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HAMILTON LEATHER GUILD'S 35TH ANNIVERSARY - 1991
by Muriel McKnight

The Hamilton Guild was formed on October 11, 1956. The first meeting was held at a recreation centre on Bay Street in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Mr. Harold Wilson made a resolution that the group become an official branch of the Canadian Society for Creative Leathercraft. Guests in attendance were Mrs. Newton, president of C.S.C.L. and Mr. Fred Brown, Vice President, who spoke on the constitution for branches.

The slate of officers for 1957 were: Chairman, Mrs. Irva Ford; Vice Chairman, Mr. Frank Tory; Secretary, Mrs. Harold Wilson; Treasurer, Mrs. W. H. Jones.

the Guild was publicized by notices in leather stores and on radio, much the same as today. On December 13, 1957, there were twenty-nine paid members.

Since the beginning, our members have provided demonstrations and workshops in Hamilton and for other guilds of the C.S.C.L. Some members who have demonstrated are the late Irva Ford, Dr. & Mrs. Larmour, Lillian Beech, Jean Newton, Betty Henstridge, and Alvin Haig, as well as Sadie Roebuck, Bea Austin, Clarence Redman, Ruth Haig, Muriel McKnight, Hope Drysdale, Dave McPherson, and others.

On May 4th and 5th 1956, Hamilton Guild attended its first International Assembly of Leathercraftsmen, in Rochester, N.Y. As early as 1957, members were participating in Canadian National Exhibition competition and, later, C.S.C.L. had a booth in the Crafts building where all members shared in manning the booth and selling their leather articles.

Irva Ford was our first Fellow, in 1958. To acquire this standing, work must be very high in craftsmanship and original design.

Some of our charter members were Bea Austin, Irva Ford, Winnie Comfort, Harold Wilson, Mrs. H. Wilson,

Lillian Beech, Clarence Redman, Frank Tory, Mrs. W. H. Jones, Jean Newton, and June Somerville, to name a few.

Our present members have many talents and are continually updating their skills by attending day workshops at Mowhawk College, C.S.C.L. workshops and week-long courses in design and leather at Haliburton School of Fine Arts. This summer, Dave McPherson will be teaching at Haliburton. Dave has won many awards for his work throughout Ontario, as have Ruth Haig, Betsy Rennie, Bea Austin and others. Betsy has won awards at the international level, in the U.S.A. We have three members who have their Fellow standing - Bea Austin, Ruth Haig and Betsy Rennie, and several members with their Associate standing.

The Hamilton Guild has been active for thirty-five years, meeting once a month from October to May. The average attendance today is twelve, with approximately twenty members.

In December 1991, we celebrated our **Thirty-Fifth Anniversary** with a Christmas party, inviting past members and charter members. The evening began with a pot luck buffet, followed by C.S.C.L. slides of earlier works, and a birthday cake. A good time was enjoyed by all - renewing old friendships and making new friends.

Hamilton has won the Weston Trophy many times during the thirty-five years and has been host to the C.S.C.L. Annual Meeting every four or five years. As members, we are looking forward to celebrating many more years, with as much success as in the past.

We are grateful to the charter members who had this great vision of leather guilds in various towns and cities to form the C.S.C.L. which, after forty years is still alive and well.

PERSONNEL CARD CASE
by Don MacLeod

REQUIRED: 3 Pieces of leather

- A 1 pc. 2-1/2" x 5" 2 oz carving leather
- B 1 pc. 4-1/2" x 5-5/8" 2 oz carving leather
- C 1 pc. skiver or pre-dyed purse lining, slightly larger than piece B
- D 2" x 3-1/2" Plywood or plastic plug
- E 3-4 ply waxed stitching twine or waxed polyester lacing tape #502P

TOOLS: Sharp knife Bone folder Edge groover
Modeler Edge beveler #5 or #6 Stitching wheel

PIECE A

Cut out the outline and edge the top, following the curve. Finish this top edge. Put a feature stripe along this edge, and add initials to this area, using a plywood block to take the pressure. Mould this piece over the plug with your fingers and get the folds as sharp as you can. Using a bone folder, sharpen the folds and corners until the three flanges are flat and look like one flat area. A little tip: Mark the top edge finger dip on the plug and keep the leather on this line all the time you are moulding the shape. DO NOT TRIM THIS PIECE. Let it dry about 24 hours.

PIECE B

Cut the piece to 4-1/2" x 5-5/8". Use a dime or penny to get the four corners round. On the top side edge, groove 1/8" in from the edge, all around, following the curve of the corners. Run your #5 or #6 stitching wheel all the way around this line. Case the leather and put on any pattern you like. If the pattern is to be personalized, make sure you put the design on the front panel and the right side up. Turn the leather over and on the 5-5/8" length, measure a centre line lightly where the fold will be. Measure 3/16" on either side of the centre line and, using the stylus end of your modeler, score these two lines and make an imprint that shows through the leather.

groover will weaken it and you may go through the leather. When you are through, these lines will give you a double fold and gives you a 3/8" back when you are finished. Using either purse lining or skiver, cut a piece slightly bigger than Piece B.

Decide on the colour you want and dye both pieces A and B at this time. I used acrylic watercolour to highlight the design on the front panel (not acrylic dye) I used acrylic watercolour on the engraving. I can mix my own shades and tones and get the depth of colour I want. Using it very thin, and about 3 or 4 coats, gives proper depth of colour and it won't flake off when dry.

Glue the liner on the flesh side of Piece B, making sure it is smoothly down, has good overall contact and extends over on all four sides. Glue Piece A in place on Piece B. Using Piece B as a pattern, trim off the excess lining and trim piece A at the same time. On Piece A, run the edge groover around the outer edge.

Edge dye your piece, bone polish all edges, apply a couple of coats of Polish Coat and give a good buffing with lamb's wool.

PATTERNS ON PAGE FIVE

WORKSHOPS AND DEMONSTRATIONS
AT THE ANNUAL MEETING
SATURDAY & SUNDAY APRIL 25-26, 1992

COLORAMA

We are fortunate, indeed, to have JESSIE LITTLE giving a demonstration and a workshop on colour techniques, on Saturday and Sunday respectively, at the Annual Meeting.

On Saturday afternoon, April 25, Jessie will give a talk and demonstration on colour techniques (2 to 3 p.m. and 3:30 to 4:30) followed by a hands-on workshop on Sunday (10 a.m. to noon) using acrylic dyes.

Anyone who has attended one of Jessie's workshops will appreciate the effort she puts into planning, and the resulting benefits to her students.

If you plan to attend, bring:

Scrap leather (3-5 oz)
2 paint brushes, #4 or #5 & #6 or #7
Cutting shears, ruler, garbage bag
Water jar for rinsing, sponge
Modeler, ball point modeler
pen and pencil, paper towels
ACRYLIC DYES TO BE SUPPLIED

There will be a nominal fee of \$5.00.

HE'LL KEEP YOU IN STITCHES

Also on Saturday afternoon (2 pm. to 3:00 p.m.), CLIFF McTAVISH will demonstrate the fine art of hand-stitching and thread preparation.

Anyone who has seen Cliff's finished, stitched products, probably wonders how he does it.

Maybe his unique "reshaped" awl handle? His method of waxing his thread? His? Attend this demonstration and find out!

DON'T BE DULL!

The old bugbear of keeping one's tools sharp and ready for work will be addressed by BILL WHITTINGHAM in his demonstration (3:30 p.m.) Saturday afternoon.

This is something some of us never seem to grasp, however hard we try. But there is hope under Dr. Bill's expert tutelage. So take in this demonstration and never be dull again!

PRACTICAL PLEXI

On Friday evening, LOIS MacPHERSON will demonstrate small moulded items (card cases, etc.) using plexiglass forms.

With plexiglass, you can mould, carve/stamp, dye, stitch and dry the item without removing the form, and the plexiglass lasts forever.

HALIBURTON SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS

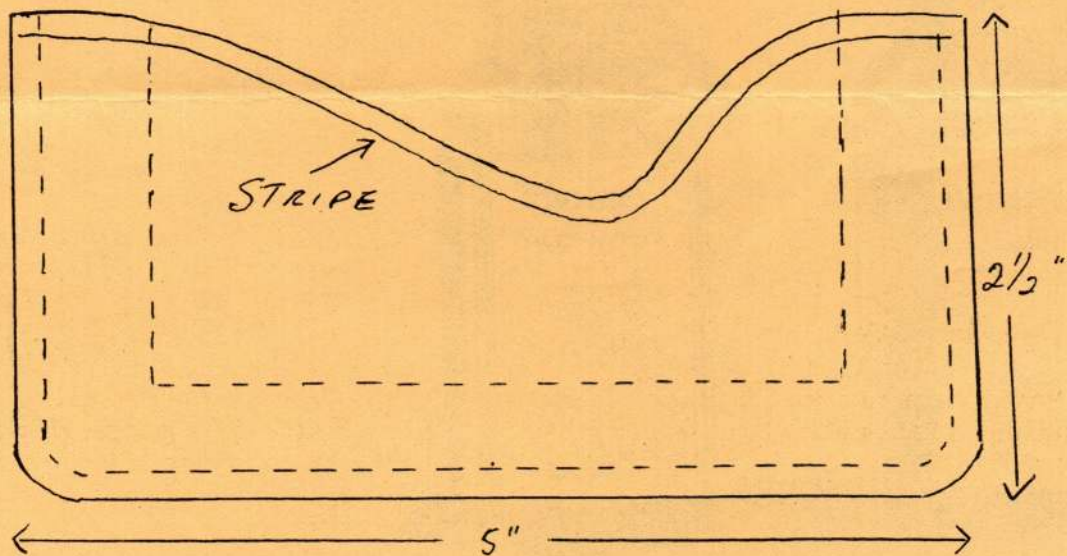
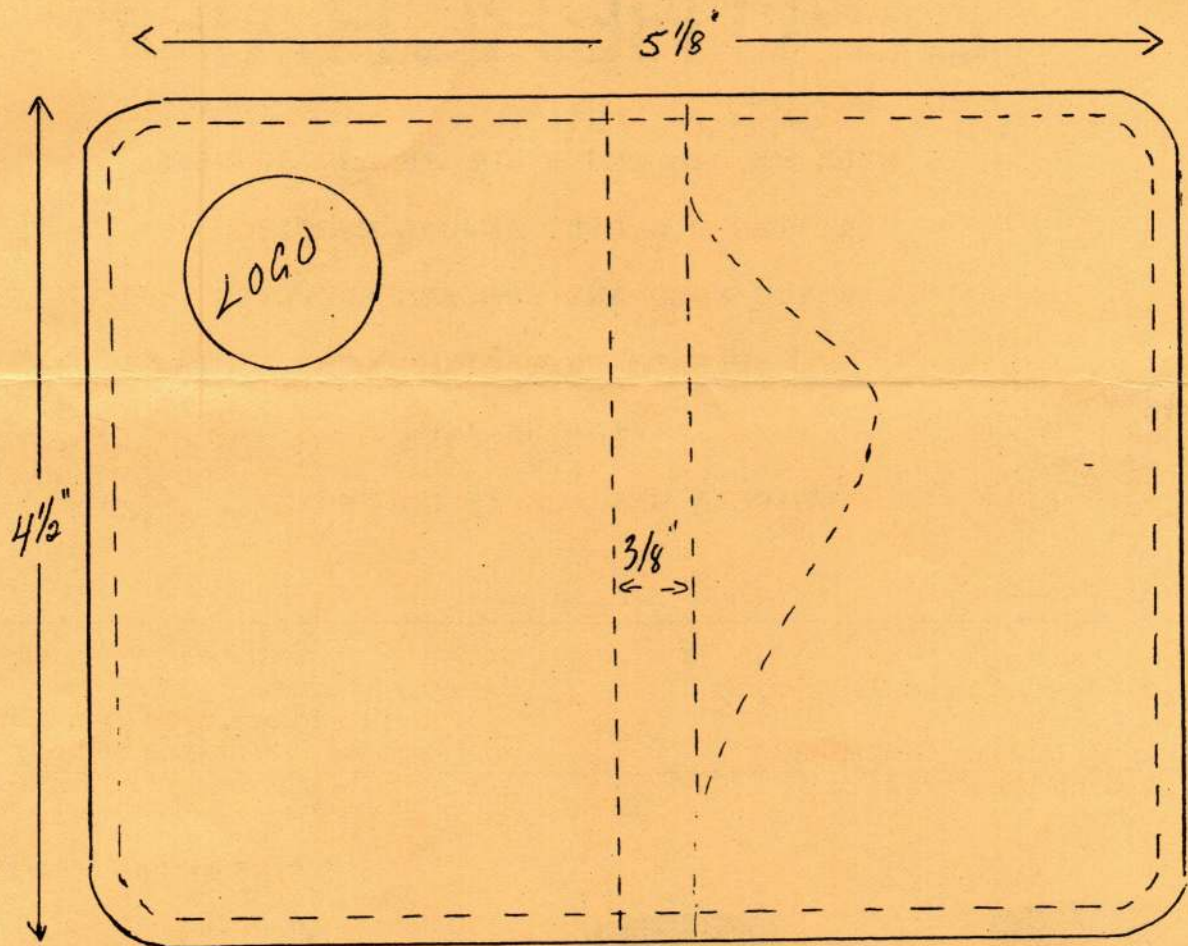
DAVE McPHERSON will be teaching the fine art of making leather boxes, July 25-29, at the Haliburton School of Fine Arts.

The course is \$90.00 with a fee of \$10-\$15 for leather, findings, etc.

For more information about the course and accommodations, contact the H.S.F.A. at P.O. Box 839, Haliburton, ON, K0M 1S0, Tel: (705) 457-1680.

***TIP:** When edge beveling the soft, lined side of a piece, dip a Q-tip in a clear, acrylic floor wax, run it around the edge and allow it to dry thoroughly. You will now have a nice, firm edge to work with.*

PATTERN FOR PERSONNEL CARD CASE - PAGE 3



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*We will see you at
the Annual Meeting*

*Harold
&
Joyce*

Liters by order only