

Monumental Drawing and Lettering

By Dan B. Haslam

THE OAK AND IVY IN APPLIED ORNAMENT

The Oak and Ivy as decorative motives have always been most popular with designers of memorials. Because of this fact they are given proper consideration in this, the third of the series of articles dealing with plant forms that are practical for memorial design.

Designers early recognized the possibilities of the oak and ivy as a basis for ornamentation and many splendid examples have been shown in designs of merit for years. The modern designer, quick to take advantage of plant forms that are adaptable to sand-blast treatment, derives much inspiration from the oak and ivy and is producing work that equals if not excels the former ideas in mortuary art.

Reasons for such long popularity are of course gauged according to the ideas and fancies of the individual designer. Of the numerous varied opinions or reasons which may be advanced regarding the value of the oak and ivy as memorial decorative motives, two are outstanding; both plant forms are adaptable to many pleasing arrangements in design and are symbolic of two of the best things in life, strength and friendship. The Oak is representative of Firmness and Strength while the Ivy symbolizes Memory and Friendship. From this the reader will understand why the oak and ivy are so often arranged in a single memorial design. The sturdy oak for Father and the clinging ivy for Mother, representing

impregnable friendship, devotion and lasting memory.

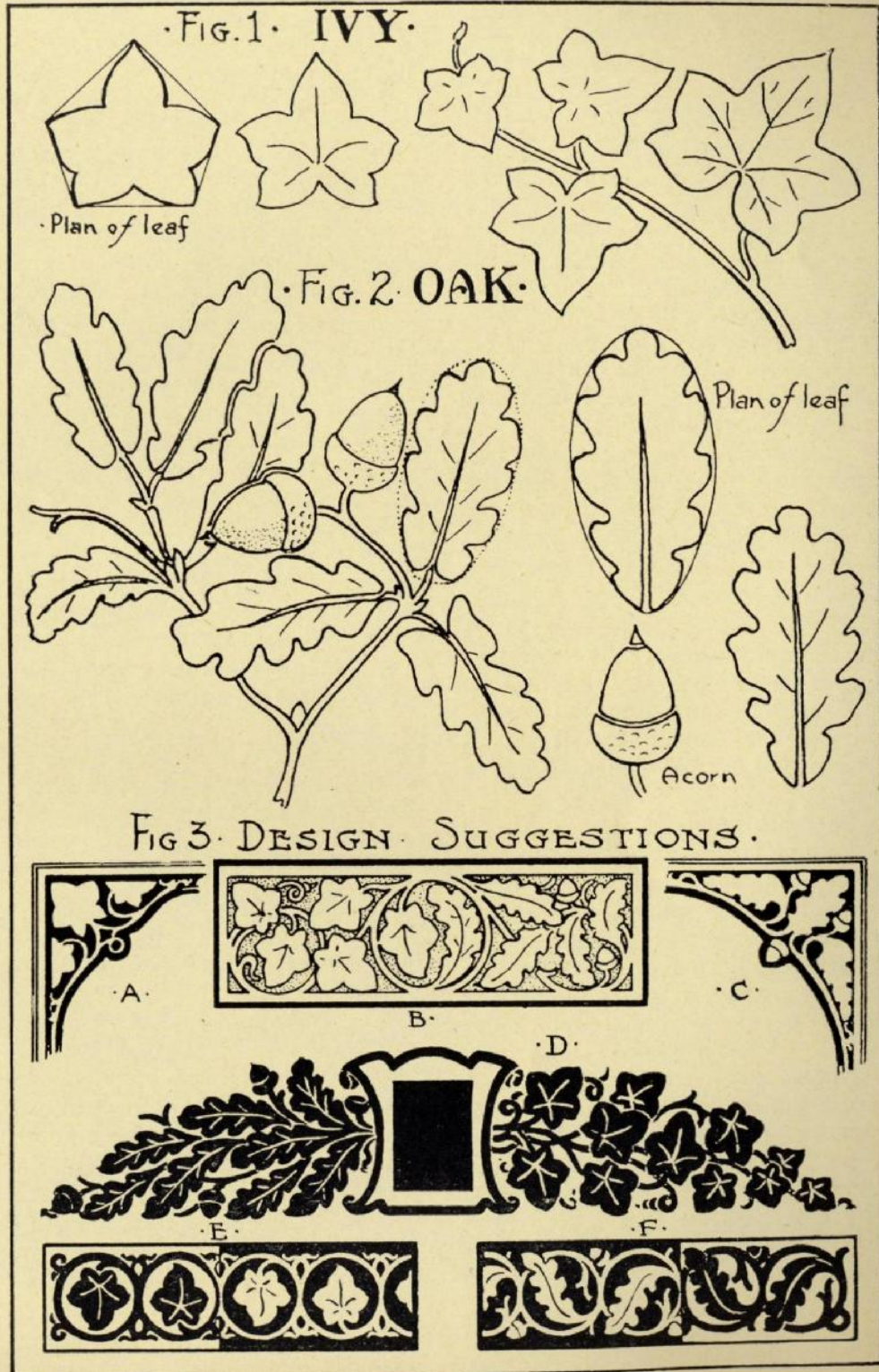
The oak tree is well known in this country and also in England and Germany. In Germany the heavy leaves and fruit commonly known as acorns serve as food for swine.

Of the many acorns produced by a single oak in the course of a year but very few have a chance to sprout for they are readily eaten by such animals as deer, pigs, squirrels, and mice. Birds such as the jay and crow also find the fruit of the oak to their liking. Even when the acorns have a chance to ripen the young sprouts are eaten by rabbits, sheep and cattle.

Though the oak in its early stages has a hard struggle for existence, the young sprouts that escape the ravages of birds and animals develop into hardy plants and in later years furnish wood that is hard, close grained and one that is a commercial favorite in building work. It is very durable in water and has often been used in ship building.

The Ivy is a shrubby, climbing plant with smooth shining evergreen leaves. The stem is rather large, twisted and branched, adhering to trunks of trees, walls, rocks etc., by means of numerous fibres.

The varied forms of ivy leaves have been the means of causing much argument among workmen of the craft. The writer has often been



asked to draw a correctly shaped ivy leaf in order to settle some dispute between two ambitious workmen.

This is not an easy task because ivy leaves differ much in form, varying from an oval to a three or five lobed leaf. Both workmen may be right, all depending on which end of the branch one is trying to reproduce. When trailing along the ground the leaves may be five lobed, when climbing, three lobed and near the berries or fruit, leaves are simple, oval shaped without being lobed at all.

For practical purposes however the reader is safe in assuming the true shape of the ivy to be a five lobed leaf which may be conveniently arranged in the shape of a pentagon, see Fig. 1., plan of leaf.

Figs. 1 and 2 in the accompanying Plate illustrate the Oak and Ivy in their natural state.

That both are adaptable to conventional treatment in design is shown by a few suggestions in Fig. 3.

Sketches A and C in Fig. 3 illustrate two neat corner decorations while B and D will serve as a good central motives in memorial design. Sketches E and F are interesting border designs that are artistic as well as practical for our line.

Sweet young thing, snorting along the road in a powerful roadster, is pulled in by a motorcycle cop. "You were making 45 miles an hour; I'll have to pinch you," sez the cop. "Oh, if you must, do it where it won't show, please," purrs the flap.

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CONVENTION HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Make your hotel reservations now for the Twenty-first annual convention of the Memorial Craftsmen of America to be held in the Hotel Statler, August 17, 18, 19, 20.

There will be a record breaking attendance this year. The hotels will be filled. The guests reserving early are the ones who get the service.

The Hotel Statler is convention headquarters. It will be turned over practically to the Memorial Craftsmen and their guests. The rates in this hotel are: single rooms with shower bath only, \$3.50, tub \$4.00 to \$8.00. Double rooms two persons, double bed, \$5.00, twin beds, \$5.50, three persons, two beds, \$7.50, four persons, four beds \$8.00 to \$10.00, all equipped with shower baths. Double rooms with tub baths: two persons, double bed, \$6.00 to \$10.00, two beds, \$7.00 to \$10.00, four persons, two beds \$10.00 to \$14.00, five persons, five beds, \$12.50.

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All reservations will be protected. The management of both hotels will co-operate with the Memorial Craftsmen officials to see that this is done. There are numerous other hotels in Detroit but these two are the nearest to the Detroit Convention Hall.

Carry On! Carry On at Detroit. Get your hotel reservations now.