

FOUNDED 1872

HANDICRAFT

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SOCIETY BIOGRAPHIES.

THE MINNEAPOLIS SOCIETY OF ARTS & CRAFTS.

THE Minneapolis Society of Arts and Crafts was organized in January, 1895, under the name of the Chalk and Chisel Club. This early club was made up of a group of thirteen women interested in design and wood carving. Its requirements for membership were rather strenuous; one was that "each designer shall be required to furnish not more than twelve nor less than six pieces of work for the annual exhibit" and each wood-carver "not more than eight nor less than six."

From the beginning this annual exhibition was an important feature of the club. At first it was held in the home of one of the members but it soon outgrew such quarters. The first large exhibition was held in 1898 and included some three hundred entries representative of different parts of the country. The society felt repaid for its trouble by having brought for the first time to the notice of the city such work as the Rookwood pottery, the Deerfield industries and hand wrought jewelry.

At the time of this exhibition the Society numbered only seventeen members but it included among them enthusiastic pioneer spirits in the then but recently recognized crafts. The founder and first president of the organization was Miss Gertrude Leanord. She was succeeded by Mrs. Ruth Wilson Tice who was one of those early identified with the Rookwood Pottery. Mrs. Amelia Center, now of Oak Park,

Illinois, was both in herself and in her leather work an inspiration.

The great success of the first exhibition brought the consequent demand for a larger membership. Since the work of the Society seemed so well to accord with the arts and crafts spirit growing into life and action in England and in this country the name of the society was accordingly changed to the Society of Arts and Crafts and later to the Minneapolis Society of Arts and Crafts and provision was made for both active and associate membership along art craft lines.

This society has held in all five large exhibitions in 1898, 1901, 1903, 1904 and 1906.

Of late years the establishment of permanent show rooms in our city such as the Artcraft Shop and the Handicraft Guild, (show rooms conducted by members of the society,) have made exhibitions unnecessary.

The society has therefore extended its work to outlying districts. Last winter (1909-10) a travelling exhibition was sent out under the auspices of the State Federated Women's Clubs. It was placed in some twelve of the smaller towns of the state. This work will be continued in 1909-1911 and will be further enlarged by the offer of the Minneapolis Society of Arts and Crafts to act as an intermediary for workers and buyers in out of the way places. The Society aims to furnish to both the craftsman and the purchaser information which would be in any way of value to either, such as names of sales-rooms, names of instructors, and so forth, and it al-

so offers to aid by the criticism of design and workmanship.

In this way it follows out its avowed object "to encourage the production of artistic handicraft, to establish mutual and helpful relations between designer and craftsman and to stimulate appreciation of harmony and fitness in design."

The present officers are as follows: *President*, Mrs. H. S. Woodruff; *Vice-President*, Miss Bertha McMillan; *Secretary*, Miss Marion A. Parker *Treasurer*, Miss Nellie Trufant; *Executive Committee*, above officers and Miss Edith Griffith, Miss Harriet Carmichael and Mrs. Ambrose Helmick, all of whom serve until the next annual meeting in April.

THE HANDICRAFT GUILD, MINNEAPOLIS.

THE Handicraft Guild of Minneapolis was organized for the advancement of art interests, especially in the handicrafts.

A small beginning was made in a salesroom on the fourth floor of a business block where articles were sold on commission. Almost immediately came the demand for instruction in the crafts. Classes were formed and competent instructors employed. From this modest beginning the Guild arrived in less than four years to the dignity of a three story building especially designed for its needs. There are shops equipped for production in the various crafts and the Guild craftsmen produce much of the work placed on sale. The Guild workshops have helped to create as well as supply a demand for specially designed and well made articles. The metal department is frequent-

ly called upon to design, and make suitable fittings for definite places.

The Handicraft Guild pottery has become well known for its beauty of form and quiet, rich color. Architects are interested in the tiles produced and orders for specially designed mantles are frequently received. The crafts represented in the salesrooms are taught in the Guild school by the craftsmen in charge of the various departments, thereby insuring practical, workmanlike methods and good structural design. From September to May classes are conducted and a special summer session is held during June and July. The combination of school, productive workshops and salesrooms unites the interest of a large number of workers. In addition to the rooms used by the Guild, there are several studios occupied by cooperating craftsmen.

The assembly hall is a valuable adjunct to the Guild. Between three and four hundred people may be seated, and with the permanent equipment of stereopticon and piano the hall may be used for many purposes including lectures, special exhibitions, concerts and social gatherings.

The management of the building and the various interests of the Guild are assumed by the officers of the corporation: *President*, M. Emma Roberts; *Vice-President*, Florence D. Willets; *Secretary and Treasurer*, Florence Wales.