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The Art of Batik
By BERNICE MILLERKE

Batik is an ancient art from the art of dyeing fabrics in one piece in different dyes consecutively, through the combination of which the pattern of the design is produced. Batik is not merely a crude method of decorating material as many people think it to be; it is not a matter of smearing wax on a piece of material and then dipping it haphazardly into any kind of dye. On the contrary, it is a craft which requires quite a good deal of skill and knowledge of design, as well as a good knowledge of coloring materials.

Investigation shows that the art of batik has always flourished in Java. Therefore, we may safely say that Java is the home of batik. Batik in Java dates back to somewhere around the year 1200 and the art originated from Holland and England. The main garment consists of a piece of material from three to four and a half yards in length and about five to six inches in width. In 1919 these garments could be bought at a cost varying from one to twenty-five dollars. However, today because of the increased popularity of batik in Europe and America, they are much higher in price.

Batik is chiefly used in Java for wearing apparel, and are usually made of silk, velvet, wool or leather, as the batik worker is not allowed to touch the material with bare hands.

Batik art in Java is primarily a home occupation. However, some of the designs are being produced in commercial establishments, such as the batik factories in Solo and Yogyakarta. The colors used in batik are usually patterned after the standard ones which have been used for generations. Occasionally a bit of original design is added, particularly in the section of the country from Yogyakarta to Wonosobo.

Batik is made on a piece of material with a waxing disk and a waxing stick. The design is first carried out on paper, and then dip-ping is done in India ink. The wax is then applied to the areas where the color is not wanted. The wax is then dried, it is rolled, laid on a board and then covered with a mixture of beeswax and rosin. The material is then ready to be batik-dyed. After the material comes from the blue dye bath, the wax is removed by pressing the cloth with a hot iron over a retarding ground paper.

Batik is not only a fascinating art, but also a useful one. Very beautiful and striking effects may be obtained by the exercise of little care and patience, and a fundamental knowledge of design and color principles.

National Meeting of Omicron Nu Held in Kansas
Omicron Nu, honorary organization for home economics students, held its eighth biennial conclave at the Kansas Agricultural College at Manhattan, Kansas, on April 7, 8 and 9. Twenty-two of the twenty-three active chapters, including the newly installed chapter at the University of Oklahoma, which was only three days old, and two alumni chapters were represented. Alumni chapter delegates were from New York State College and the University of Nebraska. Miss Genevieve Fisher, who was a member of the teacher training department of Iowa State College at one time, is the newly elected grand secretary. Miss Cora B. Miller of Iowa State is the newly elected grand secretary.

Iowa has but one active chapter of Omicron Nu, Gamma chapter at Iowa State College. This chapter was installed in 1913 and since that time 319 home economics students have been elected to membership. Gamma chapter was represented at the conclave by Kathern Ayres, Margaret Liston and Helen Swine.

Alumni members of Omicron Nu living in 'Ames are completing an alumni organization this spring, and recently an alumni chapter on the campus of Iowa State College.

Mary Masters Daubert, H. Ec. '20, and her husband, F. K. Daubert, make their home at Laurens, Iowa. Mrs. Daubert writes that her 4-H Clothing Club girls won first place on their record and exhibi-tion work on Achievement Day.

Beth E. Thorne, H. Ec. '22, is teaching Foods in a new $40,000 school in Los Angeles, Calif. Her address is Apt. 301, 5171 Marathon.

Jean Hollingsworth Williams, H. Ec. '24, has a daughter, Betty Catherine, who is teaching in a fourth grade in James H. Williams, and their home is in Williamburg, Ky.

Alma Boyce, H. Ec. '25, is teaching homemaking at Jecup, Iowa.