His Honour, Mayor Dennis Flynn of Etobicoke. Clara Cavanagh, the Exhibition Chairman, also welcomed the group and mentioned that this was the 5th biennial exhibition of which 3 had been held in Toronto, 1 in Woodstock and presently the 5th in the Etobicoke Civic Centre. She expressed the group's delight in having the exhibition in such an attractive setting. Kay Cloughley then introduced the main speaker of the evening, Nancy Turner, who is with the Ministry of Culture and Recreation. Finally, Beula Reynolds, president of C.S.C.L., presented the awards.

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President: Mrs. Beula Reynolds, ACSCL, 500 Parkinson Road, Woodstock

Vice-President: Hope C. Drysdale, ACSCL, 130 Young St., Hamilton

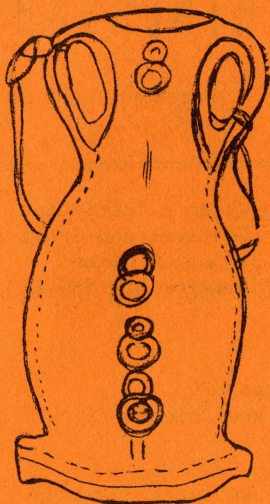
Jack Meharg, 36 Bailey Cresc., Scarborough

Editor: Mrs. Margaret Monteith

Corresponding Secretary: Miss Lorna Robson, R. R. #1, Font Hill, Ontario

Reporters this issue - Toronto Branch

Membership Chairman - Mrs. Kay Cloughley, ACSCL, R. R. #1, Hawkestone, Ontario

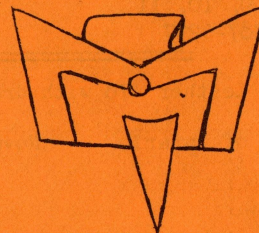
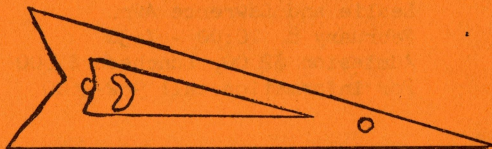


Most Original Design

Ontario Crafts Council \$50.00
to Anne Hook

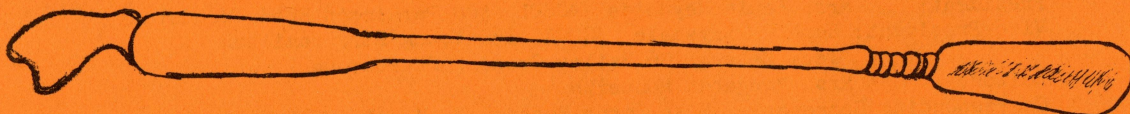
Brown vase with ring design

Most Original Entry
Artisan Guild \$35.00
to Jean Hunter



Set of 4 napkin holders
Tan leather with red pattern

Best Craftsmanship C.S.C.L. \$25.00 to Bea Austin

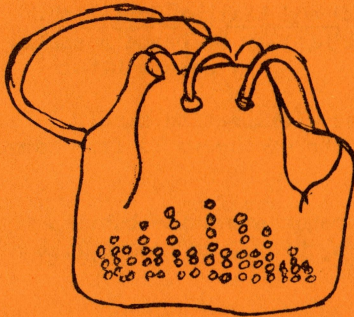


Black shoe horn

Best Functional Design

C.S.C.L. Executive \$25.00 to

Anne Hook

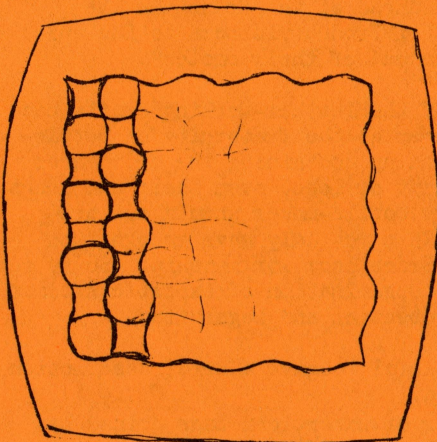


Purple suede bag
with gold trim

Memorial Award

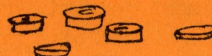
Anonymous Donor \$25.00

to Carol McLean



Checkerboard and checkers
Masonite covered with sciver
lining with a top layer of
belting leather

Monochromatic and brown shades

Honourable Mention:

Basket - Bea Austin
Round Box - Anne Hook
Spring Binder - Bella Iro

Insect Pendant

Pen Holder

Pendant with Stone

- Daphne Lingwood

- Gladys Riddell

- Olivia Smith

URGENT

WORKSHOP AT HARBOUR FRONT MEETING ROOM - TORONTO

Do you want a one day or a weekend workshop?

Suggestions for the workshop are to be sent to
Mrs. Beula Reynolds, 550 Parkinson Road, Woodstock,
immediately so arrangements can be made and announced
at the annual meeting.

Part 1 of a summary from the book "Black Jacks and Leather Bottells".
 This book was donated to the Larmour Memorial Library by Deane Russell.
 by Jessie Little

The art of preparing leather is as old as civilization itself. Vessels of hide and skin have been used in various parts of the world from remote ages for carrying water and wine.

We read of wine bottles in the Bible. Joshua saw "wine bottles old and rent and bound up." The Psalmist says, "For I am become like a bottle in the smoke."

The English excelled in the making of leather drinking vessels. These had the characteristics of strength and solidarity and were made from tanned ox-hide. Foreign vessels were made from lighter thinner leathers tanned to remain flexible.

It would seem that the English were ahead of the French in the manufacture of leather vessels. A group of French visitors to England reported that, "Englishmen used to drinke out of their bootes".

As early as the 14th Century each of the leather-working crafts had a guild of its own. One of these was known as the fraternity of bottle-makers or Botellars. Documents were drawn up containing the ordinances of the Guild. Each Guild had its own crest or logo, even their own songs and dances. The court decided that every bottle-maker should put his mark on the vessels which he had made. This not only gave recognition to the craftsman but it made it easy to trace poor workmanship. So we see that the company of Bottle-Makers was an organization of expert craftsmen of that industry who combined for its protection and regulation.

Perhaps at this time it would be helpful to give a brief description of the leather vessels most commonly used.

- (a) The Bouget - This consisted of a pair of watertight bags joined by the neck. The bouget is classified as a drinking vessel.
- (b) The Leather Bottel - This article has continued to be used until comparatively modern times. They were manufactured until near the end of the eighteenth century.
- (c) The Black Jack - This was a mug or pitcher of leather and went by many different names. In modern times it is sometimes erroneously called a leather bottle, to which it bears no resemblance.
- (d) The Bombard - Although the black jack was often of considerable size the bombard was more enormous. Earthenware and metal vessels of the same size were very heavy, whether full or empty, so bombards were in favour and often held 6-8 gallons.

It would seem that C.S.C.L. folk have a definite link with the past:

- (a) Local Guilds
- (b) Crests or Logos
- (c) Standards of Workmanship
- (d) Marking of work to show excellent workmanship.

"Then when this Bottel it doth grow old,
and will good liquor no longer hold,
Out of the side you may take a clout
Will mend your shoes when they are out;
Else take it and hang it upon a pin
It will serve to put many odd trifle in,
As Hinges, Aules, and Candle ends
For young beginners must have such things
Then I wish in Heaven his soul may dwel,
That first devised the Leather Bottel..

NOTICE TO ALL C.S.C.L. MEMBERS

The Toronto leather crafters group received a grant whose purpose was to help individual craft persons to secure materials for their own use at the lowest possible cost. Individuals could originally buy direct from the wholesaler, but with volume purchases, we were able to do so and pass the savings on to the members.

At present, we have a considerable stock of Morocco in various colours. We also have a stock of sciver, natural calf sides, and russet sides in weights of $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 oz. and $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 oz. In addition, we have a limited stock of findings such as domes, rivets, eyelets, wallet insert pins, and window inserts. We also have a complete stock of all Garnet dyes, edge dressing and polish coat.

For further information, call Gladys Riddell (416) 762-7466 or write to Apt. 204, 65 South Port St., Toronto M6S 3N6.

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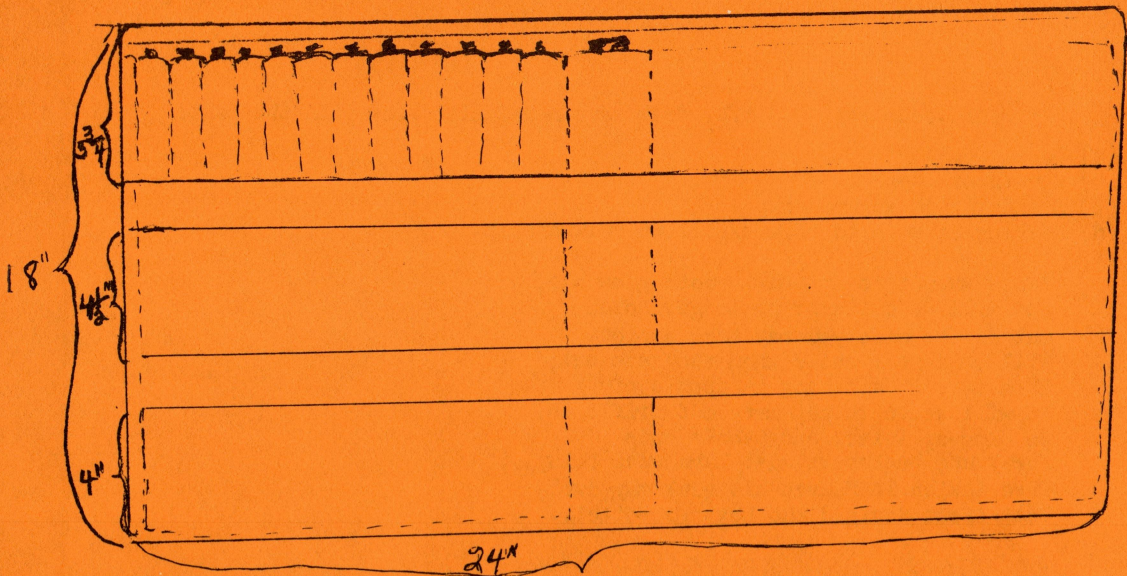
TO MEMBERS AT LARGE

Requests for demonstrations and offers to demonstrate for the next annual should be sent to Mrs. Emma Knowles, 104 Drury Lane, Barrie L4M 3C8 by January 26th.

Members are reminded that an award will be made at the Annual to the person submitting an article which in the judgement of the Council of Fellows shows the most originality especially in design.

Application forms for Associate and Fellow are available from:
Mrs. Helen Wheaton, 100 Grand Ave., London.

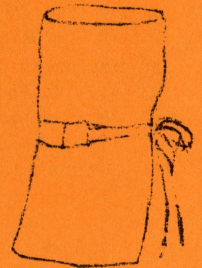
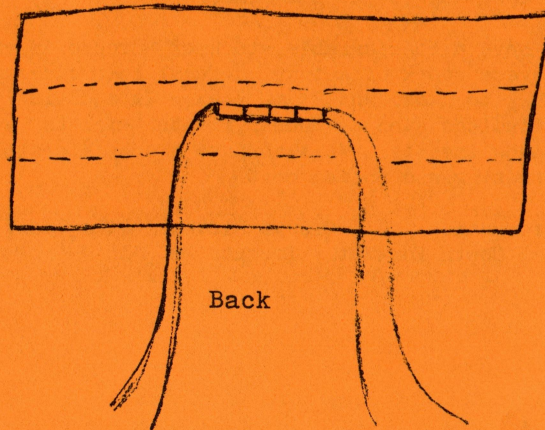
Holds up to 70 tools



Made of 2 thicknesses of felt. Criss cross stitch together
 3 strips of felt $3\frac{3}{4}$ ", $4\frac{1}{2}$ " & 4" wide for holding tools
 These widths can be varied according to the size of tools
 Attach ribbon to back for tying (See below)

Fold line

Fold line



Sew along 3 edges of felt strips leaving top open for dropping in tools.

Mark off different widths along felt strips to accomodate different sized tools. Sew down.

Felt can be obtained at most dressmaker's supplies stores

Anne Hook was born in Ireland and came to Canada in 1922. She was interested in drawing from a very early age, but the desire to do something beyond this came when she attended high school. Although she received guidance from the art staff at Central Technical School in Toronto and much co-operation from the public libraries in the securing of information, she was largely self-taught. Some scholarships followed, one from London, England, one from the United States, and one from Toronto. Of greatest influence on her work were the teachers at Central Technical School who introduced her to colour. She worked in many mediums such as oil, watercolour, Tempera and leather. Also trying printmaking, she made lino-block prints, woodcuts, silk screen prints (Serigraphs), etchings, aquatints, lithographs, drypoint, and Impasto relief. A major project was the "Presentation Print" for the Canadian Painter-Etchers and Engravers in 1960. The Demonstration Case of this print "Gentian", a nine-block lino-cut, was donated to the Art Gallery of Hamilton.

Museums she was represented in were: Hart House, Toronto; Edmonton Art Gallery; University of Maine (Carnegie Hall); Windsor Art Gallery; Melbourne Museum in Australia; London Art Museum. She also exhibited her work in private collections in Northern Ireland, Erie and England.

Anne became a Fellow of the Canadian Society for Creative Leathercraft in 1958 after having studied with Reta Larmour. She was three times winner of the award for the most original entry at the C.N.E. with the Canadian Guild of Crafts, including the Best in Show with her lidded jar in 1974. Other awards included the Chatelaine Award in 1971, awards in the Western Fair in London, Ontario, and the Pacific National Exhibition in Vancouver, B.C. She was three times winner of the award for the Best Functional Design in the C.S.C.L. biennial Exhibition. In addition to being awarded this award in Leather '78, she also received the Ontario Crafts Council award for the Most Outstanding Piece in the Show.

Her special skills included purse designing and framing; colouring; designing and decoration; printing from lino-block; tooling and pattern making.

This superior craftsman gave much of her time and shared her talent. She was Chairman of the Council of Fellows for a time and she willingly gave many demonstrations both in Canada and the United States. She also gave instruction to advanced students. For her many selfless contributions, she was much admired and loved by all her friends and fellow craftsmen and will be greatly missed.

Leather carving is another way to decorate leather. It is a very slow process and extreme care has to be taken, but it is well worth the effort. The results you achieve depend on what you do with the tools you have.

The blades of your swivel knife can be either slate or ruby. Neither is preferred and either can serve you once you get used to it. It is important to start with a sharp blade for clean cuts and to keep it sharp while working. To keep it sharpened, a rouge stick can be used. This stick has a fine jeweller's rouge on it which is not too abrasive to ruin the knife. Apply the rouge to only the flesh side of the leather that you will be using as a strope, then strope your knife on the flesh side first and then on the finished side of the stick. After carving for 5 or 10 minutes, stroke the knife again on the rouge stick and continue the procedure while working. If no rouge stick is available, a fine emery paper which has been spent can also be used.

To prepare the leather for carving, moisten on both sides. It should not be too wet as it may stretch. Leather is ready for working when it starts returning to its natural colour.

Practice carving on scrap leather first. Take your time especially when working with expensive leather. Hold the knife upright and tipped slightly forward and cut about halfway through the leather applying an even pressure. Follow the lines diligently drawing the knife towards you and concentrate as you cannot always disguise mistakes. Always turn the work and rotate the knife not the hand. If you don't slant the knife correctly, you score the leather and it can be forced up on one side giving it a ragged appearance. Do not cross over lines or go over them a second time.

A belt can take up to a week to complete, and carving is only half of the finished product. Bevellers are used to fill in the background and to emphasize the design. You can alternate carving and bevelling. Bevellers range in width and all work differently. When using any of them, always bevel the outside first and then fill in the background. First go from right to left and retrace the line by going from left to right.

Carving can dress up many projects ranging from coasters to purses. With practice each carver will develop his own style and technique.

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In Memorium

It is with regret that we announce the death of Mrs. Edith Roscoe who was formerly with the Weston Leathercraft Guild. She subsequently moved to Xenia, Ohio where she passed away after a lengthy illness.