

Marketing marquetry

Newsletter of the Redbridge Marquetry Group

September 1996

No. 1

Welcome to the first Newsletter for the Group. Hopefully I will try to produce a letter twice a term. I hope to include dates of interest, hints and tips to help you with your Marquetry and general chit chat. I would appreciate any items that you would like to share with the other members. If you have anything you would like to appear in the letter please let me have it so that I can build up a store of material. Thank you. David Walker.

The **Redbridge Marquetry Group** was formed after the East London Group closed in 1979. We still have a few of our founder members with us. **Alf Murtell, Ken Daniels, Tom Brewer and Horrie Pedder** still faithfully turn out week after week and form a firm backbone of our Group. I read recently the article that Alf, who was then Group Secretary, wrote for the Marquetarian in the Spring of 1979. He stated that "33 members have joined, of which 6 are new members." Since then the numbers attending the Group have fluctuated sometimes only a dozen on a poor night but on one momentous occasion after the first Chigwell Show we had nearly 60 turn up! Attendance always depends on the weather and inclement weather puts off all but the keenest. However our numbers still average out between 25 and 35 which is not much different than in 1979. One of the main problems that the leadership have to face is, why do some new members fail to stay, disappearing after only a short time. Is it lack of attention? Lack of progress? or what? If you have any ideas that would prevent this drop off, please mention it to one of the Committee.

HINTS AND TIPS

If you are anything like me, when it comes to the finishing of a picture you will tend to lose interest rather quickly! The finish will make or break a picture. You will have spent many weeks, if not months, carefully cutting your picture and have it well mounted only to become disheartened when you try to get an acceptable finish. Let me say right now that the finish is what you are happy with. It doesn't have to be mirror like although most judges would appear to fancy such a finish (*When did you see a matt wax finished picture win a prize at the National?*) I have yet to finish a picture to my complete satisfaction. Here are a few suggestions that I would make which you could consider next time you come to this stage.

You cannot start to apply your finish, no matter what it consists of until you have got a super-flat, dust free surface. Once your picture is mounted clean off all the residual glue and veneer tape with a scraper. A piece of curved broken glass suitably protected with veneer tape at the ends is very suitable but scrape with care just remove the glue and tape. Once clean sand with abrasive paper until you can rub your fingers over the veneer surface and not feel any undulations. Again sand with care as you are sanding very thin veneer. Sand in the direction of the majority of the grain with the abrasive paper wrapped around a cork sanding block. I've lost count of the number of pictures I have spoilt at this stage by rubbing though to the glue so take care. On paler woods the first signs of this dreaded problem is a very slight discoloration of the white veneer. If you don't stop immediately you will rub right though. Once you are satisfied rub the surface with a damp lint free cloth. **Do not soak**, just damp and let dry. This has the effect of raising very slightly the grain. When completely dry, this should be only a few minutes, finish sanding with a very fine (800 grit or more) abrasive paper. Sand lightly to get perfectly smooth and try to keep at least two thirds of the sanding block on the picture.

Sand the edges carefully keeping the block at right angles to the edge. Once you have finished you should be ready to apply the finish. - *Continued in the next issue.*

Your Officers, elected at the last AGM are :-

Life President Alf Murtell
Chairman Roy Murton 0181 554 6546
Vice Chair Chas Baker
Secretary David Walker 0181 924 9917
Treasurer Ken Daniels
Committee Members:-
Bill Kober, Helga Smith, Eric Faulkner,
Harry Hayford, Joan O'Keefe, Shop keeper and
Gloria Murton, Librarian.