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Pitchers That Become Prizes...

By Pearl Rock

ONE of the pitchers made by the Ceramic Engineering Department of the college has become one of the most prized pitchers in the collection of Mrs. Emma Rohlf of Avoca, Iowa. The pitcher was sent to her by Professor Paul E. Cox, head of the Ceramic Engineering Department. He said it was sent in remembrance of what Mrs. Maier's father had done for Iowa State College.

Mrs. Maier has a collection of more than 400 pitchers of various kinds, shapes, sizes, and colors. Mrs. Maier, who is now more than 80 years old, received her first pitcher from her mother as a gift on her eighth birthday. The pitcher was one of her great-grandmother's wedding presents in 1774.

Several years ago she visited the Witch House, which is now a Curio Shop, and there was one like it. Mrs. Maier was just about to pick up the pitcher and examine it, when the attendant told her not to touch it, as she could never replace it, it was so rare, and expensive. The pitcher is genuine Meisener porcelaiin, of the first issue as indicated by the stamp on the bottom. Mrs. Maier learned this from a German ceramic art student.

A pitcher which was given to her grandparents on their wedding date in 1812, and one that was given to her parents on their wedding in 1840, are also in Mrs. Maier's collection, and are among those which she treasures most highly.

Many of the pitchers are the gifts of friends who have known of her hobby. She received seven for Christmas last year, one of which was sent by a friend of her son's from Honolulu. Another was a gift from a friend in Atlantic City. Some of them are souvenirs that she has collected in her travels, both in this country and in Europe. On her last trip to Europe she got one from each country she visited, so 16 pitchers were added to the collection.

Her son, Marque Maier, the author of "Journey's End" and "Daddy Davy," presented her with a Princeton pitcher in the school colors, orange and black, as a souvenir of the school of which he is a graduate. She also has a silver pitcher from the renowned Princeton Inn.

Four years ago Mrs. Maier had the misfortune to fall and break her hip, and was confined to the Jennie Edmundson Memorial Hospital for several weeks. When she left she was presented with a small silver pitcher by the hospital staff with the name of the hospital engraved upon it.

A pitcher so small that it was kept in an ordinary ring box is a souvenir from Shakespeare's home. She has two others the size of a small thimble, one of which has the words "Bevi Cara," and the other the words "Bevi Rene" upon it. The latter were brought from Old Mexico by her daughter.

Among the more choice pitchers in Mrs. Maier's collection are a Rudolstadt, a Royal Doulton, a green Wedgwood, a Royal Tournastill which has E. Pluribus union coat of arms, a Royal Saxony, an English Ware, with the picture of the Old Man of the Mountains upon it, a Royal Austrian with the coat of arms of the Dominion of Canada upon it, and one of Vienna China with the picture of the Horse Shoe Curve of the Pennsylvania Railroad upon it. A Luster Ware pitcher, for which the art of making has been lost, is a priceless treasure. Imitations are now being made, and she also has one made by the modern method.

Perhaps the most unusual pitcher that Mrs. Maier has is one that was found in the ruins of the San Francisco earthquake, and sent to her by a friend. It is a small porcelain pitcher, part of the bottom is chipped out, but the pitcher is filled with lava, ashes, and melted, nails. A Syrian brick pitcher brought her by her son, Marque, upon his return from the American University at Bierrut, has a most interesting bit of tradition connected with it. The pitcher has a narrow top, and a spout at the side. The Syrians drink from the pitcher, but it is held high from the mouth, and the water let pour into the mouth. Should anyone touch the spout with his mouth, the drink is broken, as it is then polluted, according to the Syrians.

Among the unusual shaped pitchers Mrs. Maier has are: a skull, a barrel, a little boy with tricorn hat, a monk, a policeman, an ear of corn, an orange with leaf handle, an egg with chicken handle, and a tomato.

If Mrs. Maier decided that she wanted some music at mealtime she might use her musical pitcher, which would provide her with three different tunes. The pitcher has a music box in the bottom, and was imported from Switzerland.

Mrs. Maier has started to catalog her pitchers, so that she may have a definite record of each one for future reference. She is being assisted by her daughter, with whom she makes her home since the death of her husband some years ago.

Let's Slip-cover It

LOT'S of gay material, many, many pins and a pair of good scissors, and you are ready to change your squatty chairs, puffy chairs and shabby chairs into gay, quaint additions to your living room. In other words, you are going to slip-cover them.

In making the slip cover the first step is to cut a circle or square, as the shape may be, just a trifle larger than the chair seat. Likewise, cut another piece to go over the back of the chair from the seat over and down as long as you wish the slip cover to be. Pin this piece to the seat piece and lay both of them on the chair.

The problem of covering the arms of the chair is apt to be a difficult one. The best way to handle it is to drape a portion of cloth over the arm, and pin it to fit on the other two pieces. It may be that an oval section can be darted in to fit all right, but sometimes a rectangle or square will smooth down beautifully over stiff arms.

After the slip cover has all been pinned together, carefully take it off and baste the pieces together as pins. This may either be done in flat seams, or a heavy cored piping may be inserted in the seam to give an added decoration.

Now the breath-taking ordeal of discovering whether or not it is going to fit. Slip it on, and if luck is with you, all that is necessary is to stitch the seams. However, if it bulges in places and draws in others, rip it up and begin again by recutting the odd-shaped pieces. A pleated or gathered flourice around the bottom of the slip cover adds an attractive touch and tends to relieve the severity of line.