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From Cover to Cover Bookmakers Create Their Own

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From Cover to Cover

Bookmakers Create Their Own

Marjorie Clappitt traces production of books written, lettered and bound by Iowa State women

A BOOK produced from binding to printing by her own hands is the proud product of many Iowa State senior art students. Writing the story, designing each page of lettering and illustrations and binding the final product puts these students in a unique position among book publishers. Their workshop is Miss Edna O'Bryan's advanced applied art crafts class.

Ingenuity, imagination and good art principles are the guide posts of this course. The stories vary according to the personality of each author. Lettering and

Ease in lettering and design is increased by creating these original monograms and illustrations for children's jingles

illustrating are combined to make each page a beautifully designed unit to fit into the book as a whole. Then the book is expertly bound.

One student tells the story of a little boy in *Pepito*. "My name is Pepito. I live in Equador. I am five years old." Simple sentences such as these that children first learn to read are lettered on the pages. Stenciled in bright colors with chalk are figures of boys, girls and animals. With a spiral binding, the finished product is an ideal book for youngsters. This student made two copies and sent one to friends in South America.

What six-year-old wouldn't like to read the story of the *Foolish Fawn* who went out to see the world? "First," the story says, "the fawn saw rabbits." Illustrations of modern rabbits appear on the next page. "Then the fawn found lambs gaily frisking in a meadow." The reader turns the page and sees the lambs. This is one of several charming books for children.

One book was written for a soldier-husband. Phrases describing special events and names of places and persons of interest to both will bring happy memories each time the book is read. Football games are recalled and drawings made of tiny footballs and pennants add decorations. Each page features a different idea, a different remembrance. When the book was ready to send overseas it was a few ounces overweight. The author solved the problem by taking it apart and mailing it in two sections which could be put together at its destination.

Another student made a *Remember* book. Again phrases recall events all through her life—football games, a high school boy friend, her first Iowa State homecoming. Only the author knows the full meaning of these phrases. Colored ink designs characterize each page. This book is not completely filled but will continue to grow as special events occur.

A story was written from a child's viewpoint by a 13-year-old friend of the student making the book. This was an animal story about a deer. Colored ink drawings bring the deer to the eye of the reader.

The author and her fiance were the subject of another personal story. One girl lettered a baby book for future use. The students become proficient in making well-styled and proportioned letters. Use of abstract designs and colored inks provide a restful variety to a page of lettering.

To construct a complete book in this way is a satisfying accomplishment. The students discover that they can do as well as many people designing books for sale. In fact, some of them may go into such a commercial field. Whether they do or not, books produced entirely by their own ingenuity are proud possessions and keepsakes of many students.

