

SOCIAL
NOTES

Women's Page

Woman Noted for Her Paper-Cutting Artistry to Give Demonstration Here



CREATES SHRINE—Looking remarkably like the Virgin in the silhouette she designed and cut, Margaretha von Glehn Luther stands beside one of two elaborate shrines she created for the home of world travelers and art connoisseurs, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Campbell in Marion, Va. Encased in a cabinet of fine wood and illuminated from the back, the silhouette is further enhanced with cut-out stars filled with gold.

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Her Silhouettes Are Considered Masterpieces

By LOIS Z. CRAIG

Mrs. Ferdinand Luther of Marietta is a dainty, diminutive woman who looks like she could be blown away by that proverbial puff of wind. But her scissors, to put it in modern vernacular, pack a tremendous wallop!

Members of the Ohio Arts and Crafts Guild and their friends will have the opportunity to see Mrs. Luther at work when they attend the demonstrations the afternoon of Nov. 7 arranged as a part of the Guild's annual meeting.

Mrs. Luther's remarkable paper-cutting artistry hangs as framed masterpieces signed with her maiden name, Margaretha von Glehn, in such places as the palace of King Frederik of Denmark, the art museum in Berne, Switzerland, and the Franciscan Monastery in Rome.

These are no ordinary solid black silhouettes. At Berne, her work is a depiction of St. Michael fighting the dragon, and it is filled with all the intricate detail in black, cut-out form, that one would expect to find only in etchings, drawings, or paintings.

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SILHOUETTE — Mrs. Luther's original silhouette of St. Francis talking to the birds is in the world headquarters of the Franciscan Order in Rome.

At the world headquarters of the Franciscan Order, her three-foot-high silhouette of St. Francis talking to the birds is a thing of exquisite beauty, with tiny birds fluttering around the Saint's head and a lovely peacock in which even the "eye" in the curling tail feathers is plainly visible, standing near his feet. Prints of this cut-out, along with several others suitable to the season, are to be available as Christmas cards at the Guild shop this fall.

Mr. Luther, too, is an expert at cut-outs, turning out a variety of intricately cut coats-of-arms, symbols and designs in wood. He also does carving in ivory and bone, and makes the hand-cut frames for Mrs. Luther's art silhouettes. Her silhouettes of children, with details of their hair and dress faithfully reproduced, become cherished family keepsakes and virtually "instant heirlooms."

Life hasn't been, and still is not, easy for the Luthers who became displaced persons when the Communists invaded their native Estonia at the end of World War II. They were in a refugee camp in Germany when, fortunately, they were interviewed by the Rev. Frederick Otto of the Lutheran Church in Fremont, O., who had been sent overseas to help in resettlement of people from the Baltic area under sponsorship of American churches.

At first little impressed with Mrs. Luther's statement that she made art silhouettes, the Rev. Mr. Otto later visited the place where they were staying and was instantly so struck with the beauty of her work that he ordered a specially designed cut-out of a crucifix for his church. It is still in that church today, where it is illuminated at certain church holidays.

Although they are artists, neither Mrs. Luther nor her husband were too proud to accept whatever they could find in the way of work on their arrival in America and it has paid off, with college educations for both their sons. One of them now has doctor's degree in chemistry while the other is working toward his master's degree in physics.

To better acquaint its members, as well as all other interested persons with the wide variety of work they produce, the Arts and Crafts Guild will open its afternoon demonstrations and evening program in the auditorium of the Courthouse Annex to the public on Nov. 7, with the afternoon session running from 1 to 5 p.m. Mr. and Mrs. Luther will be one of three teams of artists and craftsmen presented.

The evening program, also open to the public, will begin at 7:30 p.m., and the annual business session, for members only, will precede it at 6:30.