Guild sustains hall's nickname—House of Hearts

The success of many organizations is due to what goes on behind-the-

is due to what goes on behind-the-scenes.

This is especially true at Meadow Brook Hall.

Guild members, numbering 199, chaste hours of their time to serve as document sliver polishers, cilerical adocument sliver polishers, cilerical models for Mailida Dodge Wison's wardrobes of once-fashionable gowns. Last week many of these members were bonored for the hours they we donated. Twenty-three members received sterling silver charms or tie tacks of the Tudor rose, a symbol found throughout the mansion, for being a volunteer for five or more years and donating more than 50 hours a year.

years and donating more than 50 hours a year.

Other members received name plates to wear while they work at Rochester's historic mansion. These were given to people who have already worked more than 50 hours since the beginning of 1978.

Recipients of the sterling silver award, presented by the hall's managing director, Margaret Twyman, are

ing director, Margaret Twyman, are Marianne Ayres, Geneva Campbell, Mary Cichowski, Kellie Evans, Shirley Holt, Pat Jennings, Gladys Leland. Catherine Light, Cndy O'Donnell, Merita Stormzand, Barbara Thorpe, Douglas Thorpe, Charles Thornton and Joyce Wartinbee, all Rochester resi-dents.

Douglas Thorpe, Charles Thornton and Joyce Wartinbee, all Rochester residents.

Others honored include Wilma Bourdon from Troy, Irene Fiandt from Aubum Heights, Edith Gregersen and Anne Lucas from Bloomfield Hills, Altha Howes from Lake Orion, Gwen Kirby from Clawson, Jane Windeler from Drayton Plains, and Evelyn Allen and Joanne Rottenberk from Pontiac.

"YOUR GIFT to Meadow Brook all is very significant." Lowell

The Tudor rose is a symbol syn-onymous with peace, Meadow Brook Hall and guild members.

Extand, dean of continuing education at Cakland University, told the goald members at the meeting. "Your time, talent, energy and support is more precious to us than amounts of money we get through gifts. If we don't have people to implement programs, we (Meadow Brook Hall) wouldn't be able to function. "The hall is called the 'house with beart,' because so many heart beats are behind it," Exland added. In addition to receiving verbal and

are behind it." Ekland added. In addition to receiving verbal and visual thank-yous for being volunteers, the guid members received another gift—a packet of hints on how to examine antiques for authentic signs of age. With the help of 90 stides, H. George Ekchemann gave a talk on antiques. The owner of an antique shop in Birden and the stide of the stide

"An antique is something that is no longer made and that was handcrafted in some way. There are evidence of signs of age and the older the piece, the more reconstruction is allowed on it," said Bicklemann, an antique dealer for 8½ years.

dealer for 8½ years.

In the hail's bail room, filled with old sculptures, furniture and heavy velved drapes. Bickelmann talkev velved drapes, Bickelmann talker with the wood, especially along softening of the wood, especially along a piece if the edges of the modling are still sharp. Just dusting the modling with a soft cloth over a period of 200 years will soften the edges. The baseline of a piece would get; soft from banging of feet. Claws on legs should be softened from being struck by people's feet." Bickelmann said.

One of the major signs he discussed are the types of tool marks found on a piece of furniture.

"A piece is probably a real antique if it has hand tool marks, hand made nails and softening of its wood. If you can see a change in the type of tools used, be suspicious. Look for tracks of electric saws or other tools that didn't exist when the furniture was made."

BICKELMANN SAID that moldings DIALLMANN SAID that moddings were hand-planed, wood was hand-sawed and hand-smoothed with grit and that these tools left uneven lines. Only power band saws can create exact, parallel lines. Old screws have blunt ends and uneven threads, and the heads, if hand-made, have off-centered slots.

Other ways of trying to determine the age of a piece of furniture is to look for butterfly and rat tail hinges in which the hinge hole is cast as one piece, not made from a loop bent from

a piece of metal. Chairs in a set should be worn down unevenly from wear. Backs of mirrors should be very thin and are almost always injured in some way. Glass should have myriad scratches on the bottom in all direc-tions.

'If the scratches are all in the same direction, someone put the scratches on the piece." Bickelmann pointed out. One of the most interesting glass pieces he discussed was a Benington hound handle pitcher.

bound handle pitcher.

"There are definite authertic signs to this piece." Bickelmann said. "You should be able to thrust your little finger between the nose and neck of the dog. The nose should be flat against the dog's pass, the collar should be well-defined, and you should be able to feel the dog's ribs and the sharp line on his belly that is the parting line of the mold."

THROUGH HIS slides, he showed his audience that he's not afraid to take drawers out of furniture and look at their sides nor is he heistant to turn a piece upside down to see what he can.

can.

But Bickelmann isn't infallible. He showed a slide of a magnificant chest be purchased as a genuine antique that ended up being a fake.

"Even the pros make mistakes." Bickelmann firmly admitted.

Catherline light said Bickelmann's talk gave her a greater knowledge of antiques that will be helpful when she conducts tours of Meadow Brook Hall.

"Meadow Brook Hall is very unique," said Mrs. Light. "There's so much history in this house, not because of the family but because of the lod pieces in the house."

Mrs. Light is chairwoman of the guild's archives committee.

Kay Baugh travels to Meadow Brook Hall from Farmington to do her volun-teering.

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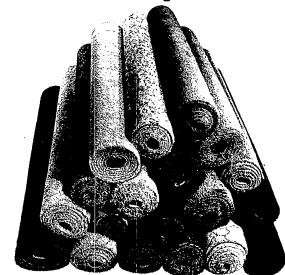


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