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Hand-Wrought

Under the direction of instructors in metal-working in the Art Department of Catholic University of America, the Rev. Mr. Nicholas C. Dilenno, O. S. F. S., who will be ordained next year, completed this beautiful hand-wrought gold and silver chalice. It is made from precious metals donated by his relatives and friends, including the gold wedding ring of his mother. (N.C.W.C.)

First Known Christmas Card 100 Years Old

(N.C.W.C. Christmas Supplement)

Observing this year the hundredth anniversary of the first known Christmas card the Greeting Card Industry expresses conviction that "this year the true meaning of Christmas strikes a responsive note in every heart, giving the Season warmer significance than ever before."

"What could possibly be more appropriate in these troubled times," said a spokesman for the industry, "than that the cards we will exchange with our friends and loved ones this Christmas should reflect the true Christmas spirit?"

This same spokesman said our soldiers are fighting "to establish at long last His teaching of 'Peace on earth,' " and that "we on the home front" should send Christmas cards that carry Our Lord's message. He pointed out that cards to choose from are a multitude, and that many of them are works of beauty and high art.

Until recently it was thought that the first Christmas card, as we knew it today, was executed by J. C. Horsley in London in 1846. Now, authorities at the British Museum in London announce the existence of a Christmas card created by W. M. Egley and bearing the date of 1842.

Louis Prang, a master lithographer of Boston, is credited with having introduced Christmas cards to the people of the United States. He executed his first one in the early 1870's.

Today, the Greeting Card Industry in the United States actually less than a half-century old produces some 3,000,000 greeting cards annually, of which Christmas cards represent about 58 per cent. The yearly wholesale value of greeting cards has been put at about $50,000,000, and the yearly retail sales value at about $100,000,000. There are cards for every holiday on the calendar, but Christmas cards are considered the most important.

Today, approximately 100 individual firms constitute firms constitute the Greeting Card Industry. They provide employment for about 50,000 people paying $18,000,000 each year in salaries, commissions and wages.

It is estimated that the mailing of greeting cards in 1940 afforded the United States Post Office Department a revenue of over $50,000,000. This is said to have been 10 per cent of the total postal revenue for that year.

Of Pope's Studies

VATICAN. The fact that His Holiness Pope Pius XII made his early studies at the Oratory of St. Philip Neri in Rome is commemorated by a plaque which has just been unveiled at that institution in the presence of seven Cardinals and other high Vatican dignitaries.

The principal address on this occasion was delivered by the venerable Professor Milani, who taught the Holy Father at the Oratory.

Catholic Arts Group Designs Christian Christmas Cards

(N.C.W.C. Christmas Supplement)

The designing and supply of Christmas cards that really reflect the spirit of Christmas has been one of the works of the Paraclete Arts Group, one of the Catholic Action associations of Melbourne, Australia. They have already published several Christmas cards designed by Melbourne artists, while a crib that is entirely Australian in its motif is another of its ventures.

The aim of the Group is to produce or foster a sacred art which will be characteristically and unmistakably stamped with the individuality of the Australian. One card, for which the title "Our Lady of the Lyre Birds" is suggested, depicts the Divine Infant and His Mother, in the centre, flanked by Australian lyre birds. One in silhouette design in black and white, it is a delightfully rhythmic and "modern" production. Cards produced by the Group are already on sale at Catholic booksellers.

USE REAL CHRISTMAS ART IN STORE'S WINDOW DISPLAY

(N.C.W.C. Christmas Supplement)

A Christmas display carried out in the windows of the Rorabaugh-Buck Department Store in Wichita, Kan., last Christmas time is believed by many to be the most impressive step yet taken toward the introduction of real Christmas art into the Christmas window displays of business establishments. The project in Wichita won the praise of the Most Rev. Christian H. Winkelmann, Bishop of Wichita, for the artist who conceived and worked it out.

The Rorabaugh-Buck establishment is one of Wichita's leading department stores. Last year it devoted ten windows to an exhibit which made no display of merchandise at all, and which placed the emphasis clearly on the spiritual side of Christmas. The focal point of the display was the Nativity scene, with figures depicting the Infant Jesus, the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph. An elaborate system of changing colored lights illuminated the various scenes.

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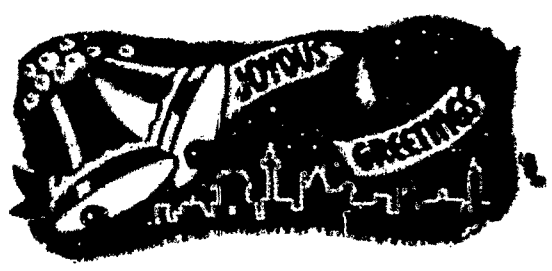

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