

Collecting Art:

BY KATHY TREXEL-REED, MUSEUM V.P.

My mother sometimes said about her collections, “One is good, three are better.” She, like many of us, began as an unintentional collector, until one day when “ever right, blue and white” dishes caught her attention at a neighborhood sale. As more of these prizes found their way into her home décor, their design similarities and differences gave her much pleasure.

GAP member, Candy McDaniel (*pictured, right*), was also bitten unawares by the collection habit more than 25 years ago. It grew into a fascinating assortment of 113 paper cuttings, many of which originated during the 1800s! During the August GAP meeting at the National Office and Museum in Somerset, PA., Candy donated her treasures for the GAP Permanent Collection. But before I give you more details about the GAP Permanent Collection, I will tell you how Candy became a collector.



Until the first piece caught her eye, Candy was not even aware of paper cutting art. She was acting, directing, and a scenic artist for community theatre, while also designing and making stained glass art. It was, however, the delicacy of a small, 4” X 8” anonymous, figurative paper cutting that impressed her and made her look more closely. For the investment of one dollar, it went home with her, and the rest is definitely history. Thinking back, she wonders if perhaps it was the hard edges of the paper art that reminded her of her stained-glass work.

Candy studied everything she could find on the subject, and began to intentionally search for paper-cuttings at flea markets, and auctions. When shopping online became easy, “the world became a giant flea market.” Although her curiosity was piqued to learn about this art form, she never had the slightest interest in trying it herself. She decided early that the skill and patience required for this art was well beyond her reach.



TWO OF MCDANIEL'S DONATIONS TO THE GAP PERMANENT COLLECTION: “BRAUTSCHAU” (BRIDAL PARADE, LEFT) “RAUFEREI” (FIGHT, RIGHT) UNDATED. EACH 1 1/2” X 2 7/8” SIGNED BY DORA BAUM.

First Cut

Collecting Art (CONTINUED)

Learning about paper cutting styles and traditions was satisfying for her, and her preference was always for well executed pieces that were signed and dated by the artist. She learned which artists were well known and whose work would be most collectible. Through the years she found signed cuttings that included Josephine Allmeyer, Martha Ann Honeywell, August Edouart, Hunt Diederich, Carew Rice, as well as several 18th century devotional papercuttings made in convents or monasteries. Walter von Gunten and charter members of the guild were also among her discoveries.

Candy joined the Guild of American Papercutters and read every word of every issue of "FirstCut." She admired the skill and creativity of each artist, and filled one wall of her living room with rows of crown molding to support all the pieces, from the smallest to the largest.

Wanting the art to be preserved so it could be enjoyed for many years, she consulted a professional framer to frame many of the pieces, using museum quality glass. At first, she chose plain frames with little ornamentation so they would not "detract" from the art. Gradually her framer taught her how a proper frame and mat can enhance the art it encloses.

These 113 pieces, GAP's "McDaniel Collection", are now part of the GAP archive where they are gradually being labeled with available information of interest for viewers. Provenance research to establish origin, source, and history of ownership is an important aspect of museum curatorial work, but it is by nature time-consuming and challenging. As the GAP V.P. of Museum, I am excited to do what I can, and will pursue

this as time allows. We will gradually begin sharing these pieces in the upstairs gallery spaces at Laurel Arts beginning in 2018, the 30th Anniversary of the Guild of American Papercutters.

As photographs become available, I will send them to David Reichard for possible inclusion on

GAP's website. In addition, during his recent travels to Switzerland, David acquired a copy of the Swiss Archive Records Form from Hans Jurgen, the Swiss curator. This will be an additional model to add to GAP's official Museum Policy regarding our Permanent Collection, long ago approved by the GAP board. Perhaps Hans Jurgen may also assist in identifying some of GAP's "McDaniel Collection" if David forwards the photographs to him.

Due to limited space in the GAP Archive, we will follow strict criteria outlined in GAP's Museum Policy when determining whether to accept new pieces. Details about the that policy, and how the Permanent Collection has developed will be shared in a future FirstCut article.



CUTS IN MCDANIEL'S HOME PRIOR TO DONATION

First Cut

There's a GAP Website: LOG ON OR MISS OUT! BY DAVE REICHARD, CO-VICE PRESIDENT OF MEMBERSHIP

Yes, there's a GAP website at www.papercutters.org! But apparently, not all GAP members know about it.

Our website provider actually provides GAP with a lot of information about our members. One thing it tells us is if a member has signed on to the website and when the last time was. Pretty snoopy, huh?

So we recently did a random sampling of 126 members out of a total of 307. These figures include some members whose membership has lapsed recently or who are at least in a situation of procrastination about renewing their membership. Of the 126 members sampled, only 48 have signed on to the website in the last 12 months. Of the remaining 78 members, 34 have signed on sometime in the past and 44 have never signed on. Never! (Yes, a very small number of these members like paper for everything, have no email, and never "sign on" to anything.)

Of course, it is possible to view the website without logging in as a member. In this case, you can still see upcoming events, photos from current and recent exhibits, news about individual member exhibitions, buy a calendar, and look up sources for papercutting tools and materials. BUT, members have access to areas of the website that non-members do not. You can update your member profile, upload photos of your work, add your own website, and upload a personal photo so that you will appear periodically as a Featured Member on the homepage. You can access archived GAP publications and articles on a wide variety of subjects that provide a wealth of inspiration. You can view the GAP By-Laws and copies of the minutes from the most recent meetings of the Board of Directors. And you can access more information about fellow GAP members in the member directory than is available to non-members.

To do all of the above, you need to SIGN ON! Look for the word "login" at the top of the home page. Use your email address and password. If you have no password or have forgotten it, help is available. Also look for Friends of the Guild of American Papercutters on Facebook. You can even get there by clicking on the Facebook icon on our website!



RECENT ACQUISITION FROM THE
MCDANIEL'S COLLECTION: 15 1/2" x 12"
CUTTING GOLD CUTTING ON PURPLE
CLOTH BY MARIE (OR MERLY?) . DATED



RECENT ACQUISITION FROM THE
MCDANIEL'S COLLECTION: 19" X 8"
UNKNOWN ORIGIN OR DATE

First Cut

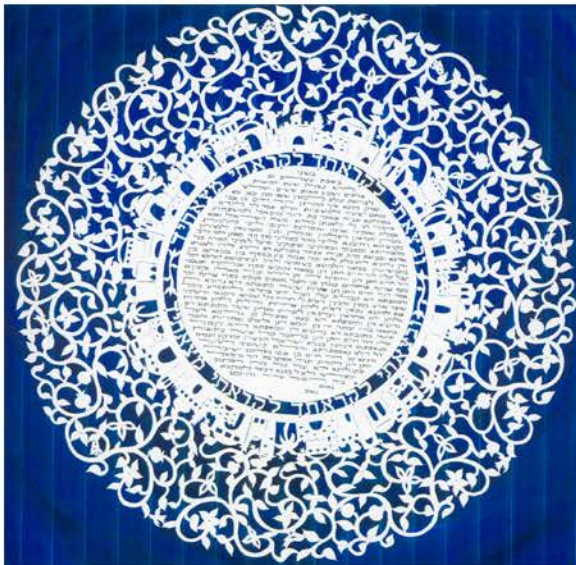
Ketubot: JEWISH PRENUPTIAL AGREEMENTS

Ketubot (the plural of ketubah) are an essential part of any Jewish marriage. Initially, they were developed as a form of protection for wives, ensuring that a wife was provided for in the event of death or divorce. They also served to guarantee that a woman would be treated fairly while married. Of course, times have changed. While ketubot have no legal meaning in modern times, they are still a valued tradition. They are proudly displayed in Jewish homes worldwide as a reminder of the responsibility we all have to treat the ones we love well. Many members of the Guild cut ketubot either professionally or just on occasion for special people in their lives. Their work ranges from traditional cuts featuring pomegranates, hamsas, scenes of Jerusalem and other Jewish themes, to work based on Modern Artists, photographs of the Brooklyn Bridge, and contemporary geometric patterns. Check out these diverse work created by your fellow GAP members:



BY RUTH MERGI:

[HTTPS://WWW.RUTHMERGI.COM/](https://www.ruthmergi.com/)



[HTTP://WWW.JUDAICPAPERCUTS.COM](http://www.judaicpapercuts.com)

A Note From Melanie Kehoss, CO-VICE PRESIDENT OF MEMBERSHIP:

Have you Served GAP?

I am working to update our online records of previous GAP board members. If you have been an officer or board member, please email me at mkehoss@outlook.com, along with your role(s) and approximate dates served.



BY KAREN SHAIN SCHLOSS:

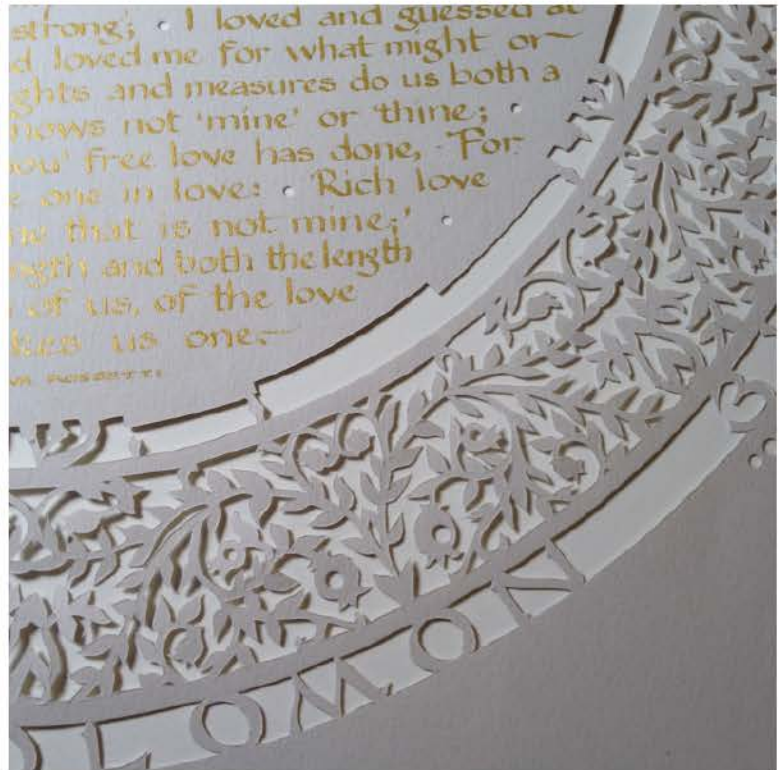
[HTTP://WWW.CALLIGRAPHICSGALLERY.COM](http://www.calligraphicsgallery.com)

First Cut

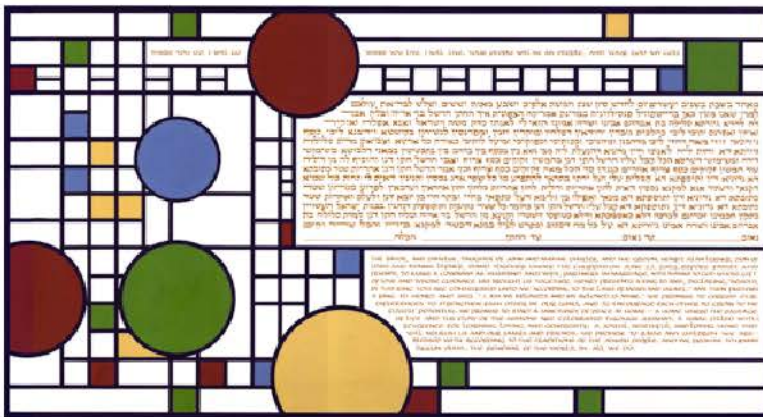
Ketubot: JEWISH PRENUPTIAL AGREEMENTS (CONTINUED)



BY KAREN SHAIN SCHLOSS:
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BY ROSA LEFF:
[HTTPS://WWW.ROSALEFF.COM/](https://www.rosaleff.com/)

**What will you cut to show your love this Valentine's Day?
Whatever it is, be sure to tag us (#firstcutmagazine) or email
us (rosaleff@gmail.com)!**

Rosa Leff