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A PAGE for MISSSES



CHINA PAINTING A PRACTICAL and FASCINATING OCCUPATION



plis, and as a result a large number of young girls have gone in for making collections. One girl haunts the antique shops for rare specimens of old blue and white Colonial ware with which to augment her collection, another is gradually getting together a set of India, and still another of Canton, while some there are who are just picking up odd pieces here and there wherever they run across a bit that has something of age, decoration, color or glaze to recommend.

"To make collections of any sort is an admirable thing, but the collecting of rare china for girls is particularly so, for it not only gives the collector a special interest in life, but she can never afterward pass by a bit of fine china, porcelain or pottery but she will glean enjoyment from it. This is the reason that I am sending my girls to the Metropolitan Museum, where one of the finest collec-

lessons should make the average girl quite independent of a teacher, except, of course, when it came to some new and exciting problem; then she would doubtless require the advice of an instructor. In this art, as others, there is a great difference in girls, for some are quick with their hands while others are clumsy.

"It is in the matter of design that the greatest change has taken place, for today it is essential that this shall be precisely suited to the piece of china to be painted or the space it is to occupy. It must be in good proportion and suit the style of article to be painted, for there is as much beauty in the proper division of space as in the value of the design itself.

Many artists wholly fail to realize this, and then wonder why their work lacks value. Take a chair, for example; it is pretty or ugly according as the legs and rungs are divided with reference to good spacing. The same rule applies to design in any of the arts and crafts.

"Take that soup tureen, for example," said the instructor, pointing to a quaint old-fashioned piece in one corner of her studio, in Irving place. "I chanced to pick that up at a little store in Eighth avenue and bought it for a dollar, I think. It stood in my studio for a long while before I could determine just what sort of decoration it required. It is antique in style and required treatment to correspond. One day, after enjoying some de-



Some Modern Pieces of
Table Ware Showing the
New Method of Decoration

It is not at all unusual nowadays to see a bevy of pretty young girls up at the Metropolitan Museum of Art hovering about the big glass cases which hold one of the finest collections of Chinese porcelain in the world, and hear them discuss the question of enamels and glazes with quite the air of connoisseurs.

The reason for this is that there is a distinct revival in china painting, and in addition to becoming expert in the art it is considered quite an essential part of the training to make a study of the best examples of old china to be found and from them gather inspiration for the decoration of modern pieces.

For china painting bears very little resemblance to the flash stuff which paraded in its name some twelve or fifteen years ago. The day of belittled china which then inundated the country is past, and in its place is a sane and effective ware. Its lines are simple and free, the raised patterns formerly in vogue have been banished, and the applied ornamentation is more conventional and formal. In the matter of shape the tendency is almost wholly in the direction of table ware or articles of home decoration.

In every department of art or industrial training nowadays the "home" idea is made prominent. Girls are learning domestic economy and domestic science, schools for wifehood and motherhood are being established, and everywhere the predominant thought is the fitting of girls for the domestic side of life, and it may be because of this wave of freiside sentiment that the decoration of table ware is so deservedly popular.

More interest was displayed over the hand painted china shown at the winter exhibition of the National Society of Craftsmen than over almost any other sort of work, and the specimens shown were largely for table use.

To quote one of the leading instructors, who is most enthusiastic over the revival of the art, one potent reason is that it is being allied so closely with the home. As an accomplishment for young girls she says there is none that is more fascinating or practical.

"THERE is, to my mind," said she, "nothing more closely allied to domestic life than the hand decorating of china, and it has always seemed

to me, and to-day more than ever, that it is a peculiarly valuable art for young girls to cultivate. It gives a girl a love for beautiful things for the home table and opens her eyes to the nicety of table appointments, and we all know that a well appointed table is usually the index to a successfully managed household.

"One thing I have especially noticed, and that is that the girl who really loves fine china thinks less of dress, and therefore I encourage a taste for it in my pupils."

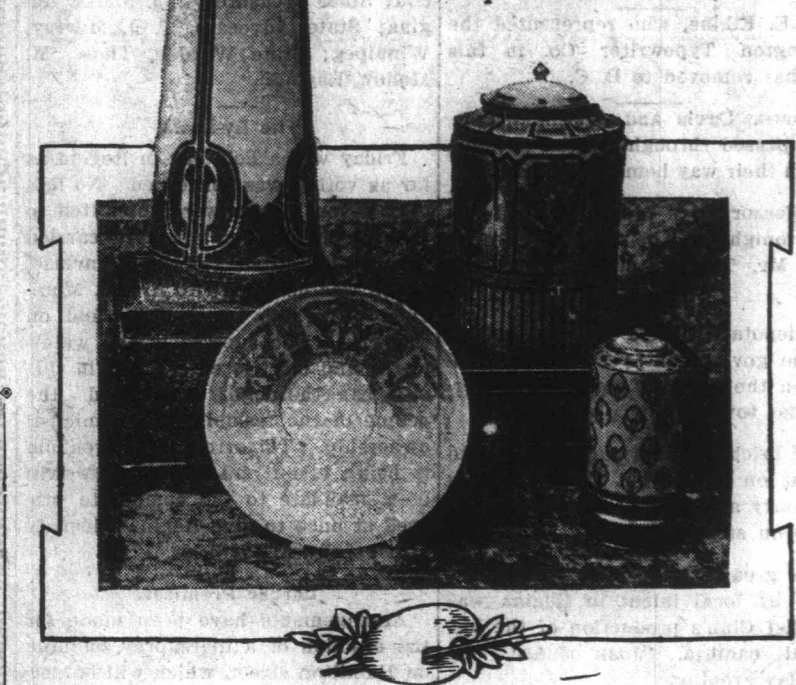
ions of Chinese porcelains in the world is to be seen. The Chinese, you know, are wonderful colorists, and the way they use enamels and glazes is a source of constant inspiration to the ceramic lover.

"THE other outfit, colors, brushes, oils and palette knives, can be purchased for between \$3 and \$4, perhaps more, perhaps less. A course of ten-

lightful old English ware, it suddenly came to me that the same scheme of coloring in dull blues and greens was the only one possible, and in order to keep the tone quiet and the design old, the decoration must have the same flavor.

"So I worked out a decoration, making use of the old fashioned flower basket, with conventionalized poplar trees, between which was the suggestion of a pen-

Conventionalized Motifs Are Designed to Suit the Shapes of the China



cock's tail carried out in the same blue-green scheme, and it was a great success. Any other would have ruined it.

"A SET of fruit plates seemed to call for an old fashioned design, and nothing appeared more appropriate to match the furnishings of the country house for which it was designed than the apple blossom and fruit, so conventionalized motifs of the flower and bud filled twelve divisions of space about the rim, while similar motifs were carried toward the centre, the spaces diminishing in number until they converged to a circular disk within which the fruit itself, in conventionalized form, was seen.

"Many girls are painting sets for their mothers in white and gold, a revival of the old fashioned china of fifty years ago, or else are filling out antique sets which time and service have marred. And given fine shapes and the right sort of gold, there is nothing prettier. I make all my own gold, for the article of commerce is apt to be adulterated, so I get English coin and dissolve it with acid. There are so many beautiful gold bronzes now that it is a joy to work with them, and when faithfully applied goes far to supplement good design.

"Not in many years has there been such a demand for hand painted china as this season and my kilns are fired twice daily in order to turn out my own work and that of my pupils. Just now I am doing a service for a private yacht with a very pretty design, conventionalized boats and green waves with pleasing background spaces between. Housekeepers, too, are always wanting something new in service plates, salad sets, dinner plates or

luncheon sets and many have special china done for their summer homes.

"IMPORTED china is good in feeling and in color now, but not so satisfactory as that done by hand to suit the taste and needs of the individual. The bowls specially decorated to suit the curlicue little teakwood stands so popular now are exceedingly attractive. Tea caddies done either in panel effect or in an all-over design of the sort seen in Japanese prints is liked. There must always be the correlation between the design and the shape of the piece. A fat, comfortable cream pitcher, for example, just the sort one would use with a big dish of fresh country strawberries, seems to call for this wild rose design creeping up between panels of gold. That chocolate pitcher, with its tall, graceful lines, would be spoiled decorated other than it is with the heavier mass showing at the bottom, and so it goes.

"I firmly believe that women show their individuality by the sort of china they use—the frivolous woman caring more for cheap ware, glimmer and gew-gaws, while the refined woman shows her taste by fine, dainty wares.

"I believe that the arts and crafts movement has had much to do with the present revival. Then, too, artists are going back to the really good art for inspiration—not that they copy designs, but simply that they assimilate themselves with the best in design, color and workmanship and then proceed to work in the same spirit. There are innumerable lessons to be learned both from old china and old textiles, and once a design is conceived seriously every bit of good art, whether in ceramics or textiles, will suggest ideas to the worker and will never fail for appropriate design with which to decorate her china for the home table."

Diversions for Valentine Parties

VALENTINE parties are great fun in girls' schools, or anywhere, in fact, where there are a large number of girls who are fond of dressing up in fancy costumes. Crepe paper and tissue paper are the best materials for valentine costumes, although any fancy costumes or old dancing frocks can easily be rearranged to carry out the valentine idea. The paper costumes do not take very much time to make, and if worn over a princess slip are sufficiently durable for an evening's wear.

Hearts, cupids, doves, roses, forget-me-nots, lovers' knots, &c., are among the many designs suitable for a valentine costume party. Then there are the comic valentines, and here lies the possibility for fun at a valentine costume party.

In a school for girls or among a group of girls who know one another's pet fads and foibles it is possible to make a great many amusing caricature costumes without hurting any one's feelings too seriously. If the party is for girls only some of the boy friends of the group may also be represented by comic valentine costumes which caricature some of their well known traits or habits. One of the features of the evening may be a guessing match, where prizes are awarded to those who guess correctly the identity of the most persons represented by the val-

entines. Another feature for such an entertainment is the making of live valentines. For this it is necessary to have an alcove or a room divided by portieres from the main assembly room.

Each guest is given the opportunity of directing the grouping of a tableau which represents a valentine. She may call on any of the other guests to appear in the tableau. When the tableau is complete the curtains are pulled aside and the guests are permitted to see it. After all the tableaux have been seen prizes may be awarded to those who have arranged the ones which the audience voted the best. The award of prizes is not necessary, however, to make the tableaux a successful feature.

Making valentine couplets is also an amusing diversion at a valentine party, and this may be done in connection with the tableaux if desired. Cards and little pencils are given to the guests, and each is asked to write a couplet descriptive of the tableaux. Prizes are given for the best couplets. The couplet making is also amusing without the tableaux. When used in this way a word in valentine missives, such as love, dove, valentine girl, &c., may be given out by the hostess and the guests asked to write a couplet in which this word is used as the last word of the first or last line.

FOR THE GIRL WHO CROCHETS.

THE girl who for the last five years has been working with a needle and thread, turning out gorgeous silk knitted ties of various hues, which she has generously donated to her relatives and friends, can at last reap her reward, for with the experience she has thus gained, she can now turn her power to more personally profitable lace making.

Irish lace and a variety of filet known as "towel lace" are comparatively easy for any one at all deft with a crochet needle. To become an adept at crochet work practice is perhaps the first requirement, and especially in lace making a familiarity with this needle is necessary, for the unaccustomed finger pulls the wrong pattern. The good latter being, if anything, the more in apprenticeship on crochet ties that nearly every girl has been serving for the last few years will thus stand her in good stead now, for she can start off on the present fashionable handwork equipped with at least one essential—a facility in handling her crochet needle.

Any needlework store books of directions in lace making can be obtained. Once the art has been mastered these rules can be worked into many and varied designs, such as would be suitable for either a small medallion, a collar or an entire waist.

A ball of fine linen thread is quite as convenient to carry about as a spool of silk for a tie, while the ever growing strip of lace or wheel can be kept in the same tiny bag or wrist box as formerly held the tie, as it lengthened toward

completion. "Towel lace," while worked with somewhat coarser thread and made usually in somewhat wider strips than the Irish, is, of course, just as easy to carry about in a muff or wrist bag and have ready to work upon at all odd moments. Even in travelling there is no need to stop work for this lace, intended to adorn towels, table covers, bureau covers, centrepieces, &c., is all the better for being washed.

Irish lace is more popular than ever this winter, nor has it decreased any in price, so that a girl who will take the pains to learn this really simple art can add greatly to the effectiveness of her wardrobe. Both heavy Irish and the finer so-called "baby" Irish are used, the latter being, if anything, the more in vogue. From ball gown to lingerie, hats, opera cloaks, waists and jackets, all are trimmed with this ever fashionable lace, which wears so well, washes as no other lace will and really adorns whatever it is employed to trim.

There is really no reason why a well educated American girl should be discouraged, before she tries, at the prospect of making "real Irish" lace, when she realizes that this lace, which is so much in demand and commands such a very high price, is all made by the most ignorant peasant girls of Ireland. It is not the idea of higher education that it shall train the student to be "all around" capable and the better fitted for whatever she may seek to accomplish through life, but it is a professional in Greek or a good determination to carry on the simplest home tastes?

SOCIAL AMENITIES FOR THE SCHOOL GIRL

ONE of the first lessons in politeness, taught a child is that to whisper is not good manners. Sometimes among the younger girls in a schoolroom a group of two or three will get closely together and carry on an animated conversation in whispers, to the evident envy and often discomfort of their companions who are excluded. Among the older girls the habit of whispering is seldom noticeable, where as such a thing is unheard of among really grown up persons of refinement and culture.

Could a very sharp line of distinction, however, be drawn between the whispered conversation of two children, who quite frankly take this means of keeping others out of their talk, and the chatter of two or three girls or of a whole group, about a subject of which one member present is not interested, because she knows nothing of the persons or events under discussion? To whisper is rude, but it is not so to talk to those who are interested.

Why, then, is it not equally insulting for two or three to converse and laugh enthusiastically about some party that girl who is not a participant in this fun and cannot fail to feel herself not wanted or at best out of place? It is a simple enough matter for one girl to turn to the outsider and in a kindly way give a brief description of the topic referred to, or to tell the names of the persons or persons being now perhaps laughed about good naturedly, but called by first name or special nickname unknown to others. It is not necessary to enter into lengthy details, but if the subject is not of general interest, it should be reserved for another time and place, when those who feel they must discuss it can do so in private.

The height of ill breeding is reached, however, when in the presence of one whose name has not been included among the invitations a girl will even mention to another a party which one of them has recently given or is to give. Naturally not every one can be included, even for a dance, but neither the girl who is invited nor the hostess could help feeling most uncomfortable at any reference to the entertainment. And no lady ever allows another a moment of discomfort or embarrassment. It is always possible to draw another into the conversation, or at any rate to make the outsider feel that she is not being excluded. Naturally it is extremely difficult among

a group of girls who know each other in school and have much in common not to launch off whenever they get together upon the relating of mutual experiences and mutual jokes, nor is there any reason why they should not do so, provided the general and bring into it any girl or girls who chance at the time to make one of the group.

The first duty of a hostess is, of course, to see to it that every one under her roof is at ease and enjoying herself, but it is also distinctly up to each guest to aid her hostess in this just so far as she is able, and it should be remembered that any discourtesy to another guest is equally a lack of courtesy to one's hostess.

ATTRACTIVE TEA TABLE EQUIPMENT.

TEA carts and their furnishings appeal to every girl who has the after-noon tea drinking habit. The most attractive of these household vehicles are of wood finished with black or dull red lacquer, sometimes ornamented with designs in gold, or are of ebony, mahogany or French walnut and of which is provided a set of two or three, each with a glass or board top and undershelves, which are provided with covers of cretonne or other material.

Two story tea tables of ebony, mahogany or walnut have oval shaped wooden shelves, the under one of which is for cups and plates, and spreading clear feet of wood or brass. Lacquer and willow tables of similar design have glass shelves and straight legs.

Japanese tea sets of finest porcelain show chrysanthemum, cherry blossom and landscape designs in various tones of green, gray and blue, and in the heavier wares are unique combinations of flowers and fruits whose colors are in striking contrast to the ground.

ing of the porcelain. These sets consist of the Occidental three pieces—teapot, sugar bowl and cream pitcher—or of the Oriental twin bowls and hot water receptacle.

Among tea sets of Occidental manufacture Dresden, Sevres and hand painted Haviland are decidedly in the lead, but those of pure white, gold banded eggshell always look dainty and invariably appeal to girls of refined tastes.

Metal tea sets are most of all practical. Made of bronze or brass they are renowned for their durability and are absolutely plain save for their ornamental handles. Sterling and plated silver tea sets are shape and slender or squat and round and simple or elaborate, according to fancy. A novelty in three piece silver sets finished in embossed French gourd, while the sugar bowl fits over the top of the pitcher and forms its cover.

Tea caddies are of lacquer, gorgeous painted with gold, or of brass attractively etched and of antique silver, showing quaint designs in gorgeous workmanship.