Batik making steeped in romance

Continuing where we left off last week at the Design Center in Troy, this week we will cover "Batik, The Magic Cloth."

Magic Cloth."

Inglighted at the Campbell-Louis, Inglighted at the Campbell-Louis and the Campbell-Louis and been identified with the island of Java

ESSENTIALLY, batik making is a people's art—the traditional employ-ment for women, either privately in the home or collectively in small workshops

the notine of the batis workshops.
The great preservers of the batis patterns were the puppet-makers, who cut them on their leather puppets. The puppeteers were the keepers of tradition who, through the wayang, brought drama and religion to life.

It is popular belief that the wearing of a certain design could ward off ill-ness. Another could bring luck and good fortune to the wearer, particu-larly the bridal couple on their wed-

ding night.

Certain designs were reserved for the palaces, and the rank and origin of the wearer determined the design he

the pataces, and the rank and origin of the wearre determined the design he seems to be a seem of the control o

Phillips-Wayne

Madelyn Katherine and Michael Irwin Phillips were married in a sunset ceremony Aug. 27. The newlyweds are the children of Mr. and Mrs. Yale Fillips of Oak Park and Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Wayne of Detroit.

For the ceremony, the bride wore a white short sleeve organza dress with disjo-organza petals and flowers on the bodice and hem and a waltz length will with daisy wentce lace trim and a headress of organza daily flowers. She carried white roses, gardenias and

Since 1937

Formerly the cloth would then be stretched on a board and pounded to make it perfectly smooth and supple. This process is no longer necessary with the finer quality of imported materials now used.

materials now used.

THE DESIGN IS OUTLINED on the cloth in pencil or charcoal. Only the more experienced battlers can work the pencil or the wax is then applied by means of the pencil or the cloth. The canting is best described as a wax-filled pen, a brass container with a bamboo handle and is a purely Javanese invention which made possible the remarkable fluidity of time and complexity of pattern. The outline of the design is repeated on the reverse side of the cloth.

Next, still with the canting, the fill-

Next, still with the canting, the fill-ings are applied, the fine dots and stripes, and the patterns within patterns.

The first steeping in dye then takes place, which gives the cloth its background color, usually dark blue and brown.

The batik-steepers kept their own recipes for the dark blue and brown dyes, handed down from generation to generation and kept a close family secret.

NEXT, THE WAX has to be removed to allow the second color to be added, which in this case is dark brown, after blue. This is done by another soak in boiling water or by scraping with a knife.

Having received its colors, and with all the wax removed, the cloth is soaked in a solution of lime and water which helps fix the colors and improve their sheen. Such is the basic technique of making batik.

The two main categories of batik design are those tased on geometric motifs, which are the earlier ones, and the free-form designs based on stylization of natural forms and symbols, which camp later.

tion of natural forms and symbols, which came later.

Today, fine quality hand-drawn battles are very expensive and their production limited. But in a world cominated by the machine, there is an increasing interest in crafts; and battles are used in many diverse ways. It is to be hoped that this interest will encourage us to preserve and revitalize this handicraft. It is indeed a treasure.

lize this handicraft. It is indeed a treasure.
When you go into the Campbell-Louis showroom, spend time looking at the batiks, for they have one of the most outstanding collections you will ever see. More from this sh wroom next week.

Fligman-Chaitin

Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Fligman of Southfield amounce the engagement of their daughter, Nine Staan, to Robert Chaitin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Irwin Chaitin of Huntingon Woods.

The bride-elect graduated from Michigan State University Her fiance is a student at the Wayne State University School of Medicine.

A winter wedding is planned.



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