



Volume 3-3

III:3 September 1990  
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American Papercutters

Masthead cut  
by Tsirl Waletsky

**OCTOBER MEETING** Karen Shain Schloss now has her own store! We will have a meeting (and "store-warming") on Sunday October 14, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at The Frame House, 7780 Montgomery Ave., Elkins Park, PA (directions on page 9). Following the business portion of the meeting, Karen will present a workshop on framing and mounting, covering:

- o A quick survey to demystify the confusion of terms: "archival," "conservation," "acid-free," etc.;
- o Mounting -- wet mounts, tabs, drymounting;
- o Framing -- overview of frame design (proportion, color, texture);
- o You-can-do-it framing (as time allows) -- measuring, glasscutting, putting it all together, finishing.

The Executive Committee will meet from 11:30 to 1:00, before the meeting.

**NABISCO SHOW** The Guild will sponsor a holiday show from mid-December to mid-January at the Nabisco Gallery in New Jersey. The theme is your interpretation of any subject appropriate to the holidays. Any Guild member may participate, north, south, west; this is not just a Mid-Atlantic show. Claire Archer is planning to meet with staff of the gallery next week (with a lot of questions) to work out details. She suggests that you plan to use plexiglass in works to be shipped, to eliminate accidents and possible damage to work. Most of us have probably seen how broken glass can shred an intricate paper cutting.

Please write now (right now) to Claire Archer if you will or may participate, so that she can send details as soon as they are available (215 Third Avenue, Belmar, NJ 07719; (201) 681-5288).

**SUMMER 1991 SHOW** The Guild will hold a show in August 1991 at the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts in Hagerstown, MD. We will be requested to submit photos for publicity purposes in the spring of 1991. The Museum will send postcards to their patron list, promote the show in their Calendar of Events brochure, and do media advertising. Their staff will also hang the exhibit. At least 20,000 visitors are expected. (Continued p. 2)

**Summer Show (continued)** So if you have cuttings which don't fit the holiday theme of the Nabisco show, plan to enter them in next summer's show. And -- we need a committee to start working on this project. The actual workload for us will be lighter than for the Hershey exhibit; please volunteer! Call Sukey Harris at 717 867-2554 (514 East Main Street, Annville, PA 17003).

**NOTES FROM THE MAY MEETING** (Thanks to Sharon Schaich) The spring meeting of the Guild of American Papercutters, Mid-Atlantic Chapter, was held on Saturday, May 5, 1990, at the Bucks County Free Library, Doylestown, PA. Preceding the meeting Terry McNealy of the Spruance Library, Mercer Museum, presented antique cuttings from the Bucks County Historical Society collection.

The members present selected a logo from among the three designs submitted. Blanche Turner's design was selected, and has been refined by Blanche and Karen Shain Schloss. The letterhead design submitted by Paul Beale was unanimously accepted; the logo will be incorporated in the center of Paul's design, with his permission.

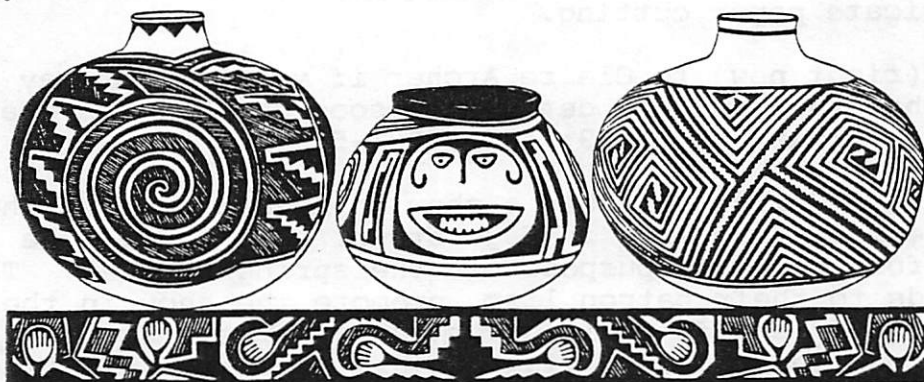
The Holiday show at the Nabisco gallery was discussed. Since the planned opening day of the show is a Wednesday (December 12) we decided that the winter meeting will be held at the end of the show in January.

The draft by-laws state that the nominating committee reports at the fall meeting, and the slate of officers is published in the fall newsletter. Sharon Schaich and Doreen Rhodes volunteered to work on nominations. Please call if you are interested in being on the executive committee or helping in other ways (Sharon: 717 626-4330, 411 Woodcrest Ave, Lititz, PA 17543; Doreen: 717 867-4729, 315 Ridge Road, Annville, PA 17003).

Recruitment of new members was discussed; this is something for each of us to do. Copy and use the enclosed sign to tell people about the Guild. Also, Donna Little volunteered to write a letter to the editor of Early American Life.

Designs for the Birthday Calendar project should be submitted by February 1, 1991. Watch the next FIRST CUT/ for more details.

After the meeting, Blanche Turner presented a brief history of silhouette cutting. This was followed by a silhouette cutting session and refreshments.



"Hands And Clay" copyright Elzbieta Kaleta, reproduced by permission



**MASTHEAD** Any member is invited to contribute a cutting for the masthead of FIRST CUT/. The masthead this issue was cut last spring by Tsirl Waletsky. She writes, "The cock at sunrise is to announce the first Spring of the new decade: 'the 90's.' The bird is the symbol for freedom, which is taking hold in many parts of the world."

**LET OTHERS SEE YOUR WORK** FIRST CUT/ would like to continue to share the work being done by Guild members, but we want to be sure we have your authorization to print it. Please send sharp black-and-white reproductions with a signed note to the effect that "I authorize the Guild of American Papercutters to reproduce the following works in FIRST CUT/: (name and date of each work)." We will include credit and a copyright notice.

**VOLUNTEERS** Want to help? There are lots of ways. Help the FIRST CUT/ editor by writing to publishers for permission to reprint material in conjunction with articles or reviews (write to the editor). Help organize the Holiday Show or the Summer Show; or present a demonstration or a workshop (write to Claire Archer or Sukey Harris). Be on the Executive Committee, or help in other ways (write to the Nominating Committee). And spread the word about the Guild! (Everybody.)

**LOGO SIGN** When you display or sell your papercuts, let people know about the Guild. Photocopy the attached sign, and display it on your booth.

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FOR INFORMATION WRITE TO:

**GUILD OF  
AMERICAN PAPER CUTTERS**

**Richard Harris**

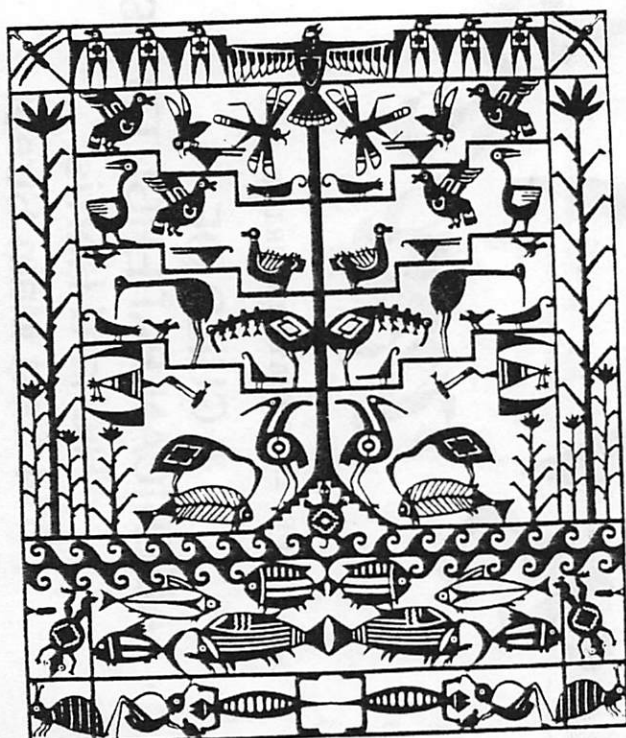
**514 East Main Street  
Annville, PA 17003-1511**



"Tree of Life" No. 42  
copyright Elżbieta Kaleta



"Tree of Life" No. 40  
copyright Elżbieta Kaleta



"Bosque del Apache" copyright Elżbieta Kaleta

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## Profile: Elżbieta Wiktorja Kaleta

While I was in Albuquerque on a business trip last spring, Dan Paulos introduced me to Elżbieta Wiktorja Kaleta. A colorful "kodry" cutting of a Palm Sunday procession was included in the Santa Fe show, and later that day we had a chance to visit. I was particularly struck by the liveliness of her traditional Polish designs (with beautifully realistic animals), and by her stunning adaptations of Southwestern Indian and Spanish motifs.

Elżbieta was born and raised in Kraków, Poland. She earned a Ph.D. in biology, and also studied painting and illustrated biology texts. In 1981 she came to the United States for postdoctoral research at Harvard, and finally settled in Albuquerque with her husband and their two children.

The August issue of American Artist magazine features her "Bosque del Apache" which won a national art competition with a resource preservation theme. Another piece, a winner in the international "Man and Nature" contest, will be featured in a book being published in Japan this fall.



"Carlsbad Caverns I" copyright Elżbieta Kaleta

#### EXPRESSIONS OF FAITH 4

I visited this national show in Santa Fe last spring with Dan Paulos, who organized it. It was hung in the beautiful 200-year-old Santuario de Guadalupe, which was built in the 1780s as a mission church and recently restored. During the summer the show moved to Dallas. I cannot begin to describe or do justice to the 46 cuttings in the show, so I am glad Dan is producing a videotape of the show. (Details in the next issue.) It's always exciting to see new works by familiar artists, to discover artists I haven't seen before, and to see new techniques which stretch my conception of papercutting.

Dan decided to award prizes at the show, since several cutters had expressed frustration that other artists could list prizes on their resumes. (Papercutters seldom receive them because jurors don't seem to know how to categorize the artform.) He invited a Catholic priest, a Jewish rabbi, and a Lutheran minister to judge the show; in future shows, Dan plans to ask prizewinners from this show to serve as judges.

Following is a list of the winning works, with a few of my own reactions.

- Best of Show: "Eternal Glory" by Ursula Hamann. A large and complex work; I wanted more time to study it.
- Most Proficient Technique: "The Garden" by Merrilee Ottenbacher. Delicate scissor cutting in a traditional German style, but with wonderful birds and animals. (Merrilee comes by her talent honestly -- Hans Bittner as her grandfather.)
- Most Proficient Design: "And Peace on Earth" by Susanne Cook-Greuter. Traditional Swiss design, with an elaborate border, delicate background color, and overlaid "medallions" depicting different animals.
- Most Inspirational Design: "The Scourging at the Pillar" by Dan Paulos [awarded over his protest]. Full of tension; dark with a radiant halo.
- Most Popular Design: "Joy!" by Britta Kling. Overflowing with her wonderful delicate flowers.
- Honorable Mention: "Palm Sunday" by Elzbieta Kaleta. The traditional Polish multi-colored scenes so often seem static, this has wonderful dynamism and motion in the flying birds and blowing ribbons.
- Honorable Mention: "In the Beginning" by Pami Slatt-Fagelson. This was also in the Washington show; depiction of the six days of the creation, with Hebrew calligraphy.
- Honorable Mention: "A Meditation on Loving-Kindness" by Shendl Diamond. Beautiful white cutting, with calligraphy, on delicate colored background (also in the 1986 Washington show).
- Honorable Mention: "But Who Will Take Care Of It" Walter von Gunten for his portion of the collaborative cutting. What can I say? If you've seen Walter's work you know it was marvelous.
- SRW

## TIDBITS

**New Book by David Wisniewski.** David Wisniewski has published a new book! Elfwyn's Saga is published by Lothrop, Lee and Shepard books, \$13.95; again, all the illustrations are cut from paper (using more than a thousand X-Acto blades). The story is an adaptation of an Icelandic legend about the origin of the Northern Lights. Those members who attended the Guild meeting a year ago spring featuring the illustrations for David's first book will rush to your bookstores today, and the rest of you should as well. (Actually, my bookstore hasn't received it yet, though I've been pestering them; all this information is from a laudatory review in the Washington Post.)

## MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUES

**Materials for Paper Conservation** Looking for acid-buffered tissue paper? Archival storage boxes? Acid-neutral glue? Japanese or marbled papers? A pH testing pen, to test whether your paper is acid-free? These and much more are included in the Archival Quality Materials Catalog from University Products, Inc., 517 Main Street, P.O. Box 101, Holyoke, MA 01041-0101. (Many of these items are also distributed in the West by Conservation Materials, Ltd, 1165 Marietta Way, Sparks, NV 89431.)

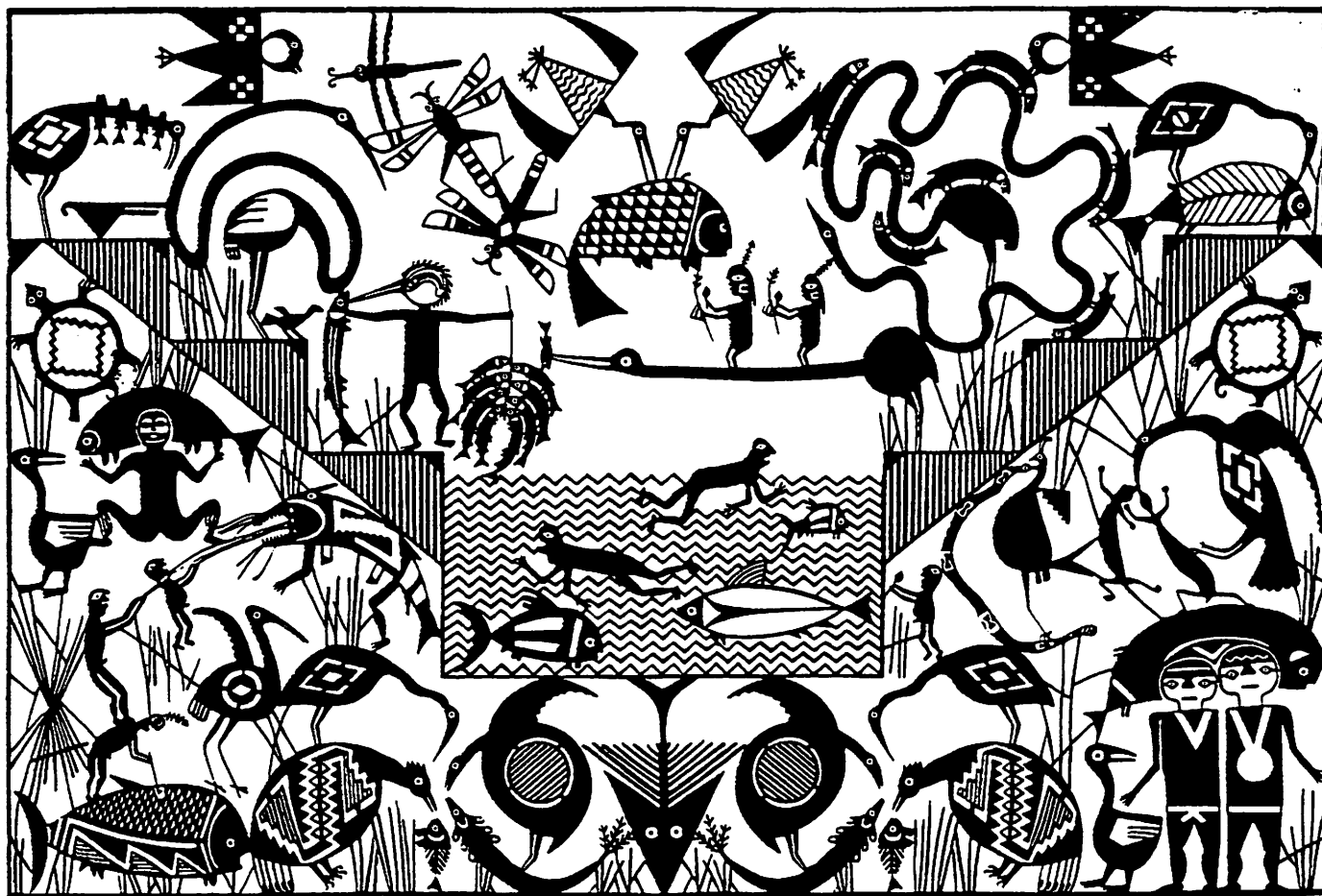
**Mounting Cuttings on Velvet** In the last issue Susan Salerno asked for suggestions on mounting papercuts on velvet under glass. Ursula Hamann writes in response, "Place the papercut between two sheets of plexiglass, creating shadowplay on your background velvet. I have done the same with rice paper as background. Much more interesting! I no longer use glue for any of my papercuttings. Good luck!"

**Gluing** In same issue, Charlie Lind asked about gluing techniques. Ursula's response above is one answer; we also heard from Ann Woodward. "After trying all kinds of glue for silhouettes, I find Dennison Glue Stick the best. I glue near the edge of the back of the profile silhouette (not all over), and with the glue stick still touching the silhouette, turn it over and with the other hand, press the face on the mounting board. I see no reason to cover the entire surface. If glue accidentally gets on the face (even using cut squares of newspaper to lay the face on while applying glue) I find that two puffs on any residue on the face, then lightly nudge off with a rubber pick-up eraser, and the face is black as ever with no tell-tale sign." [Editor's note: I have no information on the long-term archival quality of glue sticks.]

**Black Paper** In the Summer 1989 issue, Maria Guthrie asked about black silhouette paper; Ann Woodward wrote in response. "After I learned that the Ideal School Supply Co. in Illinois no longer carried this paper, I searched for some time and finally found it, which I purchased in large supply because of the orders I receive. Enclosed is a sample which I can sell at \$.60 a sheet (30x26 inches) postpaid. I can also send cut size of 4x6½ (for silhouettes) in packages of 100 for \$6.00 a package." And copies of her book on silhouette cutting may still be available. (Profile Press, 3004 So. Grant Street, Arlington VA 22202.)

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 FIRST CLASS  
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o Fall Meeting: October 14, near Philadelphia  
 o Holiday Show in New Jersey