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THE BROADSHEET

No. 3

RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN

MARCH, 1935



Xylograph

Adelaide Koch

Book-Binding

BY LEONORE A. PERNAVEAU

Binding a book can be as fascinating as reading one. For several weeks the junior class of teacher-training students, under the supervision of Miss Alma C. Field, have been working on a very interesting problem in book-binding. As Miss Field has said, "One must actually make books in order to appreciate them fully."

The students first studied the history of book-making, an art almost as old as civilization itself, as a basis for this work. The ever-fascinating subject of books was traced from the early cave-writings down to our modern leather-bound volumes. Many different types of bindings were studied in detail, several of which have been made by the students. These include books sewn over cords as well as books sewn over tapes. The students also gave a great deal of thought to the color schemes to be used in the bindings, carefully selecting the paper for the signatures, the vellum, and the cover papers.

For end papers various kinds of craft papers, some of them made by the class earlier in the term, were used very effectively—particularly the marble paper, in colors to harmonize with the color scheme of the book. Other unusual and interesting craft papers were made by spattering oil paint on the paper with a toothbrush and a knife. When there were large areas to be covered, a spraying device, such as a fixative blower, was used. Some all-over patterns were made by using stencils; these

included plaids, scenery, and animal motifs. Both the processes and the equipment used in making these papers had to be simplified so that they might be practical for public school purposes. The books are being bound in leather, rather than vellum. The use of leather insures a better looking and more durable book. All of the higher priced books today are bound in leather and are frequently hand-tooled.

Marjorie Davis has made a book in which she has used an effective color combination of black vellum and black and red spatter-paper. The design on the paper carries through the color of the vellum, making the book a complete unit in design. Margaret Schwarz has used blue rabbits as a motif on the spatter-paper cover of her book, and blue vellum for the binding. This combination is very gay and is appropriate for a book of nursery rhymes. Another student, Russell Titus, has compiled into one volume all of the block prints that he has made since he has been in the school. These prints are mounted and indexed, and notes of explanation concerning the subject-matter of each print are listed in the front of the book. This book was made on his own initiative, and both the printing and the book-binding were done entirely without criticism.

The students find their knowledge of the art of book-binding particularly useful to them in the preparation of their theses, written in the senior year.

ITEMS OF THE MOMENT

A group of students from the second year class in Interior Decorating went to Boston recently to visit the Elizabeth Stuart Gardiner Museum. Their purpose was to observe Spanish Renaissance furniture and decoration in their correct setting. Evidently their visit wasn't timed correctly, for when they arrived, they found the department closed. Anyway, their intentions were good.

The students of the Costume Department will exhibit their work at their third annual fashion show to be given in Memorial Hall on April 27. Miss Jessie L. Burbank will officiate, introducing the show with a talk on current style and its application to the individual. She will forecast fashions for Spring and Summer and point out their application in the clothes worn by the students, who will act as mannequins. The major portion of the style show will be exhibited a second time at the Flower Show in the Auditorium on May 11 against the background of Mr. William E. Brigham's Italian Renaissance garden display. Those sections of the student collection which will not be in keeping with the "garden's" formal atmosphere will not be displayed.

Miss Burbank will give a series of lectures at the Katharine Gibbs School during March and April. The series includes, in the order of their dates: "Color in Dress," March 21; "Design in Dress," April 4; "Planning a Wardrobe," April 9; Style Show, April 11.

An exhibition of articles retailing at twenty-five cents will be displayed in the School lobby Monday, March 18. The merchandise will be shown in the usual retail manner, and will demonstrate a fine relationship between the cause for the object's being made, its form, the materials, and the tools used in its development. All students are urged to contribute to their department's display.

Miss Virginia Hamill gave a talk at the Museum on "Designing for American Industry" Sunday, March 10, for the Utopian Club. She said that the demand for better goods offers encouragement to the young designer who has a broad knowledge of the relationship between a specific design for a certain function and the economic and fashion trends. "We derive our knowledge from the past, and our inspiration from the future," said Miss Hamill. "The last tea service, the last chair, the last automobile, the last costume, the last building, have not yet been designed."

Mr. Egmont Arens, head of the industrial styling division of Calkins and Holden of New York, a consumer engineer, will speak at the Utopian Club on "Streamlining out of the Depression," Wednesday evening, March 13 at

8:15. It's open to the public, and should be worthwhile.

On exhibition in the office of the Jewelry Building is an electric clock recently completed by William McCreery.

Mr. A. Sydney Rollings is supervising the construction of several tjantings, Javanese batik tools, for Miss Grace Ripley's Trade Design classes.

Miss Evelyn Chase suggests that any senior working on a thesis will find helpful examples on the central table in the library. The theses displayed are by graduates of the Teacher Training Department.

Mr. Joseph Sincel, Industrial Designer of New York, spoke recently at a meeting of the Providence Engineering Society. The next day he visited the School of Design accompanied by his assistant, Mr. Joseph Olifiers.

On Saturday, March 3, Mr. Sogo Matsumoto of The Far Eastern Culture Center of New York, gave an informal talk on Chinese prints to a small group of teachers and students in the office of Mr. Dana P. Vaughan, dean of the School. He displayed a group of Chinese prints, which, although they antedate Japanese prints, are less widely known. He also exhibited a set of tools, of modern manufacture, used in the process of making prints, and a booklet issued by the American Government describing their use.

The fourth annual Junior Art Show will begin April 15. It is sponsored by the Rhode Island School of Design and the *Providence Journal* for the purpose of discovering and encouraging talent among children of Rhode Island, as well as for cultivating art appreciation. The members of the Junior and Senior Teacher Training classes, under the supervision of Mr. Antonio Cirino, will arrange and hang the exhibition.

The Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors of the Teacher Training Department are dyeing in Miss Grace Ripley's classes. Craft dyeing in two forms, batik and tie-dyeing, is now in progress. The Sophomores and Juniors have made triangular batik scarves, while the Seniors are making blouses of their own design of materials which they have hand dyed.

Miss Alma Field's class in Elementary Handwork, having completed a course in bookbinding, is taking up leather work. Various practical objects to be made of leather have been designed and are to be tooled by the class.

The Junior school creative expression class has been modeling groups of figures and animals in plastacine. The work has been exhibited for the past two Saturdays on the third floor of the

main building. One group called "Consolation" is extremely interesting. This was done by June Easton. It is a forlorn figure of a man and two dogs.

Both stuffed and live animals are being used in the Junior School Creative Expression class. Last week they drew from a stuffed owl and a stuffed squirrel. This week their models were two live pigeons in a cage.

Congratulations to the freshman class who conducted The Hollywood Party, held at Memorial Hall, March 1. The unique decorations received many favorable comments. The affair was undoubtedly a success, both socially and financially. Tuesday evening, March 5, found the students of the evening school and their friends enjoying a dance at Memorial Hall. A special program of music entertained the guests during intermission, followed by a short address from Mr. William D. Fales, Supervisor of the evening school.

"Art as a Means of Social Expression" was the subject of a talk by Mr. Irving Cannon at the Shawomet Baptist Church, Warren, March 10. His talk was sponsored by the Shawomet Baptist Young People's Union. The meeting was led by Russell James. March 27 he will speak on "New Attitudes in Education" before the Superintendents and Principals Association of Cranston at the Cranston High School.

A relief map is being made by the surveying group of the Mechanical Design Department under the direction of Mr. Donald W. Hurd. It is the final survey project of the year.

The mechanicals doffed their high hats long enough to invite the architects to join them on their annual four-day sojourn in New York during the Easter vacation. A group of twenty-eight students of these two departments will visit, among other points of interest, the Lescage "Glass House," the Ford assembly plant at Edgewater, the Knickerbocker Village slum clearance project, and the Westinghouse Electric Manufacturing plant at Newark.

Nancy Jones Love and George Paterson Love opened a joint exhibit of paintings with a private showing at the Art Club on Tuesday, March 5. Gwen Weaver, Olive Tuck, and Helen Wilson, of the senior illustration class, assisted in serving tea.

Olive Prior, Alfeo Verrecchio, and Charles Weston are having a try at working in fresco (wet plaster). They have secured materials (pigment, plaster) themselves and Mr. Vaughan has lent them space in the basement of the Design Building. They are working under the supervision of Mr. Sisson.

The editorial staff of THE BROADSHEET is the entire school. Anyone who has an idea for a feature story (one feature will be printed in each issue) or an item of news will be welcomed in the English Department offices, third floor of the Design Building. Students who collected and wrote the material for this issue were: Leonore A. Pernaudeau, Teacher Training;

Constance Whitman, Costume; Jessie MacFadyen, Fabricated Design; Carol Horrocks, Teacher Training; Edna J. Fales, General Textiles; Russell James, Mechanical; Olive Malm, Graphic Arts; Charles C. Nelson, Mechanical; and John Whelan, Graphic Arts.