

Edward G. Dykstra Collection

Acc: 10:17

C.S.S. #310

Original inventory created 4/1/2010

Inventory updated by Jody Sidlauskas, 10/19/2011

Edward Dykstra was a 1949 graduate of the School for American Craftsmen at Alfred University, who lived into his 90s. Mr. Dykstra started Ethox, Inc., a company in Buffalo, NY that manufactured nylon. Nylon is manufactured using the gas “ethlox,” hence the name of the company.

Peter Gabak, RIT Development officer, visited with Olive “Marie” Hewett who is the niece to Edward Dykstra of East Aurora, NY – we met at his home on 04/01/2010. Marie has requested an inventory of the artifacts that were taken from the home, and to be gifted to RIT.

There are two pieces of pottery: one large with stamping work on the exterior, and a second smaller piece with multiple parts. There is a lid, and a smaller lid with a deep-cup under the main lid. These works were by a contemporary of Mr. Dykstra’s who was at the School for American Craftsmen at Alfred. They’re signed “Flora” – perhaps it’s Flora (female first name), and I believe two of the pots are dated “ ’47” – dated prior to Mr. Dykstra’s graduation date.

Works by Mr. Dykstra include:

- A) ceramic pot in celadon green glaze (with a small chip) and a silver or metal lid.
- B) preparatory sketch for silverware/flatware
- C) “rooster” enamelware dish, and “rooster” preparatory sketch
- D) silver box with stained glass lid (stained glass lid is new and also by Mr. Dykstra); original lid was in-laid wooden lid
- E) print craft magazine with black & white photo of “Dykstra silver milk pitcher”
- F) silver milk pitcher with wood (possibly ebony or walnut handle) – hand-hammered
- G) two (2) Alfred year books – Mr. Dykstra is listed in both in the back under “School for American Craftsmen alumni
- H) several issues circa 1950s from Craft Horizon magazine
- I) several issues circa 1950 of Danish design magazines
- J) Brass vase with wooden base by Mr. Dykstra

Mr. Dykstra was also a lover of classic cars and owned a 1920 Moon vehicle. He was married, but had no children. Olive “Marie” Hewett is executrix of the estate and has a 1/16th ownership of the estate. She worked in the museum field in Rochester – for the Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum.

In the preparatory sketch for the flatware, there are very distinct “ridges” or “lines” as an artistic motif. These are hallmarks of Mr. Dykstra’s style. They are his artistic trademark.

Box 1

Artwork (7 pieces)

1. Small round metal plate with hand painted rooster on it. Roughly 5.5 inches in diameter. Plate is copper color with black, green, orange and yellow rooster.
2. Tall hammered metal (gold tone) vase with wooden base. Roughly 7.5 inches tall and 3.4 inches in diameter.
3. Large textured ceramic pot with interior white glaze. Signed “Flora” and “C-47”. Roughly 7 ½ inches tall. (Flora was probably a contemporary or Dykstra’s at SAC)
4. Small green ceramic bowl with sterling silver cover. On bottom inscribed “DYKE” and “48”. Roughly 4 inches in diameter. [Bowl has large chip]
5. Small ceramic cup with 2 covers. Signed “Flora” and “C-4-9”. Roughly 2.5 inches in diameter and 3.5 inches tall (with top on).
6. Small sterling silver box hinged with yellow and green glass top and wooden interior. Roughly 3.5 inches long, 3 inches wide and 1.5 inches tall. Inside the box is one piece of clear glass and a piece of wood inlaid with a white wood or ivory.
7. Small sterling silver pitcher with dark wood handle. [On bottom inscribed “Flora” and 0-4-7]
8. Sketches:
 - 1) Hand painted layout on piece of circular board of the rooster painted on the plate. Full color.
 - 2) Flatware design sketches on board.

Yearbooks

- The Alfred, 1948
- The Kanakadea, 1949

Photographs

-21 matted color photographs of what is believed to be Mr. Dykstra’s silver work, including some of the pieces donated in this collection. Matted photographs measure 8 x 10 inches.

Books and booklets

- Alfred University School for American Craftsmen publication, v.24, no.3, January 1948.
- *Contemporary Silversmithing: The stretching method*, Handy & Harman: New York, NY, 1952.
- RIT School for American Craftsmen bulletin, circa 1950.
- Grey hardcover book: *Silverwork and Jewellery* by Wilson and Pitman. Inside cover pages reads: “A text-book for students and workers in metal ...”

The following items from this collection were given to Kari Horowicz for use in design classes or cataloged for the collection.

1. Design/art magazines

- Bonytt. From 1950 and 1951. (7 total)
- Craft Horizons. Three from 1951 and one from 1954. (5 total)
- Design/art magazines: Dansk Kunsthåndværk. Some have been cut up or have parts of the covers missing. (25 total)

2. Books and booklets

- *Mechanical Drawing* by French and Svensen
- Research - Design in Nature*, Field museum of Natural History...School of the Art Institute...Chicago (Volume II) **Note: now in RARE NK1553.W5 1931**
Red cover with gold lettering. Inside the book is a series of pages with illustrations depicting the anatomy of natural entities such as insects, plants and aquatic life. The book also has hand illustrations of Indian basketry, bead work, masks and blankets.