Basketry—A Modernized Ancient Art

Juanita Beard
Iowa State College

Gladys McVay
Iowa State College

Follow this and additional works at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker
Part of the Home Economics Commons

Recommended Citation
Beard, Juanita and McVay, Gladys (1922) "Basketry—A Modernized Ancient Art," The Iowa Homemaker: Vol. 2 : No. 9 , Article 6. Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol2/iss9/6

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Publications at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Homemaker by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.
Iowa State Welcomes New Dean of Home Economics
Faculty Adds Fifteen to Staff
By ELEANOR MURRAY and HELEN HAMILTON

WITH the arrival of Miss Anna J. Richardson in Ames in time for winter quarter registration, Iowa State will welcome her new dean of the Home Economics division. Miss Edna Walls, who has served as acting dean since the death of Dean MacKay in August, 1921, will continue as vice-dean.

Miss Richardson is one of the country's outstanding leaders in Home Economics and is well qualified to assume the directorship of the largest college work in home economics in this country. She graduated from Peabody College for Teachers in Tennessee in 1903, and followed this with graduate work at the University of Chicago and Columbia University, from which she received her degree of Master of Arts in 1911.

Following her graduation, she had wide experience in public school instruction in home economics. Later, she established the home economics department in Agnes Scott College in Georgia, and for five years she was at the University of Texas in charge of food and nutrition, as well as holding a large responsibility in the administration of the home economics work there.

She is a most successful administrator as well as educator. She was especially instrumental in organizing the research work in home economics at Texas and received marked recognition for her achievements. For the past four years Miss Richardson has been Chief of Home Economics educational service with the Federal Board for Vocational Education, and the preceding year she was a special agent with the Federal Board in charge of twenty-four states. She was largely responsible for the reconcentration of the Board's work in home economics on a practical basis.

Miss Richardson's contracts have been with every type of home economics activity and she has had relationship with its development in every state and in many colleges and universities through her work with the Federal Board. As President Pearson has so well expressed it, "We feel that Miss Richardson is exactly the right person to carry on the development of the work so excellently built up by Dean MacKay."

But a new Dean is not the only addition to our department, for the rapidly increasing Home Economics department of Iowa State has made a great addition to the faculty necessary this year. Miss Richardson's staff has come to the practice house. She received her Ph. B. degree at the University of Chicago and has instructed in Home Economics in New Brunswick, Galgary and Camenour, Canada, and at the Michigan Agricultural College.

The Household Science department has two new members in Miss Katherine Howells, who received her B. S. degree at the Oregon Agricultural College, has taught in Eugene high school, where she also had charge of the cafeteria; and Miss Eloise Davison, who attended Ohio Wesleyan, the University of Chicago and Ohio State University, where she received her B. S. and M. S. degrees. She taught in a Cincinnati high school and was home management specialist for the Ohio State University.

Miss Lydia O. Jacobson comes to the Teacher's Training department. She received her B. S. and M. S. degrees at Iowa State and later taught in the high school at both Emmetsburg and Clinton.

To the Household Art department is added Miss Hazel Baker. Her degree was received at the Kansas State Agricultural College. She has taught in the Kansas State College, in the Louisiana State University and the Oklahoma College for Women. Miss Malvred C. McKenzie is also a new member of this department. She attended the School Institute and received her Ph. D. degree at the University of Chicago. She has since taught at Mukwonago high school in Wisconsin and Oakland City College in Oakland City, Indiana. From the University of Montanas, where she received her B. A. degree, comes Miss Florence Pane. She has taught in the art department of the University and in Roswell, New Mexico.

(Continued on page 14)

Basketry--A Modernized Ancient Art

By JUANITA BEARD and GLADYS McVAY

BASKETS everywhere! From ancient times, when propitiatory gifts to appease the wrath of an angry god were heaped on woven trays to adorn the village altar, to the present time, when flowers, fruits candies, and sandwiches are packed in baskets to adorn the buffet tables of today's social gatherings--and there are baskets for all occasions. And there are baskets...
spokes should be very evenly separated.

The number of spokes may vary with the size of reed used and the size of the basket to be made, but for our method we will always use an uneven number of spokes. The method of weaving is the "over and under" rule, starting a weaver under one spoke and over the next, and continuing. When you have reached the end of the first weaver, let the end be long enough to lie across a spoke on the side which will be the inside of the finished basket. Lay another weaver beside it and proceed with the "over and under" weaving. Two weavers may be used together, going over and under the same spoke, or two may be started, one behind spoke A and one in front of spoke B, and continued in the same way. Combinations of these are possible in making attractive baskets, especially if a basic effect of a weave differing from that of the body of the basket is woven.

The reeds should always be soaked in water before they are used, as they are not pliable, as they will break. If the basket, when finished, is a bit unsymmetrical, it can often be corrected by soaking it and shaping it.

Following are a few directions for making simple baskets:

**Basket With Open Border**

Materials: Four 14-inch spokes of No. 3 rattan; one 8-inch spoke of No. 3 rattan; two weavers of No. 2 rattan.

Begin as in the directions for a mat, and when the centre or bottom of the basket is about two inches in diameter, wet the spokes and bend them sharply upward. Then let the person weaving be outside the basket, and that the weaving should go from left to right. This is something that even skillful young workmen sometimes need to have impressed upon them. The bottom of the basket should be placed on the knee with the side which, in starting, was toward the worker turned down, the spokes bent upward, and the weaving done in that position. In weaving up the sides of the basket, the spokes are kept as close as possible, and pressed down each spoke behind which the weaver has to go, while the thumb and forefinger bring the weaver along behind it. When the spokes are used, and they are joined by simply crossing them, at an inch from the end of each, behind a spoke. To finish, turn the spokes down and tack each in beside its neighboring spoke.

**Basket With Rounding Sides and Open Border**

Materials: Four 14-inch spokes of No. 3 rattan; one 8-inch spoke of No. 3 rattan; two weavers of No. 2 rattan.

Having made a bottom about two inches in diameter, wet the spokes and turn them up, rounding them by bending them over the middle flat. The first weaver should not be drawn too tight, but allowed to go easily, though pressed closely down upon the weaving just below. As the second spoke of the weaver is reached the spokes should be gradually drawn closer together by a slight tightening of the weaver; this should continue until the last row of weaving. The bend is about an inch from the bottom, and that the weaving should be very evenly separated. The third and fourth rows of weaving, to complete the hinge of the cover, are laid close beside the last, and six, or, at most, seven, rows will cover the spoke. The weaver is fastened off by bringing it inside the basket again, where it is cut short.

In making small side handles two 22-inch pieces of rattan are soaked until they are pliable. The weaving is done in this way: After the knitting needle has been pushed down on the left of the spoke, to make way between the weavers, and end of the 22-inch piece of rattan is pressed down about three-quarters of an inch below the top of the weaving. The long end is brought across one spoke, not counting the one beside which it is started, and down inside the basket at the left of the spoke and just under the border, making the foundation handle. It, at its widest part, should not be over an inch from the basket. The end is now brought out on the right of the spoke and twisted around the foundation handle. About a foot long, this twist is brought to the other side of the handle, where it is pushed down inside the basket on the right of the spoke and out again on the left. It then twists around the handle to the right side, where the end is cut off, leaving about an inch, which is pressed down between the weavers to the right of the spoke. The second handle is then made in the same way, taking care that it shall be so placed on the basket as to be exactly opposite the first.

When the weaving is completed, the basket may be singed over a lamp, or, better still, sandpapered with a No. 0 sandpaper. When it is soft, it is dyed, and then burnished with a No. 00 sandpaper. The baskets are then turned and dried in the sun. When the natural color is seen the basket may be dyed or left in its natural color. The baskets are then taken to the sun, examined, and seen by the Shah of Persia, who awards the prize to the basket which is judged best.

Thus we find almost as many uses for basketry as did the ancients. The early American Indians, who have handed down to us thus the art of the fascinating art of weaving.