



Volume 2-1

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Steven Woodbury

Editor And Tom

Masthead  
designed and  
cut by Steven  
Roy Woodbury

### Cuttings of Karl Frölich

In 1961 "Karl Frölich's Frolicks with Scissors and Pen" was published in England. It is a collection of papercuttings, accompanied by verse. To capitalize on its popularity, the publisher soon introduced a papercutting kit. "Karl Frölich's Implements and Materials for Practising the 'Black Art.'" The kit, and a later American edition of the book, are both on display in the "Heartcutters" Exhibition in Hershey.

The kit included:

12 sets of designs  
black paper for cutting  
red transfer paper  
tracing paper  
scissors

board  
drawing pins  
knife  
tracing point  
lead pencil

The sample designs were originally scissorcut, but are reproduced by woodcut. (The cutter of the wood blocks took a few liberties, resulting in some lines that cannot be reproduced in scissorcut.)

While the kit was intended for "young people," the designs -- even much enlarged -- would be a challenge to the "advanced" hobbyist of today. The illustrations in this issue are reproduced, at original scale, from the kit. The publisher assures us, however, that

All the designs have been published from original cuttings, and hence young people will have no difficulty in producing the best results, if they carefully attend to the rules laid down by Karl Frölich.

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The instructions include the same advice given to beginning scissor cutters today:

See that the little artists ... complete the inner parts of the picture first -- such for instance as the fibres of leaves, the inside of flowers, the space between the feet of animals, and so forth. It is only when all these have been completed, that the youthful aspirants are to be allowed to form the outer contour.

The most important rule is that the paper should always move round the scissors. The scissors are merely to open and shut in the right hand; ... while the left hand must acquire the knack of producing the silhouette by turning the drawing round and round, as the case may require, with a degree of intelligence, the right hand continues to remove, almost mechanically, all that does not belong to the picture.



#### MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUES

A query from your editor: I have cut red tissue paper folded to 16 or 24 thicknesses for large valentines. Mounted on white there is no problem with its partial transparency. White tissue paper mounted on a dark backing is not as satisfactory. Can anyone recommend a reasonably opaque white paper that is thin enough to cut through multiple thicknesses?

Another question, from Stuart Copans, Brattleboro, VT: Do you know of a good source for gummed silhouette paper?

Send in your questions -- and your answers!! Let's make this a useful information exchange for Guild members.

## OCTOBER MEETING

The Mid-Atlantic Chapter held its fall meeting at the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia on October 9. After a short business session, Tsirl Waletsky, Ethan Weiner Kaplan, and Karen Shain Schloss exhibited and spoke about Jewish papercutting. There was an extensive discussion of the production of limited editions of a cutting through the commercially available laser processes.

### UPCOMING CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

- February 12, 1989 10:00 am to noon. Meeting of Mid-Atlantic Chapter, Hershey Museum of American Life, Hershey, PA.
- February 12, 1989 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Hearts and Flowers Show reception for artists, guests, friends and the public.
- February 12 --  
May 14, 1989 Hearts and Flowers show, Hershey Museum of American Life, hours 10:00 am to 5:00 pm daily including weekends (open last Tuesday of month until 9:00 pm).
- April 10, 1989 Newsletter deadline. Submit all items for the fourth issue of FIRST CUT/ to Steve Woodbury, 5250 Lonsdale Drive, Springfield, VA, 22151.
- May 14, 1989 Hearts and Flowers Show, closing day events:
- 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Silhouette Cutting by Helen and Nel Laughon. These experts, featured in "Traditional Home" magazine, Spring 1988, will be cutting silhouettes by appointment. For advance appointment call Museum at 717 534-3439. \$15.00 per sitting includes 2 silhouettes; a \$5.00 deposit will hold your place.
- 2:00 pm. Lecture by Helen and Nel Laughon
- 3:00 pm. Drawing for cut paper door prizes and announcement of highest bidder for papercuttings.
- 5:00 pm. show closes.
- May 20, 1989 (early afternoon, tentative) Mid-Atlantic Chapter meeting, Montpelier Cultural Arts Center (in Laurel, MD, off the Baltimore-Washington Parkway). Featured will be David Wisniewski's show of papercut illustrations, and a talk by David about his cutting, and about the production of his new book.

... It is an occupation that can be carried on everywhere, without any preparation, besides affording a source of endless amusement.

-- Karl Frölich, 1861





## TIDBITS

**Ernst Oppliger** Just arrived from Switzerland: Die Kunst des Scherenschnittes mit Ernst Oppliger. (Alfred Schneider, Verlag Paul Haupt, Bern und Stuttgart, SF65.) A splendid book, featuring a marvelous artist. I had seen a few reproductions of his cuttings, and his work was in the Winterthur show in Switzerland and the Cooper-Hewitt show in New York a few years back (remember that spectacular circular Noah's ark, with 13 decks, and lacy waves and rainbow?). The book (in German) includes a wide selection of Oppliger's work, as well as photographs of his family, his home, and the surrounding countryside. This is a MUST book for anyone seriously interested in paper-cutting. My friendly local art and German bookstore plans to order several copies; it is expected to sell for around \$40 to \$45, and shipping in the US would be another couple of dollars. If you are interested, write 1) asking to order and be billed, or 2) asking to be notified of availability and exact price: Franz Bader Books, 1911 Eye Street NW, Washington, DC, 20006.

**Trudy Kauffman** Trudy recently sent me a copy of a booklet she published in 1982, Scherenschnitte for Beginners, Pennsylvania Dutch Patterns. What I like about it especially is the graded series of patterns: each new design adds a single new feature to give the beginner increasing skill and confidence.

**Yael Hoz' Research on American and Mexican Papercutting** Yael Hoz has conducted extensive research on paper cutting around the world. She was guest curator, and editor of the catalog, for the recent show at the Haifa Museum of Music and Ethnology in Israel. She is in the United States this winter and spring doing research on American and Mexican papercuts. Yael is compiling a detailed checklist of American and Canadian papercuts of the 18th and 19th centuries in museums, publications, and private collections, and studying their roots in Europe. She writes, "My main problems are how to access additional yet unidentified private collectors, and to receive their agreement to document their treasures." If you might be able to assist in this effort, write to Yael Hoz at 2200 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, N814, Philadelphia, PA 19130.

**Swiss Papercutting** Paper Cuts by Johann-Jacob Hauswirth and Louis-David Saugy is the softbound English version of a volume first published in Switzerland (in German, French, and Italian). If you don't have this book there may still be a chance to get it. The fall-winter catalog of Hacker Art Books lists it at \$9.95 (published at \$16.95). (54 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10019; add \$2.00 for shipping.)

**Britta Kling** Britta wrote in November that she was scheduled to give a three-day workshop at the La Jolla Athenaeum on the "History and Execution of the Scherenschnitte."

**Dan Paulos** Dan recently sent a four-page brochure illustrating twenty-three of his original papercut designs. Most of these were shown in his shows in Washington in the spring of 1988 and 1986. Reproductions are available in offset or serigraph. (Dan Paulos, 302 Chama Street, N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87108-2023; 505-265-9126)

**Claire Archer** Claire writes from New Jersey to tell us she will be in a show in Little Silver Borough in February. She has juried into the Ocean County Artist Guild open show, and slides of her work were included in the classes given at the Cooper-Hewitt Museum in October. Her cutting "Generations" was recently published as a 5" x 7" art card by Double Heart Artists in Lancaster County (carried by the Landis Valley Museum Shop). (Claire Archer, 215 Third Avenue, Belmar, NJ 07719.)

**Portuguese Papercutting** An article in the July/August issue of Atlantis (Air Portugal's in-flight magazine) describes a Portuguese tradition of papercutting. Lady cuttings are made to line, and to decorate the outside of, boxes of sugar plums. There are several illustrations. (Bela Jardim, "Papel de Papel, Uma Arte Tradicional/Lace-Paper, A Traditional Art" in Portuguese and English.)

**Leslie A. Miller** Leslie will be showing and selling her papercuts, silkscreens, and cards at the New England Folk Festival, Natick (MA) High School, April 21-22. (Great dancing, music, and food too! --SRW)

**Claudia Hopf on TV** Claudia Hopf was scheduled to be featured on the ABC Home Show on January 17; I didn't get to watch, and haven't heard any reviews yet. Apparently the crew was in her home for 14 hours to do the taping for 2 1/2 minutes of show time!

**Tsirl Waletzky** Tsirl will be exhibiting March 1-30, 1989, at the YM-YWHA, 450 W. 250th Street, Riverdale, NY. 10471.

**David Wisniewski Cut Paper Illustrations** Soon to be published is a book written and illustrated by David Wisniewski. (Look for a review in the next issue. I have an unbound copy of the book to bring to the meeting in Hershey -- it's gorgeous.) An exhibition of the original cut paper illustrations will be held May 4 through 30 at the Montpelier Cultural Arts Center in Laurel MD. The Mid-Atlantic Chapter spring meeting will be held here on May 20 (tentative), with David as the featured speaker.

**Frank Joest** Frank wrote to say he will be participating in a show in Stroudsburg PA, March 12, 1989. If you will be nearby, you can get details from Frank at RD 4, Box 4282, E. Stroudsburg, PA 18301.

Received too late for the previous issue:



Tsirl Waletzky offered a four-session class in New York last November on Judaic Papercutting.

Claire Archer had solo exhibits at the Eastern Branch of the Monmouth County (NJ) Library in September, and at the Headquarters in December. She was in a two-artist exhibition in January at the Visitor Center Gallery, Thompson Park, Lincroft NJ (Monmouth County Park System).

Walter von Gunten held an exhibit in the Planetarium Gallery in Chapel Hill (NC) in October.





## DESIGNERS WANTED -- NATIONAL EXPOSURE ASSURED

FIRST CUT/ will continue to use a different masthead for each issue. We would like to reflect the work of different Guild members. 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.

The Guild also needs a brochure and stationery. If you would like to help design these, talk to a Steering Committee member. Ideally, they would reflect (in a unified way) the variety of styles of papercutting represented by our members.

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

At the October meeting, the following officers were approved. Presently unfilled are positions of Corresponding Secretary and Editor. At the May meeting, we hope to propose a new slate of officers. Please volunteer, or submit nominations: talk to any of Steering Committee members.

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## COOPER-HEWITT MUSEUM WORKSHOP

Tairi wrote in October: "... I went to the workshop on "Scherenschnitte" given by Marjorie Freund at the Cooper-Hewitt Museum. It was on an elementary level, but there were things I did learn. Two things I will tell you about and if you wish, they can be added to the upcoming "First Cut." Marjorie Freund mounts here cuttings (beautiful animals -- particularly horses -- she is originally from Kentucky) on calico cotton fabrics. She then picks up the pattern and paints them on the wooden frame introduced the works of Mrs. Claire Archer. Very different, very exciting. The are watercolors and cut paper. ... I don't know very much about her, but her work should be seen! ... Warm regards to the cutters."



Remember:

- o If you haven't joined, join now!
- o Tell your papercutting friends to join!
- o Volunteers and nominations are needed for officers, steering committee, and especially for FIRST CUT/ Editor, and Corresponding Secretary.
- o Send in your items for the next FIRST CUT/ before April 10. Think about what news, questions, show announcements, book reviews other Guild members would be interested in.



The knack of cutting out rosettes, flowers, and groups of animals and human beings, in black paper, by the help of a pair of scissors, has at all times been cultivated with great zest by individual amateurs; for the occupation is one that possesses many charms in itself, and even the partially successful productions of this branch of art are viewed with pleasure by everybody.

-- Karl Frölich, 1861

## WHAT IS THE GUILD OF AMERICAN PAPER CUTTERS?

In response to many inquiries, here is a capsule history of the Guild of American Papercutters, and information on how to join.

The Guild was formed 1988 by a group of papercutters in the Mid-Atlantic region

- o to promote fellowship among papercutters,
- o to share information through programs and meetings,
- o to spread the word about papercutting through shows, publications, and demonstrations.

The Guild of American Papercutters is an umbrella name under which, we hope, many regional chapters will be developed.

The Mid-Atlantic Chapter, the first of these groups, encompasses PA, VA, DC, DE, MD, NJ, and surrounding areas. Our present activities include organizing the "Hearts and Flowers" show in Hershey, holding three membership meetings per year, developing by-laws, and producing the newsletter FIRST CUT/.

At-Large Members are welcome to join, from those areas of the country which do not yet have a chapter.

Dues are \$15.00/yr; send a check to Trudy Kaufmann, Treasurer, 1451 Friedensburg Road, Reading, PA 19606. And tell your friends about it too!

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