

One day left to decorate Easter eggs

Egg art proves popular craft

LITITZ — The egg is often seen as the symbol of perfection, nature's perfect shape.

There is little wonder then, that many arts and crafts involve eggs and egg shapes. Every child is familiar with colored Easter Eggs. Farm children with araucana hens get a redy made product when their birds lay pink, blue and green eggs.

But egg art is not just for Easter Customs and traditions throughout the world have decorated eggs with virtually any material to be named, from pastry and wool to sea shells.

Reeds have often been used as applique for eggs, and are thought to be very good luck. When a dry reed is soaked with rain it turns green again, symbolizing immortality.

Carl Faberge, a Swiss Immigrant to Russia, reached new heights from 1884 - 1917 with his creations of jeweled eggs for the Imperial family. His eggs were crafted from precious metals and stones and had secret springs which revealed surprises like

miniature palaces or jewelled birds.

Pennsylvania Dutch crafts with eggs include eggshell portraits made with colored egg chips. The Pennsylvania Dutch are also credited with an art form known as scratch-carving.

In scratch-carving, eggs are dyed using natural dyes like onion skins, marigolds, beets, blueberries or red cabbage. When the dye is set, designs are then etched through the dye to the shell. Intricately scratch-carved eggs are given year round, and often become family keepsakes.

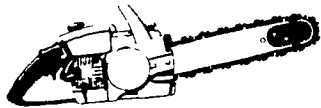
There are hundreds of arts and crafts relying on the egg. In fact, Pennsylvania houses an egg museum. Located in Effort, Pa., in the Poconos, the Egg Museum has 3,000 displays of egg arts and crafts from 70 countries.

This Easter might be the time for you to try your hand at egg art. Someday your egg could be enshrined at the Egg Museum.

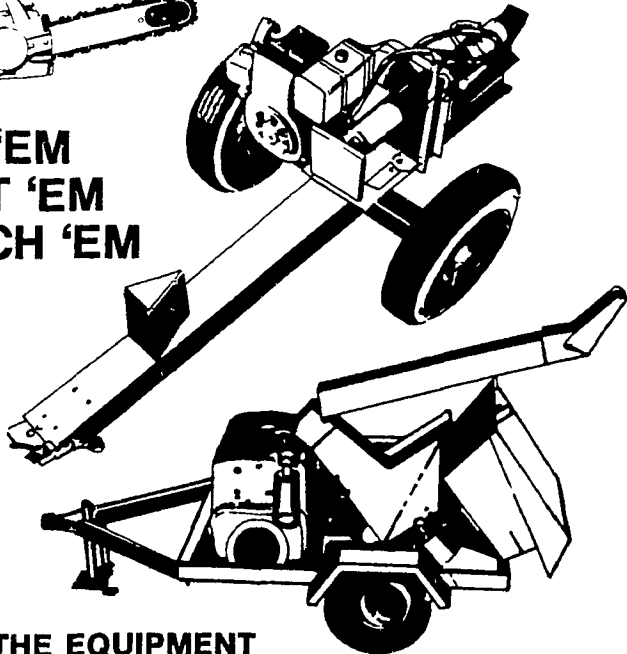


If you haven't decorated your Easter eggs yet, these beautiful and colorful eggs might give you a few ideas. But remember, there is only one day left till Easter. So start now to color and paint the eggs and show your children some fun too.

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