1936

Be Individual Make Your Own Christmas Cards

Gay Starrak
Iowa State College

Follow this and additional works at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker

Part of the Home Economics Commons

Recommended Citation
Starrak, Gay (1936) "Be Individual Make Your Own Christmas Cards," The Iowa Homemaker: Vol. 16 : No. 5 , Article 12.
Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol16/iss5/12

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.
**Be Individual**

**Make Your Own Christmas Cards**

by Gay Strak

Do you remember any of the Christmas cards you received last year? Most cards are of the conventional type and resemble their ancestors in both picture and verse. They are welcomed when they come, but soon die and are forgotten. Only one I received has survived throughout the year. From this I learned that the homemade cards have a stronger constitution than their brothers and sisters in the store windows.

By making your own cards a personal touch may be added that makes one feel the card is really meant and made for the receiver. You don't have to follow the well beaten path, but a great many roads are open to you. You may make your card as you like, and when it's all over you will be surprised to find that your pocket book has lost little weight.

If you have a great many friends to whom you wish to send Christmas greetings and find that the time supply is much smaller than the demand, you will probably be interested in block printing. You may find that the block requires some effort, but once it is done you may make as many cards as you need in a minimum of time. First trace out your design on a paper before transferring it to your linoleum block. If the design contains lettering, and it most likely will, you should take the precaution of looking at it in a mirror to be sure you have no "s" backwards.

After transferring the design to your block which has been previously cut to the size and shape you desire, you may take a razor blade and cut out all background and all portions of the de-
sign you do not wish to be printed. You will be amply rewarded for your work after you have brushed oil paint on the part you desire printed and placed the block on the card. Several good pounds with a hammer or the heel of a shoe will set the color.

You have the opportunity to use any color or color combination that you desire, and the best results will be obtained if you do a little experimenting to see which colors will print on one another best. The back of a government penny post card will prove to be an economical background. Or if you prefer another color, you may cut your cards of a more attractive paper the same size or smaller and send them for a penny.

Block printing, however, is not the only way to make your cards at home. The possibilities are inexhaustible. You may make attractive cards from photographs, silhouettes, spatterwork, blue-printing, or stencil work.

Any amateur photographer can take attractive pictures for cards. Common winter out-door scenes, your own living room or Christmas tree will take a suitable picture. Your friends would be pleasantly surprised to receive your photograph on the card you send them. Your silhouette in black on a white card will make a striking combination.

Spatterwork, like block printing, really isn't so hard after a little practice. It affords you the opportunity to make a cheery background. As you do not want your design painted, cut it out and place it on the card in the desired position. Hold a piece of screen above the card and paint on it with a toothbrush which has been dipped in poster paint. After experimenting on a few pieces of paper you will soon become a spatterwork expert.

Cards may also be varied by the use of an unconventional background. Sandpaper will prove satisfactory when the design is applied with crayon or poster paint. In Colorado thin sheets of copper are used as a foundation. If you live way up north you will find that birch bark is just the thing. It may be embroidered around the edges with bright yarns, and further adorned with a sprig of evergreen and your original greetings.

Cards you make yourself cease to become mere greetings, and become valued gifts.