


Monumental Drawing and Design

By Dan B. Haslam

THE WOOD SORREL IN APPLIED ORNAMENT

N offering the dainty, delicate, Wood Sorrel as a decorative motive in pleasing memorial design, we believe this article will meet with the instant approval of our readers.

Practical in structure, beautiful, expressive in religious symbolism, yet the Wood Sorrel has been given but little if any consideration by the modern memorial designer and for that reason is not so quickly recognized as some of the others flowers previously illustrated in our series.

Though it appears that modern designers have overlooked this beautiful wild-flower as a decorative motive in design, it has been a favorite with past masters. It is generally understood that early Italian painters used the wood sorrel as a model. Ruskin says: "Fra Angelico's use of the *Oxalis Acetosella* (wood sorrel) is as faithful in representation as touching in feeling. The triple leaf of the plant and white flower stained purple probably gave it strange typical interest among the Christian painters."

The triple leaf reference to the plant is occasioned, no doubt, by its resemblance to the shamrock and some claim that it is the shamrock of the ancient Irish used by Saint Patrick in his endeavor to prove to his audience the possibility of a Trinity in unity. In religious symbolism, the Trinity is always represented

by the uniting of any three parts or objects.

The "white flower stained purple" refers to the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ and of his sacrifice. In liturgical symbolism the color white is representative of the Nativity, Resurrection and Ascension of Christ. Purple is the emblem of mourning and penitence and is used in the Church during the season of Advent. The flower is often called the hallelujah because it blossoms at Easter.

In the language of the flowers, the wood sorrel is representative of affection and joy and the shamrock of light heartedness.

Because of its richness in religious symbolism and its Christian appeal, the plant is particularly appropriate for memorial design and should be given proper consideration and employed as a basis of ornament more in the future than it has been in the past.

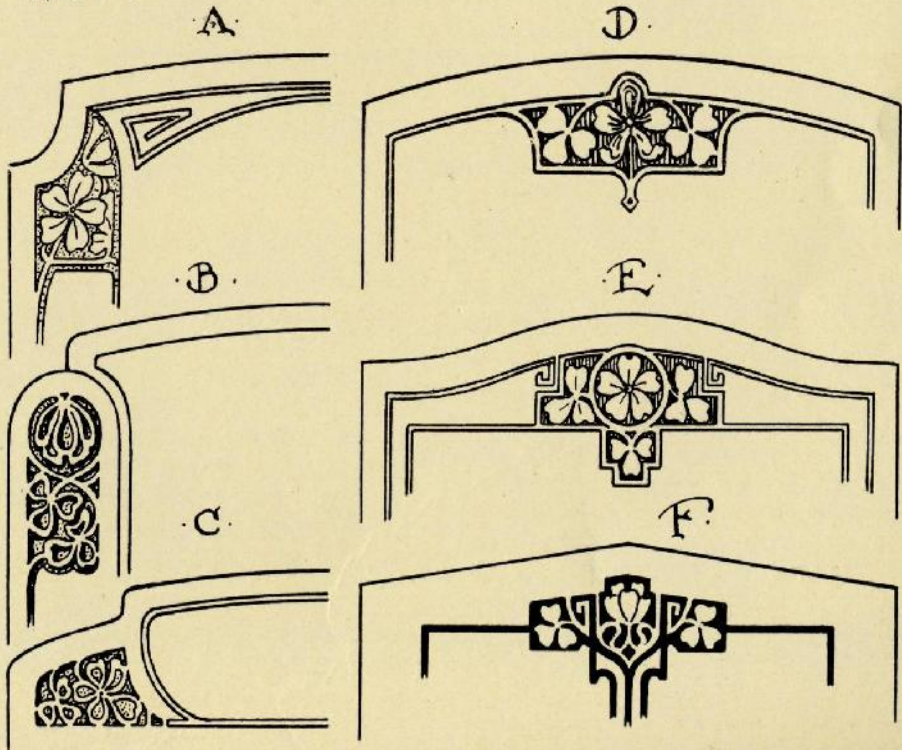
The student will experience very little difficulty in successfully copying the wood sorrel as both flower and leaves are uniform and simple in construction.

The wood sorrel, one of our most delicate and dainty of woodland flowers is commonly found in cool damp places. The flowers are frail looking, about an inch broad, pure white in color and streaked with the lines of purple. The leaves are divided into three

FIG. 1. WOOD-SORREL.



FIG. 2. DESIGN SUGGESTIONS.



would aid the retailer to bring about a better system in his own business.

The letter of Mr. Oswald indicates that he understands and is in full accord with the proposed new system of credits and for that reason needs no comment.

I would like to have every retail dealer read over this article as originally published in Design Hints and give it consideration and then write Design Hints whether you are in favor of it or not. If you have nothing new in the way of criticism to offer just write and say whether you favor it or not.

If anything is to be accomplished for the betterment of the memorial business it can only be done through the retail dealer's co-operation and help. With the assistance of the retailer much can be accomplished.

I believe that the credit system proposed will go far to remedy existing ills. Do you, or do you not? If you will give this matter serious thought much good will result. Let us have your reaction.

Sincerely,
C. OOGARD.

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clover-like, heart-shaped leaflets which droop or "go to sleep" at night.

Unlike the white plant, the yellow wood sorrel is common along roadsides and fields. It has fragrant golden-yellow flowers that open only in sunshine and close tightly at night. The yellow wood sorrel is not a woodland plant.

The white wood sorrel in its natural state is clearly illustrated in Fig. 1 of the accompanying plate. Enlarged drawings of the flower and leaf are shown for the benefit of the student.

The design suggestions shown in Fig. 2 are carefully arranged in simple memorial design schemes. Sketches A, B and C, illustrate the plant in conventional form for side decoration. Sketches D, E and F show central ornamental motives for the small tablet.

Variety in the arrangement of ornament and in memorial forms is clearly shown in all these examples and we trust our suggestions will prove of benefit to all who are interested in this particular branch of industry.

A New Name For An Obsolete Ornament

"A gentleman of Hebraic origin was so unfortunate as to lose his wife. He went to a monument manufacturer and gave directions for a very elaborate memorial. He concluded his explicit instructions by saying that on the very top of the monument there must be a pair of "Gless Pents".

"My good man", said the manufacturer, "why in the world do you want a pair of glass pants on your wife's memorial"?

"Nu, nu", said the bereaved, "I vant a pair of gless pents. Her hend and mine—glesped togedder".

Bright Boy

Teacher—Did you make that face at me?

Jimmie—No, ma'am. You just happened to walk in front of it.