

CANADIAN



LEATHERCRAFT

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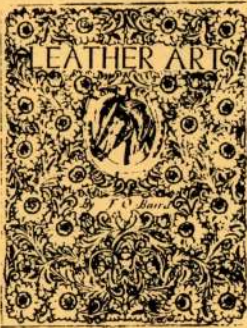
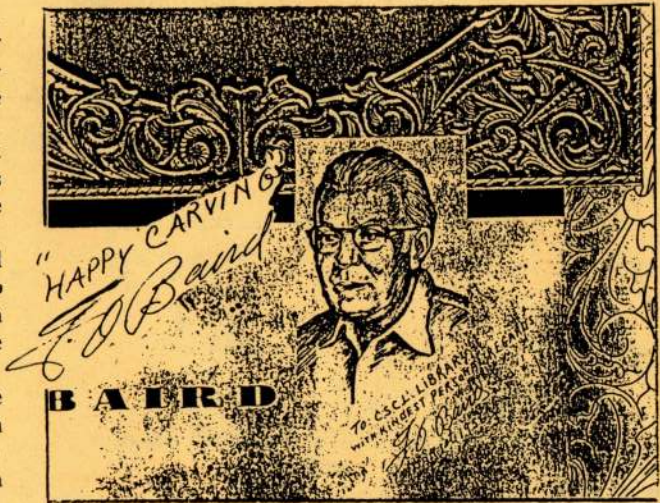
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TREASURES OF THE LARMOUR LIBRARY
F. O. BAIRD, LEATHER ARTIST
Rene Hackstetter

In that rich soil we call the Larmour Library, our spades turn up a tremendous gathering of the works of F. O. Baird. This fine leather artist learned to stamp from his uncle who owned a saddle shop in Fort Morgan, Colorado. Mr. Baird trained as a Troop Saddler in the Cavalry in 1917 and for the Mule Pack Service. He worked in a variety of saddle shops, and then his own shop in Los Angeles, followed by a sojourn in Manitou Springs Colorado.



It is during this period, after World War II that Baird wrote and published some of the instructional books he is known for. One of his first, "Leather Art", published in 1946, is an instructional book whose cover shows a tooled portrait of a horse, surrounded by embellishments of flowers and leaves. Inside there are 32 pages of instruction and patterns, a photograph of Baird with one of his show saddles and pictures of tooled belts, holsters and book covers. All the necessary implements, one might say, for defending the western sanctuary.

Doctor Larmour and his wife Reta, during their tour of the Southwest, visited Mr. and Mrs. Baird in Manitou Springs and initiated a warm friendship that still links us with their meeting. At that time, 1950, Baird was working on "Leather Secrets", a massive compendium of folding instruction sheets on Swivel Knife Cutting, Tooling and Assembly. Baird very kindly donated an inscribed copy to the Library. There are three slides L95-6, which show the Larmours and the Bairsts during their visit.



In addition to a pamphlet, the "Leather Art Accordion Series" in 1947, Design Number One-F Bill Fold 60, Baird published three series called "Leather Treasures". The first one was called "Six Billfold Designs and Monograms", the second, "Twelve Billfold Designs and Monograms" and the last, "Fifteen Belt Designs and Monograms". In addition, there is a portfolio of "Handbags and Belts", done in 1951 and perhaps his last book, "Design Artistry", published in 1955.



"Handbags and Belts", the design portfolio containing eight sheets of patterns in the Larmour copy, was donated by Jessie Little. "Design Artistry", the Library's copy inscribed "Happy Carving" from the Master, measures 18"x24-1/2" and may be Baird's last book. It is 32 pages of instruction in fundamental design principles and full sized examples of tooled works. The first six pages are instructions in creating some of the geometry required for producing the floral patterns of the Southwest style.



Baird recognized the necessity of instruction for advancement in the Craft. As his work matured through practice and his understanding of the subject clarified, he became more systematic in his instruction for designing. He admits in "Design Artistry" that because of a lack of written instruction, he struggled

forty-five years before bringing out the book. In many ways, "Design Artistry" could stand at the forefront of all his works.

What we discover in this embroidered work are masters of great skill and devotion, whose art took years to mature. Dr. Ralph and Reta Larmour, Baird, and all those fondly and affectionately remembered, take their honoured places together in our banquet hall. The years that pass add lustre to all their names. As we slowly discover these treasures, the soil of our imagination is stirred and these memories are flagstones supporting the banner of our Society. Inspired, we dream fresh dreams and these fall like the dew on those who have seen the banner in the distance, waving.

F. O. Baird was an Honorary Life Member of the Society in recognition of his contribution to the field of Leathercraft.

NOTE: Thanks to the Tandy Leather Company for permission to reproduce covers of F.O. Baird's books.

PLATE HANGER
Frances Hogue

This plate holder forms a square frame around your favourite plate. It can also be made round, with corners cut off, or any way that pleases you or suits the plate to be framed. The plate fits snugly into a "pocket" at the back of the frame.

FRONT:

- 1) Cut one 10" x 10" square 7-8 oz carving leather.
- 2) Measure the diameter of the plate you wish to hang and cut a cardboard template $3/8$ " smaller in diameter.
- 3) Place this circular template in the middle of the 10" leather square (centering it carefully) and cut out the circle. This will be the front of your hanger, so any carving or stamping should be done now.
- 4) Place the plate over the cut-out circle, on the flesh side, centering it perfectly. Scribe a line around the plate.
- 5) With a V-gouge, form a recess following the scribed line. The plate should fit into this recess. FIG 1.
- 6) Dampen the 10" square with the cutout and place it under a heavy object. Leave until completely dry and flat (approx. 12 hours).

BACK:

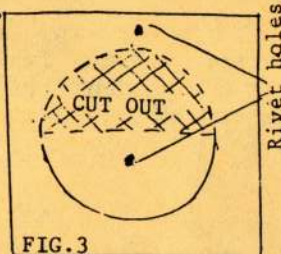
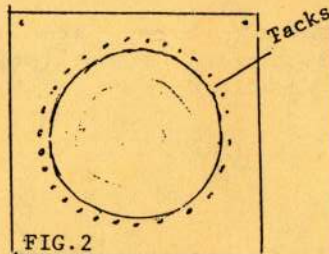
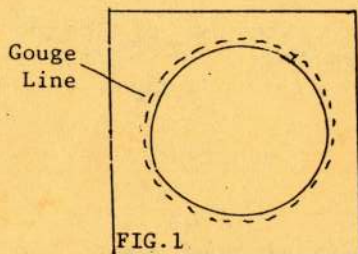
- 1) Cut out an 11-1/2" square from 7-8 oz leather.
- 2) Soak the leather thoroughly.
- 3) Place the plate, face down, on a wooden board. Centre the soaked leather, flesh side down, over the plate and begin shaping it down over the plate. Use a modeler around the edges of the plate, to form a clear line.
- 4) Tack the leather to the board, with the plate still in place, working the edges flat and shaping snugly. FIG 2.
- 5) Allow to dry for 24 to 36 hours. Remove tacks and place this piece on the back of the 10" square with cutout. Make sure all edges are even and trim, where necessary.
- 6) Cut out the top half of the molded circular section of the back. FIG. 3

HANGER

- 1) Cut a 3/4" X 8" (approx.) strip from scrap. Shape both ends and finish edges. After finishing (below) rivet top end, grain side down, 1" in at top, centre of frame back. Place small 'D' ring on strap and rivet other end, flesh side down, 1" down at centre of molded half circle. Allow enough play so the strap can "swing". (FIG 3)

FINISHING

- 1) Dye all pieces, if desired.
- 2) At this point, you must finish and burnish the edges of the circle and half circle.
- 3) Attach hanging strip.
- 4) Carefully keeping the circles centered together, glue the back and front pieces together. Allow to set thoroughly. Trim edges, if necessary. Bevel, dye and burnish the edges.



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL NEWS

The Visual Arts Office of the Ontario Arts Council has announced the following changes to its Crafts Grant Program of assistance to individual craftspersons.

These changes will become effective April 1, 1991:

- a) The limit of grant assistance has been increased from \$8,000 to \$10,000. This limit now corresponds to the maximum available to individual artists.
- b) Success in one granting competition will no longer preclude a craftsperson from applying in the next competition. However, no more than a total of \$10,000 will be awarded to an individual in any one fiscal year (April 1 to March 31). Additionally, in the same fiscal year, a craftsperson may receive up to \$1,000 in the Exhibition Assistance Program, for a maximum of \$11,000.

- c) Reports following the completion of a project for which a grant has been awarded will no longer be required. However, as some projects lend themselves to the creation of documentation, successful applicants will be encouraged to consider sharing their project experience or results with their associates or colleagues by providing an account or commentary to the editor of a newsletter or magazine for possible publication. In this case, a copy of the documentation should also be sent to the Visual Arts Office.
- d) Receipt of Canada Council grants at any level will no longer preclude a craftsperson or visual artist from applying for grants administered by OAC's Visual Arts Office.

In addition, the eligibility criteria for craftspersons taking courses has been clarified. Individuals taking more than two courses concurrently are considered to be students, regardless of the stage of their careers as craftspersons. This amplifies the requirement that craftspersons must have completed their education and spent a minimum of one year working at their craft, following their most recent studies. Students are ineligible.

Crafts Grant application forms are in the process of being revised and new forms should be available from the OAC's Visual Arts Office and the Resource Centre, Ontario Crafts Council, by the end of February.

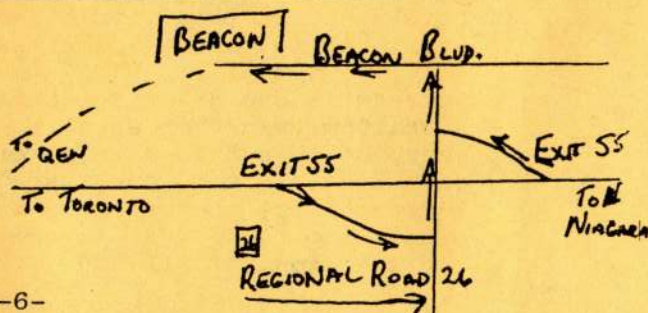
JUST BELONG?

Are you an Active Member
The kind that would be missed,
Or are you just contented
That your name is on the list?
Do you attend the meetings
And mingle with the flock,
Or do you stay at home
To criticize and knock?
Do you take an active part
To help the work along,
Or are you satisfied
To just belong?

Do you work with your committee
And get right in the mix,
Or leave the work to just a few
And talk about the cliques?
Think it over, member...
You know right from wrong!
Are you an active member
Or do you JUST BELONG?

Author Unknown
Submitted by Betsy Rennie

Don't forget the Annual Meeting May 3-5, at The Beacon Motor Inn, Beacon Blvd & QEW, P.O. Box 70, Jordan Station, L0R 1S0
Tel: 416-562-4155



KEVIN W. ARMSTRONG

BOLO SUPPLIES
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BRUCE H WHITE LEATHERCRAFT

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KEY PLATES

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BUCKLES
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KEY RINGS
STAMPS
JEWELRY HARDWARE



LEATHERCRAFT DYES AND SUPPLIES

Garnett Company

We will see you at
the Annual Meeting
in May 1991.

*Harold
&
Joyce*

Litens by onben only

W O R K S H O P

DATE: Saturday, May 25, 1991
TIME: 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
PLACE: St. Martin's-in-the-Field Church, Toronto
FEE: \$25.00
DEMONSTRATOR: Ruth Haig
TOPIC: Working with Belting Strips

PLEASE BRING:

- a) a stone approximately 7-8" long, 4" high or
- b) a bottle to cover or
- c) a deep dish or bowl to use as a form

YOU WILL NEED: Saran wrap
 Wellbond cement
 Application brush and glue dish
 Belting strip leather (available from J Scruton)
 Scissors
 Hair dryer or heat gun
 Newspaper or plastic bags.

Please make your intention to attend known, in writing, to Ruth Haig, 264 Duke Street, Ste. 401, Hamilton, ON, L8P 1Y3, by April 30, 1991 along with the registration fee.

W O R K S H O P

DATE: Saturday, May 4, 1991 - 3:30 p.m.
PLACE: Beacon Motor Inn - at "The Annual"
FEE: \$3.00 to cover materials
SUBJECT: Colour Dye & Dry Brush
(Two projects will be completed)
DEMONSTRATOR: Bill Whittingham

PLEASE BRING:

- Water container and sponge
- Small bottle or jar (e.g. baby food jar)
- Knife (Xacto) for fine cutting and cutting board
- Good quality paint brush, #4, 5 or 6 brush size
- Modeling tools - 1 with ball tip
 - 1 with fine embossing tip
- Sheet of blotting paper
- 4 or 5 sheets of paper towels
- Section of newspaper for working base.

SUPPLIED: Dyes and final finish
Leather
Pin back
Cement

Please confirm your intention to attend, in advance, by notifying Hamilton Guild members or Bill Whittingham, 42 Robin Hood Road, Islington, ON, M9A 2W8