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Basketry—A Modernized Ancient Art

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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 reorganization of the Federal 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



Miss Anna J. Richardson, the new Dean of Home Economics at Iowa State College.

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 Margaret A. Stewart 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, Calgary and Camvour, 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 Normal, the Louisiana State University and the Oklahoma College for Women. Miss Malfred C. McKenzie is also a new member of this department. She attended Stout 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 Montana, where she received her B. A. degree, comes Miss Florence Faust. She has taught in the Art department of the University and in Roswell, New Mexico.

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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 or serve the honored guests.

What a happy sense of accomplishment we feel when we have made the baskets ourselves! And there are endless ways to make them and to fill them. There are baskets for candy, with or without lids, fruit baskets, flower baskets, work baskets, scrap baskets, hanging baskets, and, oh, so many others. One need learn only the simplest methods of weaving to make many attractive baskets.

We shall use only rattan or reed in making these baskets. This can be

bought at basket factories, florist shops, and school or art supply shops. Numbers 2, 3 and 4 are the best sizes for small baskets, and 3, 5 and 6 for large work baskets and scrap baskets.

The base, which forms the bottom of the basket, is the starting point, and it is important to master this first.

Materials: Four spokes of No. 4 rattan. (Length depends on size of basket, but for a basket with base 6 inches across, use spokes about 18 inches long); one 9-inch spoke; one weaver of No. 2 rattan.

The four spokes, arranged in pairs, are crossed in the centre, the vertical ones being uppermost or nearest the person weaving; and between the upper halves of these vertical spokes the half spoke, 9 inches long, is placed. These are held in position by the left hand, which is, as

always, the one that holds, while the right is the weaving hand. An end of the weaver previously unwound is placed along the horizontal spoke back of the vertical ones, with the end toward the right. The forefinger of the right hand now presses the weaver across the upper vertical spokes and down behind the horizontal ones on the right (thus binding the end of the weaver securely), next over the lower vertical spokes, and behind the horizontal ones on the left. This is repeated, and then, beginning with the upper vertical spokes, the spokes are separated and the weaving begins. A common fault of beginners is to pull the weaver from a distance of several inches from the work; instead, it should be pressed with the forefinger, under and over the spokes, as close to the work as it is possible to get it. The

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 simplest 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 weaves make very attractive baskets, especially if a band effect of a weave differing from that of the body of the basket is woven.

The reeds should always be soaked in water. Never work with them when they are not pliable, as they will break. If the basket, when finished, is a bit unsymmetrical, it can often be corrected by soaking and pressing into shape.

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, remembering always that the side toward the person weaving is the outside of 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 middle finger of the right hand presses down each spoke behind which the weaver has to go, while the thumb and forefinger bring the weaver along behind it. Two weavers 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 tuck 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 finger. The first weaver should not be drawn too tight, but allowed to go easily, though pressed closely down upon the weaving just below it. Before the middle of the second weaver is reached the spokes should be gradually drawn closer together by a slight tightening of the weaver; this should continue to the end of the weaver. Finish with Open Border No. 2.

Open Border No. 2

Spokes should measure at least four inches from the last row of weaving. Spoke No. 1 crosses No. 2 and is pushed

down beside No. 3. No. 2 crosses No. 3 and is pushed down No. 4, and so on around the basket.

Small Round Basket With Slightly Rounded Cover

Materials: Basket—Six 16-inch spokes of No. 4 rattan; one 9-inch spoke of No. 4 rattan; four weavers of No. 2 rattan. Cover, Hinge, Etc.—Six 14-inch spokes of No. 4 rattan; one 8-inch spoke of No. 4 rattan; 1½ weavers of No. 2 rattan; a knitting needle.

The bottom is woven in the same way as the one given above to a diameter of one and three-eighths inches; when the spokes are wet and rounded up over the finger. The sides are woven with loosely drawn weavers until three have been used. The fourth weaver is drawn tighter so that the basket shall be somewhat the shape of an orange with the top cut off. The edge is bound and finished with this border. The spokes are soaked until pliable, and each is brought back of the next one on the right and then out. This goes on around the basket. The end of each spoke in turn is then brought over the first spoke on the right, and pressed down inside the basket just behind the second spoke on the right and next to the weaving.

The cover is woven like the bottom, except that from the very centre the spokes are bent gradually up. One full-length weaver should make a large enough cover. It is then bound off and finished with a Rope Border. Each spoke in succession is brought across the next spoke to the right and then inside the cover. When the circuit of the cover has been made, each end of a spoke is brought across the next spoke to the right and then inside the cover. When the circuit of the cover has been made, each end of a spoke is brought across the next spoke to the right, and then pressed down inside the cover, where, after the border is finished, they are cut just long enough to allow each end to lie across the next spoke.

Fastenings. Three rings of No. 2 rattan are made as follows: A piece of rattan about a foot long, which has been soaked until pliable, is tied into a ring. The ends are then twisted in and out once around the foundation ring, or when a heavier ring is required, twice or three times. One of the rings should be smaller than the other two, and none of them need be over three-quarters of an inch in diameter. The smallest one is attached to the cover in front, across a spoke and between the border and the last row of weaving, each end being sawed off under a spoke, then over one and inside the cover, where it is cut off. Another ring is attached in the same way at the back of the cover, and the third one is fastened across a spoke in the front of the basket, between the third and fourth rows of weaving. To complete the hinge the cover is put in position so that the ring at the back of the cover will be just above a spoke on the basket. The end of a small piece of No. 2 weaver is then pressed in between the third and fourth rows of weaving to the left of the spoke referred to, and brought out on the right of the spoke. The ends are then crossed, brought through the ring on the cover, and drawn up just tight enough to allow the cover to close easily. The end which started on the left of the spoke is brought to the right and fastened, as the rings were, between the border and the last row of weaving on the basket, while the

end which started from the right of the spoke crosses to the left, and is fastened in the same way between the border and the last row of weaving.

Now we come to the handles, which add so much to the baskets. To make the twisted handle a knitting needle is run down beside a spoke and then drawn out, leaving room to insert an end of the 12-inch spoke, which should be pressed down at least an inch below the top of the basket. The other end of the spoke is then inserted in the same way beside a spoke exactly opposite where the first end was placed. This makes the foundation handle. The end of a pliable weaver is now inserted under the third row from the top of the basket to the left of the foundation handle and run up between the weaving. This weaver is twisted around the handle with twists about an inch and a half apart. At the opposite side of the basket the weaver is pushed in, under the third row of weaving from the top, on one side of the handle, and brought out again on the other side of the handle three rows from the top, making a loop inside. The weaver is then laid close beside the first twist, and follows it across to the opposite side, where it goes in under the third row on the left of the handle and comes out on the right side. Each row of twisting must follow 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. Then one is started in this way: After the knitting needle has been pushed down on the left of the spoke, to make way between the weavers, an 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 next spoke and just under the border, making the foundation handle which, 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 three twists should bring it 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 across 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 made in the same way, taking care that it shall be so placed on the basket as to be exactly opposite the first one.

When the weaving is completed, the basket may be singed over a lamp, or, better still, sandpapered with a No. 0 sandpaper until it becomes smooth. The basket may now be dyed or left in its natural color. The Shah of Persia punishes with death the man who brings aniline dyes into his kingdom, and we are tempted to add, "Off with his head!" when we hear of a person who, having seen the soft, beautiful coloring made with vegetable dyes, returns to the crude and quickly fading aniline dyes.

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