
CANADIAN
HANDICRAFTS
GUILD

586 West St. Catherine Street,
Montreal



The Canadian Handicrafts Guild

Under the distinguished patronage of
HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-
GENERAL, and THE COUNTESS GREY



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MOUNT ROYAL.

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OUR HANDICRAFTS SHOP
586 West St. Catherine Street, Montreal

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1905

Council Members



LORD AND LADY STRATHCONA AND MOUNT
ROYAL.

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Indian

BASKETRY.

LEATHER WORK.

BEAD WORK.

EMBROIDERY.

French Canadian

CATALOGNES.

RUGS.

HOMESPUNS.

LINENS.

PORTIERES.

TABLE COVERS.

COUVREPIEDS.

BLANKETS.

CEINTURES FLECHEE.

CHAIRS.

English and Scotch

TWEEDS.

English, Irish and Italian

LACES.

Doukhobor and Galician

EMBROIDERY.

Canadian

POTTERY.

BRASS WORK.



THE CANADIAN HANDICRAFTS GUILD was organized to encourage, retain, revive and develop handicrafts and home art industries throughout the Dominion.

To prevent the loss and deterioration of these crafts.

To preserve knowledge and skill possessed by new settlers, and by giving them a market for good hand work, aiding them during the trying early days of their settlement in a new country.

To encourage industry and thrift in the homes of the people, making their work profitable and honourable by means of exhibitions of the products of their skill, thereby increasing the contentment in their homes, and at the same time enriching the Dominion.

To educate the public to the value of good hand work by holding and taking part in exhibitions at home and abroad, and by other means thought desirable.

To send out among the workers teachers and supervisors to keep up the standard of excellence, and

To keep records in order to prevent the extinction of any arts or crafts.

Exhibitions

During the past year exhibitions have been sent to

The Home Art and Industries Association, London, England.

The Confederation of Women's Clubs at Atlantic City, U.S.

The Made-in-Canada Fair, Ottawa.

St. John, N.B.

Alexandra.

Summer Exhibitions were held at Cacouna and North Hatley, aided by a local committee. Prizes were given by these ladies and the Guild, and interest was aroused among the visitors and the workers, the latter benefitting both educationally and financially.



Educational Exhibits have been sent to twelve County Fairs, held in

Goderich	Winchester
London, Ont.	Renfrew
Collingwood	Sherbrooke
Paris	Halifax
Bowmanville	Ottawa
Prescott	Morrisburg

amounting in all to nineteen Exhibitions out of town, and a large and important Exhibition held in the Art Gallery, Montreal, in February, 1905.

Work and Its Management

The Guild is an association of ladies and gentlemen who become members upon the payment of an annual subscription of not less than one dollar.

The work of the Guild is conducted by a committee of ladies and gentlemen, who elect the Council members.

A weekly meeting is held, when a report is given by the manager of Our Handicrafts Shop (the depot of the Guild for the receipt, sale and distribution of work), and all affairs in connection with its working are laid before the Committee. Also, matters relating to the general policy and outside work of the Guild are determined.

During the past year fifty regular meetings have been held, and in consequence of the great growth of the work it has been necessary to hold many extra meetings. Much of this extra work will be avoided when the Guild can afford a paid secretary, but so far the work is entirely voluntary, except in Our Handicraft Shop. The aim of the Guild is not to make money, but to put money in the hands of the workers while avoiding pauperizing them on the one hand or running the shop into debt on the other. There, the work must be made to pay for its own costs, while giving the worker a fair return for labour and skill.

Amount Paid to Workers and Area Reached

As a result of our efforts during the past year, we have paid to workers \$6,270.02, these workers living in forty-four counties, from Prince Edward Island to northern British Columbia.

Those familiar with the conditions of life in the farming districts will realize the importance of ready cash coming into the home life, even in comparatively small amounts, and any work which tends to keep intelligent young men and women contented on the farms by supplying them with an interesting means of earning extra money through the exercise of their own individual skill in spare hours is beyond question a benefit to the country at large.

Kind of Work Done by the Guild

As the Dominion has become the home of settlers from many other nations, the work carried on by the Guild is of a very varied kind. Historical and racial, as well as the individual characteristics of the craftsman are wrought into every article, therefore duplicates are rare, and from an artistic standpoint undesirable.

From the French-Canadians we have home-spun woollens, linens, catalognes, rugs, blankets, portieres, etc. The home-spuns are more evenly woven than ever before and the weaves more intricate. These articles coming to us now in most artistic shades, dyed with pure vegetable dyes in soft tones of blue, green, etc., the dyes, through the experiments of the Guild, being proved to the women, many of whom had forgotten how to extract lovely permanent colors from the plants by which they are surrounded, though the work was well known to their grandmothers.

It has been noticed that Canadian homespuns are beginning to be well known, and are much sought after for durability and for beauty of texture.

The catalognes, or rag carpets, in their variety illustrate the growth of the handicrafts revival.

The ceinture flechees, the long sash of many colours that every voyageur must have bound around him, is still being made by an old weaver. Any one who has fingered the hard woven close texture of the ceinture will understand that so fine is the work done that a weaver can rarely do more than four inches in one day.

From Lower Canada we also have many designs in hand made chairs and stools, so desirable now for the modern country house. The Guild in this work is encouraging not a factory product but a home industry, limited by the conditions of home life, with its artistic advantages and commercial disadvantages.

The Indian work has been the most difficult to influence, but a little fostering care is already beginning to tell, and these craftsmen will soon be able to keep their old-time skill and to reclaim what they have lost in simplicity and purity of taste. The basket work of the Indians of the Pacific Coast is extremely artistic and the workmanship is remarkably skilled and fine. Many of the finer baskets take months to make and are most valuable. Indian bead and porcupine quill embroideries also show great skill and patience, and good specimens are consequently very costly. Through the encouragement of the Guild, articles for

present day use are now being made by the women and girls at Caughnawaga. One blind girl makes pretty electric light shades, and through the Guild gets many orders for these. Michel Massie, a cripple boy of Little Metis, is a special protege of the Handicrafts Guild. He was the victim three years ago of a railway accident, which left him almost helpless. He was taught basket making by a member of the Guild ; now he is a skillful and intelligent worker, happy and practically self-supporting.

We are also working with the Doukhobors and Galicians and affording them means of selling their well known embroideries, the Guild helping them to adapt their work and skill to the needs of the public.

Lace Making

Within the last year, certainly since the important exhibition held by the Guild last spring in the Art Gallery, Montreal, lace making has become a remunerative industry. So far, more Irish lace makers have availed themselves of the opportunity than English. Collars, berthas, etc., of Carrick Macross and Limerick lace have been sold that could not be improved on for excellence, and many examples of Irish crochet have also been sold. In Ontario some Honiton (pillow lace) workers have been discovered, and these women are now working for the Guild.

It is with regret that we are obliged to admit that educational operations are somewhat limited by the smallness of our means, and other conditions.

Now is the time to prevent our home arts—those brought in to us by our immigrants, those belonging to Lower Canada—from disappearing altogether. If the effort be not made within the next few years Canada will be the poorer through the loss of artistic hand work, which, if preserved, may spread the fame of her craftsmen abroad.