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39TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
NOTTAWASAGA INN, ALLISTON, ONTARIO
FRIDAY, MAY 5, 1989 TO SUNDAY, MAY 7, 1989
HOSTED BY THE TORONTO BRANCH OF C.S.C.L.

We arrived on Friday, May 5, 1989 at 5:30 p.m., at the Nottawasaga Inn, Alliston, Ontario with our excitement and anticipation mounting! Many of the members had already arrived and were eating in the restaurant. After fish and chips we felt much better and, with cake, coffee, and the witty commentary from Jack Meharg, Harold Brister and the presence of Phyllis and Fred Brown to raise the tone of the occasion ... it was proving to be an auspicious beginning.

After settling into our rooms - thankfully quite good - in spite of the late registration - down to the display rooms to get a glimpse of the many well-crafted and displayed articles. After being shooed out by the Fellows, it was off to the conference room to hear a presentation by Sharon Gogischwili on the History of Bookbinding.

Leather and books are bound together and it is a tribute to Sharon that her open approach encouraged a spirited discussion ranging from the Haliburton School and Don Taylor's class there, to questions about gathering signatures and sewing them together. Our thanks to Sharon!

Saturday at the breakfast buffet our table was graced with those lovely Norland Branch Members, Hilda Chynoweth and Emma Windatt with Madeleine and Dean Mitchell at the next table! It could be noted here how vital our Newsletter is for liking all the branches and informing each other of developments, as well as nurturing those friendships formed at the Annuals. It is especially important for those Members-At-Large, such as Irene Girling and Laura Bush, as well as those mentioned who bear the Society's Standard where there are not sufficient members for a Branch. It is an achievement that is worthy of being noted, what they have the tenacity and courage to practice, to enter, and to stay linked!

Our business meeting, Saturday at 10:00 a.m. was capably chaired by Ruth Haig who brought the meeting to order and took all of us through the procedures with efficiency and grace. Thank you on behalf of all of us Madame President.

After the election of the Slate of Officers for the coming year, we proceeded smoothly to the Branch Competition Awards and the appraisal of the Weston Trophy articles. It could be noted that the entries were numerous and skillfully executed. The branches all had quality work, with especially attractive displays from the Hamilton and Woodstock Branches! Betsy Rennie's tooled portfolio, Dave McPherson's containers, those lovely translucent rawhide fish mobiles of Edith Melchior-Hawkins, the poinsettias as well as Loreen Manual's finely rendered cross!

In their appraisal of the Weston Trophy articles, Jessie Little and Gladys Riddell made observations that were well founded and tactful. Theirs were clear and simple observations, distilled from practical experience. Our praise to the Fellows.

As Dorothy Muma, Chairman of the Council of Fellows explained, the Trophy originated with the Weston Leathercraft Guild, one of the first leather guilds, dating to the Forties.

The winners of this year's award demonstrated some of the qualities it takes to merit this achievement. Noted are Sharon Gogischwili's cylindrical box with delicate cloisonne enamel lid and Dave McPherson's container really standing out. Cliff McTavish's incised and modelled washbag was a fine example of a decorative treatment using colour sparingly. Bea Austin's three-legged stool, with it's raised maple leaves encircling the seat, demonstrated the repousse method beautifully.

It is with these wards and ribbons that development and maturity in the Craft is recognized. We garland our lives with the cultivation of these skills and, through association, we strengthen each Branch, which in turn creates a stronger Society. It is the Annual each Spring which re-affirms each Branch's link to the Society.

We might take a moment to remember those that first planted the seed as well as those who cultivated the friendships that formed our Society. They are fondly remembered, in passing through these groves, the fragrance still lingers. It is with the understanding that we regard these tendrills, leaves and the delicate moss underfoot.

Saturday's programme included Bruce White's talk on airbrush technique and Rene Hackstetter's lecture on picture framing and whatever else came to mind. Bruce's Medici airbrush certainly did quite a job -- keep practising! Rene's first talk wandered hither and thither with even some of the seasoned veterans nodding off! However, fatigued from the first display of his feathers, the second demonstration stuck more closely to the text and the ark reached the other shore with all his passengers! His navigational instruments are the latest models, however, a simple compass works as well. Good work gentlemen!

Saturday evening the head table at the banquet consisted of Dorothy Muma, Chairman of the Council of Fellows; Ruth Haig, President, C.S.C.L.; Muriel McKnight, Recording Secretary; Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Black, Vice-President, Tandy Leather Canada and Mr. Harold Brister, President of the Host Branch, Toronto.

After Madame President's message of greetings was read and a silent prayer offered, we commenced eating with zeal! Delicious! Following the presentation of the awards, and congratulations to the worthy who entered, our keynote speaker, Mr. Doug Black delivered an excellent message on the state of the leather industry.

"We have to consider the shrinking leather industry and join together in a mutual effort of education and promotion", said Mr. Black. The Society agrees wholeheartedly, this is one of the primary aims of the C.S.C.L. and the record of workshops, demonstrations and lectures affirms this continuous effort.

We hope that more links will be established between all leather manufacturers and the Society. This is what is meant by Sustaining Membership. The records of the Society, as well as the Newsletter, Canadian Leathercraft, maintain Standards of Design set through the deliberation and judgement of the Fellows, the highest degree of the Craft. Through thirty-nine years of testing, exhibiting and co-operation with the Ontario and Canadian and World Craft Council, standards are set and maintained.

These are the aims and objectives as framed in our Constitution and it is hoped that everyone will accept these standards and build a foundation for Creative Leathercraft!

Leatherworkers have to purchase tools, books and leather from suppliers. These companies foster leatherwork, but the nurturing of the Craft is the work of the Society. This is the difference -- Business must be profitable and products must be sold. This is their task and it is our task to encourage the community of leatherworkers. Our Society is just that -- at Society. When we mix the two, they are incompatible.

Bill Whittingham gave a wonderful demonstration on using scrap leather. This is a creative use of off-cuts that Bill has developed! We hope to see an Ark full of creatures at the next Annual!

As the evening and weekend drew to a close, many found memories and friendships were made. A special Thank-You is extended to those who came as well as those who sent their greetings. Our best wishes to those that were not able to come -- they are not forgotten. Thanks especially to Iiva Limberg, Willman and Endel Ruberg for sending their best wishes. We hope we will see these Fellows from the earliest days of the Society at a future date. A special thanks to The Bata Museum for their contribution of shoe posters for the prizes. To those that have not been thanked until now, such as Joyce "Arm's Length ..." Scruton who tirelessly sold an awful lot of tickets, enabling us to break even -- Thanks! And, finally, to Harold Brister and Jack Meharg and the Toronto Branch for hosting such a memorable Annual! Great work Gentlemen!

After the delicious Brunch Sunday morning, visits between tables, spirited discussions on politics and religion, with Dorothy Muma saying, "Well it is Sunday isn't it?" -- we finished our repast and went to watch an impromptu slide show, which garlanded the memories of the week-end with the lovely achievements of the past!

By this steady drawing from the well of memory we sweeten and nourish our present efforts. New branches will sprout if we nourish the ground with free ideas. Our Society is not one old trunk alone in the desert, it is a grove, nourished by a hidden spring, with some old and some new growth. We are all nourished by what has grown and died. These voices still linger quietly reminding us.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Rene Hackstetter
Toronto, Ontario*

CAROL McLEAN, F.C.S.C.L.
HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

At the 1988 Annual General Meeting of the C.S.C.L., Carol McLean, F.S.C.S.L., became an Honorary Life Member. Carol is a member of the Woodstock Branch and has been since its inception as a branch. From the early 60's, Carol has been interested in leather. She started at a night school course in Woodstock and later took Advanced Leathercraft from Irva Ford, Clara Cavanaugh, Anne Hook and Olivia Smith. She used her skills and talents to teach night school courses in leather in Woodstock and area. In 1970, Carol became an Associate Member and in 1975, at the 25th Annual General Meeting she gained her "Fellow" standing. Carol has been a Director of C.S.C.L. and most recently she has organized C.S.C.L.'s archives. Through the years, Carol has achieved a recognition in leathercraft for her innovation and her excellence in design in leather art. She has received numerous ribbons for Craftsman, Salon, Biennial Exhibitions and the Weston Trophy Competitions. In 1976 she received the Chatelaine Award from the C.N.E.

Photography is another of her talents along with a full-time vocation recently in quilting.

Few leather artists could be more deserving of an Honorary Life Membership than Carol McLean.

NEW HORIZONS

New Horizons are trying to get various types of Morocco Leather which will be sold at the Annual General Meetings or by ordering same through Gladys Riddell or Joyce Scruton.

Joyce has also requested that people send in their preference for leather i.e. cowhide, morocco, skiver (natural skins only) -- along with the weight, colour or whatever is necessary so that she can try and have some available at the 1990 Annual General Meeting.

GARNETT DYE CO.

Fred Brown is no longer associated with Garnett Dye Co. It is now operated by Harold Brister and Joyce Scruton. How to order, etc. will be given at a later date.

CRAFTSMAN RIBBONS - 42 AWARDS

Austin, Bea	Hamilton	3 Legged Stool Box for Glasses
Cloughley, Kay	Member-At-Large	Square Pin with Decora- tive Centre Panel
Gogischwili, Sharon	Hamilton	Small Round Box with Copper Enamel Lid Dark Green Puzzle Box Royal Blue Box Blue Covered Bottle Dark Green Ranger Belt
Hackstetter, Rene	Toronto	Black Briefcase Picture Frame
Haig, Ruth	Hamilton	Orange & Brown Square Box Small Ranger Belt Mahogany Ranger Belt Soft Blue Bag
MacPherson, Lois	Mississauga	Red Bottle with Black Design Decorative Leaf Box Lamp
Manuel, Loreen	Woodstock	Cross - Stacked Leather Oval Mahogany Tray Maple Leaf Tray Light Interior Round Bowl Yellow & Black Oblong Tray
McPherson, Dave	Hamilton	Blue Box with Stone Inside Dark Brown Ranger Belt Blue Heart-Shaped Box Light Blue Covered Bottle
McTavish, Cliff	Mississauga	Men's Toiletry Kit Dark Tan Hinged Box Moulded Change Purse
Mitchell, Madeleine	Woodstock	Writing Case
Montieth, Margaret	Woodstock	Irregular Shaped Covered Bottle Large Mask
Nelson, Glenn	Norland	Black and White Clock Bolo Tie with Scalloped Pendant
Pfaff, John	Mississauga	Snakeskin Belt
Rennie, Betsy	Hamilton	Men's Toiletry Kit Carved Writing Case
Reynolds, Beula	Woodstock	Small Ringbinder Mobile with Small Fish

Scruton, Joyce

Toronto

Moulded Bowl

Whittingham, Bill

Mississauga

Rex Hexagonal Box
Contour Belt

SALON RIBBONS - 7 AWARDS

Austin, Bea

Hamilton

Box for Glasses

Gogischwilli, Sharon

Hamilton

Small Green Box with
Enamelled Lid

MacPherson, Lois

Mississauga

Decorative Leaf Box

Manuel, Loreen

Woodstock

Stacked Leather Cross
Yellow & Black Oblong Tray

McPherson, Dave

Hamilton

Heart Shaped Blue Box

Montieth, Margaret

Woodstock

Irregular Shaped Bottle

Whittingham, Bill

Mississauga

Contour Belt

*WESTON TROPHY WINNERS
HAMILTON BRANCH - 83.3%*

Austin, Bea

3 Legged Stool

Gogischwilli, Sharon

Small Round Box with Enamelled Lid

Haig, Ruth

Orange and Black Square Box

McPherson, Dave

Blue Box with Stone Inside

Rennie, Betsy

Suede Jacket

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