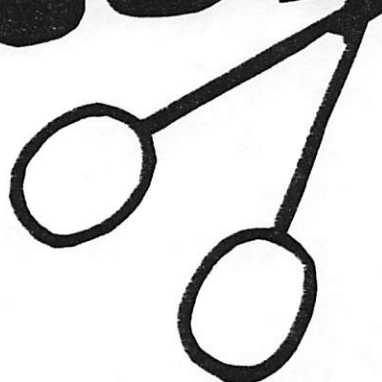


# FIRST CUT



Volume 1-1

Inaugural Edition, April 1988  
Steven R. Woodbury  
Editor Pro Tem

masthead designed by Steven R. Woodbury

## PAPERCUTTING GUILD TO BE FORMED

FIRST CUT/ will be the newsletter of the new mid-Atlantic papercutters guild. If you want to keep receiving it, write (now) for information about joining. If I knew all the details, I'd include them; come to the business meeting May 1 and help finalize them.

About twenty papercutters from northern Virginia, Maryland, and southeastern Pennsylvania met on February 23 in Hershey, Pennsylvania, and agreed to form a regional papercutting guild. We shared examples of our work, ate (sumptuously), and had an initial discussion and business meeting. The group agreed to hold general membership meetings at least twice a year, on weekends. A business meeting was scheduled for May 1 in Washington, D.C., to coincide with the opening of the Dan Paulos (et al.) show.

We discussed the importance of starting small, but we hope that similar regional groups will form elsewhere, which would then coalesce into a national papercutters guild.

Workgroups formed to discuss 1) organization of the guild, 2) a newsletter, and 3) putting on a papercutting show next year at the Hershey museum. Time was limited, and few firm decisions were reached.

**GUILD** Topics discussed included purposes, organization, geographic area (small enough to have regular meetings), name, membership (perhaps with "general" members and "juried" members?), dues, ....

**NEWSLETTER** Discussion included frequency (quarterly?), style (functional, not fancy), need for an editor (ideally two or three people in the same area), name, costs, ....

**SHOW** The group plans to sponsor a papercut show at the Hershey Museum from February through May 1989. The broad theme of "Hearts and Flowers" was proposed.

I agreed to produce and distribute one (1) issue of FIRST CUT/ to announce the May 1 meeting and to solicit interest in the Guild. If you do not write, this is the last issue you will receive.

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### 1989 "HEARTS AND FLOWERS" SHOW IN HERSHEY



The committee planning for the papercut show next spring at the Hershey Museum met again in early April, and plans are progressing well. The show will run from February 12 through May 14, 1989. A printed program will include a list of works, and names and addresses of participating artists. For further information, and entry forms, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Mary Lou "Sukey" Harris, 514 E. Main Street, Annville, PA 17003. There will be a small processing fee for entries.

The show will also include antique papercuttings, silhouettes and miniatures, and "tools of the trade." A locked glass display case is available for these. If you own or know of items which might be available for this display, please send the information to Sukey Harris.

### CONTEST! CONTEST! SEE YOUR WORK IN PRINT!

FIRST CUT/ plans to use a different masthead for each issue. Submissions must include the name "FIRST CUT/", must be cut paper, and should reflect the general theme of papercutting in motif or execution. Selection and publication of a masthead are at the (sole and arbitrary) discretion of the Editor; full credit will be given. No entries will be returned.

### EDITOR NEEDED -- TAKE YOUR FIRST STEP TO FAME AND FORTUNE

In case I wasn't explicit enough above, I do not have time available to serve as editor of FIRST CUT/. The position of editor is open, and applicants are being sought. (Also assistants, typists, paste-up persons, address-label stickers-on, and other support personnel.) All members will be responsible for sending in articles, news items, book reviews, or whatever. But no editor, no newsletter.



## TIDBITS

**Hawaiian Quilts** The January/February 1988 issue of *Americana* magazine has an article about Hawaiian quilts ("Do it, Mealii", pp. 44-48). Patterns for the bold symmetrical designs are initially cut out of paper, folded in eighths. Well illustrated.

**Indonesian Shadow Puppets** *Javanese Wayang Kulit* describes the traditions and puppets of the traditional shadow theater of Java. Numerous colored and black and white photographs illustrate traditional performances (which could last all night), as well as a few of the scores of puppets intricately cut from leather. (Edward C. Van Ness and Shita Prowirhardjo, Oxford University Press, Singapore, 1980, ISBN-0-19-580414-7)

**Frank Joest Patterns** At the Hershey meeting I learned of a new line of scherenschnitte patterns published by Frank Joest. Included are 4 large patterns for the intermediate or advanced cutter, and three kits for the experienced cutter. (Papercuttings by Joest, RD 4, Box 4282, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301)

**Gerlachs' Catalog** If you don't know about Gerlachs of Lecha, you'll thank me for this unsolicited testimonial. They have the best selection of scherenschnitte books and supplies that I know of. Their Nostalgic Crafts Catalog comes out in the fall, and is available for \$2.00. (PO Box 213, Emmaus, PA 18049)

**Polly Winkler-Mitchell** I recently discovered the cuttings of Polly Winkler-Mitchell; besides originals and custom work she publishes books, calendars, prints, and cards. Write for a brochure. (RR #4, Box 128, Carbondale, IL 62901)



**German Die-Cut Silhouettes** I have recently acquired a catalog, apparently from the 1920's or 1930's, offering German die-cut silhouette pictures for sale by mail-order in the United States. About 70 designs are included, including some two-tone cuttings. It is the source of the illustrations throughout this newsletter. The catalog includes a Hansel and Gretel diecut I purchased a few years ago. If you have any information about the distributor, Marg. Baumann, in Eisenach, Germany, I would be welcome it. If you have any die-cut silhouettes of this period, I would be happy to check them against the entries in this catalog (send a photocopy).

**Chinese Papercuts** If you want a source for Chinese papercuts, and you aren't going to China soon, write to China Books and Periodicals and ask for their current catalog and their papercut catalog. Included is a large cutting (41" x 8") entitled "10,000 horses running" (I have it over my desk at work), postcards of traditional papercuts, and sets on a wide variety of themes. (2929 Twenty-fourth Street, San Francisco, CA 94110)

**Class in Cut Paper Illustration** David Wisniewski is offering a class in Cut Paper Illustration at the Montpelier Cultural Arts Center in Laurel, Maryland, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm six Tuesday evenings beginning May 10. For information, call 953-1993 before April 22.



### BUSINESS MEETING

A business meeting will be held at the Paul VI Institute for the Arts, 924 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20001, from 12:30 to 2:30 pm on Sunday, May 1, 1988. Anyone interested in helping organize the mid-Atlantic papercutters guild is invited. The Institute is located across the street from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Public Library, between the Metro Center and Gallery Place Metro stations.

### DAN PAULOS PAPER CUT SHOW

"Expressions of Faith", a show of cuttings by Dan Paulos of Albuquerque, NM, and guests, will be at the Paul VI Institute for the Arts from May 1 through May 29, 1988 (924 G. Street NW, Washington DC 20001; 202 347-1450). Dan has invited thirty-two other cutters to enter works in the show. There are no evening hours; the only weekend hours are the opening and artist reception on May 1, from 2:00 to 5:00 pm. Dan, and several other papercutters from around the country, will be in town for the opening. Hope to see you there!

#### FIRST CUT/

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FIRST CLASS  
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*Hope you like it -  
Looking forward to  
seeing you on the first.  
Steve*

