1948

Housemothers Collect Cigars To Antiques

Betty Fox
Iowa State College

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

Part of the Home Economics Commons

Recommended Citation
Fox, Betty (1948) "Housemothers Collect Cigars To Antiques," The Iowa Homemaker: Vol. 28 : No. 4 , Article 6.
Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol28/iss4/6

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.
Housemothers Collect

Cigars To Antiques

by Betty Fox

While we sit and ponder over chemistry and foods notes, our housemothers pursue pastimes we may prefer to call "hobbies."

"I didn't know what to do the first time cigars were passed after I came," Mrs. Huntington Rowe of the Phi Gamma Delta house said. "But I took one anyway and tied it on my bulletin board." It's a tradition, at Iowa State, for a fellow to pass cigars when announcing his engagement. Each time cigars are passed at the Phi Gam house, Mrs. Rowe receives one for her cigar tree. The name of the couple is sealed inside the wrapper and the cigar is tied to the tree with a purple ribbon. Mother Rowe's cigar tree is now almost four feet long.

With a son in the Pacific after the war, and many friends in Europe, Mrs. Nell McHenry, at the Pi Beta Phi house, has received several unusual additions to her collection of what-nots. Among them is a lovely Chinese vase of Cloisonne enamel. A vivid emerald dragon, spitting tongues of scarlet flame, coils around the silver-turquoise vase.

From Japan, Mrs. McHenry has a brass temple dog bowing on its forelegs with plumed tail waving in the air. Each line and action of the dog has a special significance to the religious Japanese.

Early American Glass

On an antique walnut chest stands a celery goblet with three women's faces carved in bas-relief on the stem. This is an example of Early American three-faced glass. Mrs. McHenry has a rose-luster china cup from England. An antique, it was made without a handle, with a deep saucer, and before the maker's name was printed on his wares.

Mrs. Carrie Torrence, housemother for Kappa Delta, has spent many hours of her life reading, studying, and collecting poetry. She pastes each new poem into a bound scrapbook with those she has collected for 25 years. Among her favorite authors are Patience Strong and Evadna Hammersley.

One of her most remembered summers was spent in the YMCA conference camp in Estes Park, Colorado. Early every morning she would walk up the mountains and gather flowers to arrange for the lodge.

Planting, cultivating and harvesting vegetables from her garden is the summer-time occupation for Mrs. Esther Heryford at the International House. She has canned tomatoes, and made chili sauce and ketchup. Late fall flowers are still blooming in her garden behind the house, and bouquets add a homely atmosphere to the rooms.

A winter morning with the sun shining through dazzling ice coated trees may find Mrs. Beryl Stratton, residence director of Delta Sigma Phi, out walking in the snow. She's usually accompanied by one or two of "her boy's."

Grey Lady

This month Mrs. Stratton is enrolled in an orientation and training course for Grey Ladies in Des Moines. When her training is completed, she will spend one afternoon each week with the disabled men in the Veteran's Hospital. Her work will include reading and shopping for them or accompanying men in wheel chairs around the hospital grounds.

She has five Chinese figures of old men known as the "Immortals," and a Buddha. Legend says if you rub the stomach of the Buddha three times and make a wish, your wish will come true!

You're lucky if you live in Freeman Hall where Mrs. Ethel Fosmark is housemother, for you'll receive a set of round hot pot holders when you become engaged or married.

"I just want to do something for my girls," Mrs. Fosmark said, "so I started giving them pot holders when I was a housemother at the University of North Dakota."

While she crochets, Mrs. Fosmark reads 18th and 19th century essays. She enjoys cultivating flowers and won a first prize with a pearl colored iris when she lived in Minnesota.

Collects Antiques

Last summer, Mrs. Hazel Penquite, housemother for Sigma Alpha Epsilon, drove to the East and into Canada with her young granddaughter. They stopped in every small town to investigate antique shops. Most of the shops were in old barns or sheds attached to the farm house. In her suite, Mrs. Penquite has two of her grandmother's tables, one with the original marble top.

Mrs. C. R. Jones' hobbies are closely related to her vocation, as housemother for Beta Theta Pi. She was the first woman to address the national convention of the fraternity and was honored with a story of her work in the national publication. For 17 years she has kept a scrapbook on the activities of the Beta's.

November, 1948