Crafts

Dainty craft of paper cutting is revived

seginning this veek, MCASTER FARMING Iteature one craft a week it would be an interesting enjoyable hobby for women. The column ite run on an exchange its such as the recipe

exchange, which is a regular and address or the other feature of the newspaper. person's name and address,

If you have a hobby or craft that you enjoy, or if you know of another person who spends her leisure time doing an interesting craft, let us know. Send your name

person's name and address, a little background information on the person who does the craft (how long involved, how became interested, etc.,) and the directions to the hobby or craft. Any printable pictures would also be appreciated. We-will then choose one a

week to feature.

Scherenschnitte is the old art of paper cutting. It has a long history which goes back 3000 years to ancient China. From the Asiatic countries, it moved to Europ and to the Alps and Rhine area where it picked up the name it is known by today.

According to Claudia Hopf of Womelsdorf, Pa., who has been doing this art since 1969, the craft came to the colonies in the 1600's and 1700's where it was a favorite pasttime of children on a rainy day.

Primarily, however, it was used to ornament house documents and birth certificates, but it also became

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popular for shelf paper and doilies.

When the industrial

When the industrial revolution came about, the craft was temporarily lost as an art, because people thought it was a waste of time. But, today, many artists are reviving the popularity of this simple, but dainty, and elegant craft.

How To Do It

Anyone can learn this simple art. The first thing to do is choose a pattern. The first one should be simple, Mrs. Hopf points out. A good source for patterns is "Folk Art of Rural Pennsylvania," by Frances Lichten. This book shows the old Pa. German motifs. At present, Mrs. Hopf is also working on another book with more patterns. However, the work has yet to be published.

The next step after finding a pattern is to trace the design with a soft lead pencil onto tracing paper. Mrs. Hopf recommends a B-2x pencil for this part of the craft.

The third step in the process is to transpose the design off of the tracing paper and onto white linen paper. The white paper can be the cheapest possible with a linen finish. The kind Claudia Hopf uses costs her anywhere from 29 to 59 cents in the supermarket.

To transfer the tracing onto the linen-finished white paper, lay the tracing paper with the lead design faced down next to the linen finish.



Mrs. Claudia Hopf, of Womelsdorf, Pa., demonstrates the art of scherenschnitte, or paper cutting.

Then take the sharp edge of a spoon and rub over the pattern until the image transers to the linen paper.

After this part of the process is complete, the only step remaining is the cutting [Continued on Page 62]

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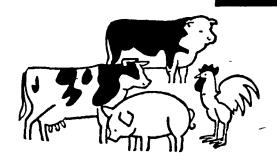


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