

"CRAFT CONTACTS" - JUNE, JULY 1976

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OFFICE HOURS - 9:30 - 4:30

UPSTAIRS GALLERY - 9:30 -4:30

EDITORIAL: President, Walter Dexter has recently returned from World Craft Council in Mexico, and herewith is his interesting and provocative account.

> - Craftshows-Demonstrations - "It is hard to evaluate the ultimate value of a World Craft Conference but probably the most positive aspects are those of seeing peoples pursue their particular skills and of mixing with craftsmen from all over the world. At this conference we were, primarily, exposed to a rich demonstration by individuals demonstrating the crafts of jewellery making, weaving, pottery, furniture making, glass blowing and stone cutting. Mexicans were dominant in these demonstrations but others from over the world, for example, Bill Reid from Canada, were also displaying their individual skills.

> One of the interesting facts to emerge was that in many cases these people were able to produce high quality and beautiful objects using a minimum amount of equipment. For example, a Nigerian jeweller working in silver was squatting on the ground over a tiny fire, using hand bellows and a minute crucible utilizing the lost wax process. He made his molds with clay and dung and then propped them in the ashes while he poured his silver into them. Finally, he cleaned his silver with lime juice. I was told by another jeweller that if lime juice were unavailable the same result could be achieved with the use of urine. Similarly, much of the weaving was produced on the simplest of back-strap and other primitive looms.

> I was also particularly interested in the black pottery makers from Mexico. These were apprentices of the famous Dona Rosa, held in as high esteem by the Mexicans as are their "Living National Treasures", such as Hamada, by the Japanese. The black potters had built their own kiln and near the end of the week fired their ware. They were young potters and were very concerned lest their pots emerge red, instead of the traditional black, as in that case they felt they would be mortified before the whole conference. Many other potters were demonstrating at the conference, including three well known Americans: Rhodes, Volkas and Gronborg.

> Another man who was generating a great deal of excitement was the Australian Peter Travis, an excellent potter. However, most of the interest in this case centred round his kite designs. Peter Travis builds kites out of sail canvas; some of them are twenty feet and more across with tails forty feet long. We are negotiating with Peter for a workshop in kite building in Vancouver next year.

> Another area in which particular energy lay was glass blowing. The glass blowers were perhaps the best organized and most enthusiastic craftsmen at the conference. Through the excitement engendered there they decided to form an international organization primarily to promote an exchange of ideas. I would especially like to see some development in this Province in glass blowing as, at the moment, virtually no work is being done in this area.

I feel that I have neglected reporting on the weavers at the conference. I have done so, not because there was not much activity in this field, but because I know very little about it. In fact, there was a great deal of interest. Looms of every size and type were set up, and visitors were literally buying the spectacular Mexican blankets and other woven goods before the warps were cut."

> Thoughts about future organization - "As your President, I did make valuable contacts with craftsmen and craft organizers, particularly from Eastern Canada. These contacts will help, I hope, in establishing more positive relationships, especially with the Canadian Crafts Council. It seems ironic that one has to go to Mexico to talk business with one's own countrymen, but since our own country is so vast this is what tends to occur!"

> These have been the positive aspects of this Conference. There are negative ones. During my first two or three days in Oaxtepec I was, frankly, bored. First of all, not being an official delegate, I was not involved in the meetings that were going on with regard to the politics of world craft, so I had plenty of time to take part in the regular curriculum of seminars, slide shows, movies, and demonstrations. However, as a professional craftsman of twenty years standing, I found that most of these events, (outside the Mexican demonstrations themselves) were aimed at the elementary or possibly intermediate level craftsmen and were what one could expect to find at any local guest instructor work-shop. Perhaps this is at it should be, but I did note that most of the professional craftsmen who were there had been officially invited and would probably not have been there had they not been fulfilling an official role. This means that many of those attending the conference were not really involved craftsmen. However, it was announced that at the next conference, to be held in two years in Japan, an attempt will be made to ensure that only professional craftsmen and administrators will be involved. This is a difficult problem, for how does one make the distinction between the enthusiastic amateur and the professional? It is hoped some method may be devised whereby active weavers, active potters and so on, may reach each other as did the glass blowers at this conference. If this problem could be met I feel that future conferences would be of greater value than the past meetings."

> EDITOR'S NOTE - If anyone has ideas regarding the above statements please write care-of this office.

- Please note that the office will be open from July through August with Bob Polinsky as co-ordinator. The next newsletter will be out in August and monthly during the fall and in '77. Please note the deadline for material is the third Tuesday in every month. Next deadline is August 17th, 1976. Have a great creative sunshine summer!

- Betty Paterson in Salmon Arm wrote in favour of Ernestine's letter in last issue.

CANADIAN CRAFTS COUNCIL:

- A reminder - "Have you sent your letter (regarding federal sales tax exemptions) into your local M.P. A form letter to copy was sent attached to the May newsletter. Please support CCC in this effort on your behalf. Excerpt from letter to this office from CCC stated "On the Sales Tax Brief...your publicity for the cause has been successful. So far the following M.P.'s from your province have written or called and asked for copies of the Sales Tax Brief. We have sent this with a covering letter and will follow up later with more information and a copy of the magazine. Alex Patterson, Bob Brisco, Allan McKinnon and George Whittaker." This letter was dated June 15th, 1976.

MADE BY HAND - See attached flyer - TAKE NOTE! THIS IS YOUR COMPETITION.

REPORTS, REVIEWS REQUESTS:

- Rose Bosch from Salmon Arm Arts Council reports of a successful juried show "House of Crafts" - Winning pieces show in a downtown area store. The Shuswap potters raised money for pottery equipment to be used in the Art Centre by donating handmade mugs for sale.

- Studio space for potters is available on a monthly rental basis at Moody Park Recreation Centre, 620 8th Street, New Westminster. Access 8 am to 10 pm. Equipment and clay on hand. For prices phone Barbara Morris, Century House, 526-7113.

- Take note of excellent new book in our library put out by CCC. "Crafts are your Business" by Gerald Tooke. Material includes information on setting up business and/or studio. For copy write CCC, #16-46 Elgin Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5K6. Book at \$3.50 a copy.

- Congratulations to Bob Polinsky whose original and well-crafted wall hangings showed in the Craft Gallery, Ontario Craft Council building, Toronto.

- Canadian Institute on Public Affairs invites you to attend the 45th COUCHICHIING CONFERENCE, Geneva Park, Ontario - August 3 to 8, 1976.

THE ARTS IN CANADA - Today and Tomorrow. It is 25 years since the publication of the Massey Report with the recommendation that a federal body be established to encourage artistic development in Canada. As a result the Canada Council was created. More recently provincial arts bodies, the business community, foundations and individual citizens have added to this support for artistic activity. New theatres, dance and music groups, art galleries and museums have made the arts accessible to an increasing number of Canadians. The Arts have never been more popular yet financial cutbacks and inflation jeopardize their future existence. The Arts - Why are they necessary? Whom do they serve? Who should pay for them? These are some of the questions for Couchiching 1976. There will be discussions on general topics as well as on film, broadcasting, the visual arts, literature, publishing, and the performing arts. Registration is open to the public. Write above address for info.

WORKSHOPS, EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND SHOWS:

July 5 - 9 Weekdays 10 am to 1 pm. Primitive Weaving with Del Field, Vanc. Guild of Fabric Arts, at Aberthau, 4397 2nd Ave. ph. 224-1910.

July 6 - 8 Tues. & Thurs. eve. 7-10 pm. Creative Fabric Kites with Steve Loyd, Aberthau.

July 10 Last date for registration to Michael Cardew workshop sponsored by the Potters Guild. Write 315 W. Cordova, Vanc. V6B 1E5 for work-

- shop Aug. 1-2, Centennial Arts Centre, Bear Creek, Surrey.
- July 12 - 15 Emily Grice - Photography for Crafts, Aberthau as above.
- July 12 and continuing to end of month. Series of potter's workshops with Hildegard Storr-Britz of Germany. An expert on glaze technology. All classes in Toronto, Ont. For info. write to Bill McCauley, 20 Overton Cres. Don Mills, Ont. M3B 2V2.
- July 12 - 31 Okanagan Summer School of the Arts for brochure on many varied visual & performing arts workshops write P.O. Box 141, Penticton, B.C. ph. (604) 493-0390.
- July 12 - August 21 American Varpapu Weaving School - part of the international Finnish school. Workshops to be held. For info. contact Corinne Whitesell, P.O.107 King's Yard, Yellow Springs, Ohio 45387.
- July 15 - August 13 Kent Arts Council Fair, P.O. Box 502, Agassiz, B.C. V0M 1A0. Write for entry forms.
- July 17 - September 15 Whatcom Museum of the Arts, 121 Prospect Bellingham - the 3rd Annual "Fibres Unlimited": Pacific Northwest Arts and Crafts Fair, 10310 NE 4th, Bellevue, Washington.
- July 23 - 24 Evelyn Roth, Moving Sculpture Co., Burnaby Arts Centre, Gilpin Ave. at Canada Way, Burnaby, B.C.
- July 25 Call for entry to 5th Okanagan Valley Show of Religious Art in any craft media form. For entry & info write Mrs. T.M. McColl, R.R. 1, Summerland, B.C. V0H 1Z0. No entry fee, pieces on religious concept & original.
- July 31 Sheridan College School of Design, 1460 South Sheridan Way, Mississauga, Ont. L5H 1Z7. Workshops in pottery, wood, metal, fibre, write for brochure.
- July month Fibre & Fabric Fair, Textile goods and Food Sale at Aberthau, Vancouver, B.C.
- August 8 10 am to 4 pm, Minouru Park, Richmond, B.C.
- August 21 Richmond Arts & Crafts Fair. phone (604) 277-5495 or 279-3045 for info & entry.
- August 31 - September 11 At House of Ceramics, 565 Hamilton, Vanc. B.C. Brown, silver & white introducing Martha Sturdy's silver body adornment, with Lynda Gammon, Bob Polinsky, Setsuko Piroche, Hiro Urakami, Margaret McClelland and Marion Donney.

Photo avail

- Special classes July 12 through August 28th at "Dunconor Workshops", Crested Butte, Colorado, with Harold O'Connor, Goldsmith. For brochure as to classes write Box 2000, Crested Butte, Colorado 81224. Mr. O'Connor will be one of the judges at MADE BY HAND, CABC show in November.

- Brochure now available for Canadian Craft Show, Second Annual Christmas Sale, Queen Elizabeth Building, Exhibition Park, Toronto, Ont. Write The Canadian Craft Show, 458 St. Clements Ave., Toronto M5N 1M1. Sample brochure in CABC office.

- Remember, 8th biennial Tapestry show in Lausanne. Info in May newsletter page 5.

UPSTAIRS GALLERY

July and August a gallery shop of selected items for sale, priced no higher than \$50.00.

CAROLYN JONGEWARD - Wall hangings.

CLASSIFIED ADS:

PETER ASPELL SCHOOL OF ART - 5 consecutive days - Summer Workshop Classes. Watercolour & tempera - July 26-30, 10am - 1pm. Repeat August 9-13, 10am to 1pm. \$45.00. Hele Kowallek, instructor. Children's Art - July 19-23, 10am to 11:30am, 7-9 yrs. 1pm to 2:30pm, 10-12 yrs. \$15.00. August 3-4-5-6 hours as above. \$12.00, materials included. Sara Woodwark, instructor. Registration by phone - 263-8889 or 224-4811.

KIT of new insulating bricks, cast chimney, burners etc. for 7 cubic foot gas kiln. \$500.00 - please call 435-6738.

COQUITLAM CRAFTS - Supplies for weaving, spinning, macrame, batik, candle and beadcraft. LeClerc looms drumcarders, spinners, local and imported wool. Mail orders filled. 946 B Brunette Ave., Coquitlam, B.C. 522-1111.