



The Scanthus Vine

Vol. 13 No. 1

JANUARY 1988

COMING Sunday, January 17th

LOCATION:

MEETING 1:00 Social Hour/Sharing

1:45 Business Meeting

2:30 Break

2:45 Program

Nordic Heritage Museum

3014 N.W. 67th Street

Seattle, Washington

DIRECTIONS

From I-5, take Exit 85th St. N.E. Go west on 85th N.E. to 32nd Ave. N.W. Turn left on 32nd Ave. to 67th N.W. Turn left again on 67th N.W. The museum is an old brick school building, unlabeled on the backside. Parking is plentiful on the playground.

PROGRAM

Florence Buck will present "Rosemaling in Norway". Florence has traveled in Norway many times and will be showing slides from her trips.

SHARING

A Challenge! The detail work was not put on the pattern in this issue (designed by Dena Iverson) in order to give you an opportunity to be creative. Paint the design and bring it for the "Show and Tell" table at the Jan. meeting. It will be interesting to see how many different looks it will have.

HOSTESSES

Marysville, Snohomish, Gold Bar, Everett, and north.

DOORPRIZE

A surprise!

**WHITE ELEPHANT
SALE**

Bring woodenware...paint...supplies... WRA will charge 10% commission.

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HAVE YOU PAID YOUR '88 DUES?

If you see an "uff da" on the top of this page, the **Membership Chairman** has not received your renewal. In the event your renewal is not received, this will be your last issue. (Send to Naomi Price!)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After the program that was given by Celia Hendrix expressing some of her views about rosemaling, a number of comments and questions were made concerning oil paints, acrylic paints, styles, and type of media we paint upon. How does Western Rosemalers Association stand in regard to this subject?

One of the Objective and Purposes of WRA, as stated in our By-Laws reads:

"To commit ourselves to the preservation of rosemaling in its original form and concepts, not allowing it to lose its identity as a unique art form."

Our guidelines for Preparing Articles for WRA shows reads:

"Wooden Ware Only - No metal items, no china items, no plastic items, and painted in oils."

We can paint with acrylics, or paint on an item other than wood, for our own enjoyment. But when we paint for a WRA sponsored activity, then the By-Laws and Guidelines must be adhered to. Otherwise in time, WRA could be a factor that could cause rosemaling to "lose its identity" as a unique art form.

We should be aware of the hazards involved in painting with oils and should always use caution. If anyone wishes to make further comments, they may do so by putting them in writing, and sending them to me. I will present them at the February Board meeting.

- Dena Iverson

"HELP WANTED" Acanthus Vine Editor

Barbara Laskowski, the Vine editor, will be retiring with this issue. She has done an excellent job over the years, as I am sure all of you will agree. Barbara has other commitments and says it is time for her to retire. "Thank You," Barbara, we do appreciate all the work and time you have put into our newsletter.

We are now, without an Acanthus Vine Editor. This job needs to be filled right away, if we want to continue having our newsletter. The Vine is a vital link that keeps our membership in touch as to what is going on. The job doesn't have to be done by one person -- two can share it with one typing and putting the letter together and the other printing and mailing.

If you are interested or thinking you might be interested in becoming our Editor, please call me 839-7712, or Barbara 894-2989.

- Thanks -- Dena

[Editor's Note - I have enjoyed being the Editor of the Vine. It has given me the challenge of being creative in a different way and to be in touch with rosemalers locally and in distant locales. I have always had excellent communication with the Board. New challenges and changes in my life are the reason for my retirement as Editor. The job is rewarding and I will be happy to give any advice that the new Editor might need....Barbara]

SYNOPSIS OF GENERAL MEETING - NOVEMBER 15, 1987

The meeting was called to order by President Dena Iverson. The Bremerton hostesses were thanked for the "goodies".

WRA Library Librarian, Louise Friar, reported that we now have pictures of articles which were award winners from Decorah, Iowa.

Juried Show Betty Edwards reported that the postponed juried show will open on January 17th. Museum remodeling has delayed the show. In addition to the juried show, the WRA will have a separate exhibit that will last until about April 1st. The exhibit should receive additional exposure because of the Washington State Centennial and the Textile show at the Heritage Museum at the same time. The exhibit of WRA will contain the following:

1. Our organization's plates painted in the style of the different districts with the name of the rosemaler who painted the item.
2. Articles painted by teachers who have taught classes for WRA: Sigmund Aarseth, Nils Ellingsgaard, Gunnar Bø, Vesla Harris, Norma Splitt, Addie Pittlekow, Bergljot Lunde, Eli Saelid, Ingeborg Loftsgarden, Elsa Sjovaag, Alfield Tangen.
3. Panel with our association's teachers' rosemaling: Mary Ellerman, Florence Buck, Dena Iverson, Wilda Snider, Celia Hendrix, Connie Sullivan, Gudrun Berg, Jean Alfsen, Lois Clauson, Tammy Wheeler, Gayle Oram, Kathy Anderson, Naomi Price, Noma Mercer, Marilyn Hansen, Betty Cooper and Ida Mae Swedberg.

Please submit an article for the exhibit even though you do not intend to enter the juried show. Florence Buck and Vesla Harris will be the judges at the juried show.

The exhibit will be on display at the time of the next meeting, so come early or stay late in order to see the complete exhibit. Informative folders will be available for visitors with a membership application on the back.

Raffle Naomi Price is painting a waste basket for the raffle that has been postponed until March.

Sales There will be two sales next week. The PLU Yule Boutique with Gudrun Berg and Tammy Wheeler as Co-Chairman and the Nordic Museum's Yule Fest with Betty Edwards and Marie Ganfield as Co-Chairman. Refer to the guidelines in the roster for submitting articles.

Future Workshops Still no word from Sigmund Aarseth or Alfield Tangen about a February workshop.

Continued on page 4.

Minutes of the November 15, 1987 Meeting - continued from page 3.

Mini-Workshop Some changes in scheduled workshops are:

Feb. 6th - Anita Boren Workshop on wood finishing.

April 2nd - Gudrun Berg's workshop to paint a small trunk. The trunks will be on sale in January.

A motion was made and approved that beginning in January, the fees for the mini-workshops be changed from \$5.00 to \$8.00 per student and the number of students in attendance be a minimum of eight and a maximum of 15 and the teachers fee to be changed from \$50.00 to \$75.00.

A motion was made that a Paint-in without an instructor charge a fee of \$5.00 and that there be a minimum of 8 students and a maximum of 15 students held on alternating months to the mini-workshops. The motion was tabled until the January meeting because a number of the Seattle members were absent.

Betty Edwards reported that there a need to reevaluate the mini workshops and see how many are still interested.

White Elephant Will be held at the January meeting. Bring any wooden ware, Sale supplies etc. WRA will take a 10% commission.

Patterns Dena encouraged all of the membership to submit patterns for the Vine.

Election Election of officers in January. The nominating committee has been working on the slate but if there are any other persons interested in holding down an office, please let Deanna Skelton know.

Door Prizes Flat jewelry boxes were won by Mickey Buchanan and Kris Dale.

Program Celia Hendrix presented a program on "The Myths of Rosemaling"

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in January, March, May, September and November.

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++++ NEXT EDITORIAL DEADLINE IS
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WRA CABINET DISPLAY

The Nordic Heritage Museum wishes to thank the following WRA members who displayed items at the museum since last May: Celia Hendrix who lent a plate and porridge bowl painted by Gunnar Bo of Innfjorden, Norway; Lois Clauson who lent two bowls painted by Ingeborg Loftsgarden, Telemark, Norway and Eli Saelid of Valdres, Norway; and to those who contributed pieces of their own rosemaling...Marie Ganfield, Gudrun Berg, Lois Clauson, Dena Iverson, Barbara Hazen and Betty Edwards.

* * * * SHOW AND TELL AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING * * * *

The above items were displayed at the November meeting along with the following:

1. Dena's plate, an original pattern, style taught by Trudy Wasson, class taught at a Mini Workshop at the museum for WRA.
2. Marie Ganfield's plate inspired by a class that Dena taught at the museum.
3. A plate Dena painted from a class taught by Addie Pittlekow.
4. Tine by Betty Edwards painted from a pattern by John Gunderson, Norway.
5. A large bown painted by Gudrun Berg, her own pattern, Telemark Style.

Also on the Show and Tell table, Yvonne Mead brought two items she had painted in Lois's class and Wilda Snider brought two pieces she had painted.

REPORT ON MARY ELLERMAN WORKSHOP NHM - October 24, 1987

I was very pleased to see that two of our own teachers attended Mary's workshop. Mary is an excellent teacher and plans a very good and informative class. We all picked up new ideas and reviewed some rosemaling secrets, many of them we had forgotten.

In the morning Mary demonstrated the C & S strokes, combing them into scrolls and flowers, Telemark style. In the afternoon, Mary reviewed the color wheel, demonstrating the art of mixing colors, and planning a pattern, flowers, scrolls and details. The rest of the afternoon, we worked on a wooden piece, planning a pattern and taking ideas from many samples Mary brought with her. Her

teaching tool was the Miller-Aarseth book from our WRA library.

Those who attended were: Wilda Snider, Louise Friar, Connie Sullivan, Char Kelly, Nancy Johnson, Marvel Gordon, Anne Freeman and Betty Edwards.

Comments: Of the original eight members who signed up for the workshop, only five were able to attend. 32 members were called about the workshop and many some indicated that Sat. was a bad day for them & they would prefer perhaps a Friday. Students attending the workshop also agreed another day would be fine with them also. We would like to hear from all of you who wish to attend a workshops...teachers too, so when we plan them in the future, we can keep that in mind. - Betty Edwards

SOME MYTHS OF ROSEMALING

By Celia Hendrix

After 15 years of painting and teaching rosemaling, several trips to Norway to study rosemaling, and working with many different teachers, I have come to some conclusions concerning this beautiful old art. These ideas are strictly my own, and I do not expect everyone to agree with them. However, I do hope it will give you something to think about.

First: We are told we must not mix the different styles of rosemaling-- those being Telemark (asymmetrical, scrolls the most important, flowers just used as fillers), Hallingdal (symmetrical, flowers most important, tulip, bonnet lily, and pull-out flowers) and Rogaland (must shading, few scrolls, fanciful flowers), and several other styles not as well know.

Yet, if you study old -- and some modern rosemaling -- it is very difficult to decide which style, because the early painters traveled from district to district mixing up the different styles, and also, each painter developed their own style using those elements that pleased them. An example of the many diverse styles today is shown in the pattern book "A Collection of Norwegian Rosemaling in America".

Therefore, it is more important, I believe, to develop your own style, one that you are comfortable with. It should have good form, balance, and color -- and please you.

Second: A word about color -- we are told over and over again never to use pink or purple. I will add two more to this list -- a very well known teacher just about fainted when I got out the turquoise and thalo yellow green. Yet, I have seen very good Norwegian rosemalers use many different colors -- sometimes in the same painting. Bergjlot Lunde taught a workshop using purple and metallic gold. It was lovely. Here again, use those colors that make you happy.

Third: Regarding the writing of sayings on rosemaling, it would be nice to have it authentic, and everyone be able to read it. However, does this mean "Landsmal", "Rykmal", old Norwegian, new Norwegian, or one of the many variation in between. I maintain the writing is merely decorative and 99.9% of the people looking at it will not be able to read it. So, do your best, and put your interpretation on the back, and enjoy!

Fourth: We are told rosemaling is always painted in oil on wood. The early rosemalers used wood because that is what was available to them. However, I think we are missing a lot if we don't experiment with other things such as metal, glass, ceramics, and particularly cloth. You can come up with some lovely things using these materials.

One of the newer ideas is painting on leather. Bergjlot Lunde taught this at Decorah recently. It is call Gilded Leather Work, and is an old technique of embossing, painting, and gilding leather for upholstery and walls. It is still practiced in Norway. Although the technique is associated with Spain, it was highly developed in Scandinavia 300 years ago.

Continued on page 7

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SCANDIANANAVIAN HEARTLAND TOUR IX

NORWAY - SWEDEN - DENMARK

May 28 - June 14, 1988

18 Days

Please join me on this very special fun-filled and information tour through the heart of Scandinavia to include the major cities of Oslo, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Bergen, Gothenborg and Aarhus. Enjoy the spectacular scenery of Norway's fjord country, the Viking trail through Denmark's Jutland peninsula and famous islands plus Sweden's charming provincial district of Dalarna and the Gota Canal.

Many special events and exciting activities daily. **\$2699.00**

Included in this fully escorted tour:

Round trip air fare, land and ferry transportation hotels, breakfasts, most dinners and museum admissions (as indicated in the itinerary). Tips and baggage handling limited to one bag per person. Airport transfers and special city guides as indicated.

Write or Call for brochure for further information.

Florence Buck, 9204 Division Lane Sw, Tacoma, WA 98498 (1-206-581-1443)

Paid Ad

Some Myths of Rosemaling (continued from 6)

Last, by not least, does rosemaling have to be done in oils? Lately there have been several prominent rosemalers who have developed an allergy to the paint, particularly the thinner used. The doctor has been telling me for several years I must stop painting, but I just couldn't see it. Didn't I always keep my odorless thinner covered? Also, I cleaned my hands with boraxo, painted in a well-ventilated room, with no food or drink unless I cleaned my hands first? It just couldn't be!

However, when I read Karen Jensen's article in the Vesterheim Rosemaling Newsletter, I knew the doctor was right, and those powerful chemicals had finally gotten to me. When I wrote to her and asked for advice since WRA frowns on rosemaling done with acrylics, she wrote back that I had two choices, either give up painting, or go to acrylics. She also stated that she will be teaching a class in rosemaling with acrylics at Decorah in April -- and would teach a class for us if we'd like.

The early rosemalers used casein paint, and mixed their own pigments. That is all that was available to them at that time. Now we have a wide variety of paints available to us. As of yet, I am unable to get the soft, muted color that I can with oils, but I'm working on it.

In conclusion, we should all strive to develop our own style and colors for this lovely art form. Therefore, in my opinion, there is only one rule for rosemaling... "ENJOY". [Editor's Note: This material was presented for a program at the Nov. WRA meeting. If any members would like to respond to this article, comments should be in writing and sent to President Dena Iverson.]

WRA MAILBAG

Recently we heard from a member from Princeton, British Columbia, Canada. Margaret Trehearne writes:

"You've said you'd like to hear from far-flung members and there are times when I feel very flung indeed -- i.e. isolated.

Years ago I admired rosemaled articles but none were for sale. A dear friend of Norwegian descent said, 'Learn how yourself!' I signed up with our local tole painting teacher who taught me about mixing colors and cleaning brushes (so important). Then came hours of practice by byself with Vi Thode's instruction books. An Oregon friend arranged for me to have three days with Vesla Harris...what a heart-warming experience! We concentrated on outlining and now my rosemaling sings with vitality and my enjoyment in it has increase, thanks to Vesla.

While I was concentrating on the techniques, she was showing me, it occured to me that if it was an Italian craft I way learning, with a fiery-tempered Italian teacher, I would probably have had my throat slit by the second day, but with a patient kind-hearted Norwegian teacher like Vesla, I was surrounded by patience and kindness.

Many WRA members can trace their Norse roots; mine are in the North of Scotland, where Vikings from the Bergen area raided and settled about a thousand years ago."

Bordbønn
(Table prayer after meal)

I Jesu navn til bords vi satt
Of fikk av Herrens haand vaar mat
Til gavn for legem og for sjel
Gud lat oss det bekomme vel. Amen

We sat at the table in Jesus name
And received our food from the hand of the
For the benefit of body and soul Lord.
God blessed it for our welfare. Amen

MINI WORKSHOPS

Feb. 6th Anita Borne, Teacher. on wood finishing. Eight members have signed up for the class, still room for more students. You can sign up in January or call Marie Ganfield, 362-1036 or Betty Edwards 282-8674.

April 2nd Gudrun Berg, Teacher, Trondheim Style (Grandma Berg's small jewelry Chest) which was on display at the November meeting. A class of 15 is filled, but you can call either Marie Ganfield or Betty Edwards to be put on the stand-by list in case there is a cancellation.

NORWEGIAN SAYINGS

Oppriktighet er grunnlaget for kjaelighet og aktelse.

Sincerity is the foundation of Love and respect.

A leve er ikke nok, solskin, frihed og en lille blomst ma man have. Hans Christian Andersen.

To live is not enough, we must have freedom, sunshine and a little flower.

Appropriate for a small stool:

De i store gjere som de i vilje og de i small som de i kunne.

The grown ups do as they want and the children do what they can.

Bordbønn
(Table prayer before the meal)

I Jesu navn gaar vi til bords
At spise og drikke paa dit ord;
Deg Gud til aere os til gavn,
Saa faar vi mat i Jesu nayn. Amen.

In Jesus name we go to the table
To eat and drink at thy wrod;
In God's honor and for our benefit
We receive the food in Jesus name. Amen.

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Alma 1987

[PUT IN THE DETAILS, PAINT
& BRING TO SHARE AT JAN
MEETING]