

Monumental Drawing and Lettering

By Dan B. Haslam

THE POINSETTIA IN APPLIED ORNAMENT

THE Poinsettia, Christmas flower of the South, has come to be a Christmas symbol throughout the whole land, a symbol of the Nativity of Christ, of redemption and the birth of hope.

"A Mexican plant with beautiful flowers," is the dictionary's definition of the poinsettia. It is very popular at this particular season of the year and for this reason as well as for the beauty of the flower, is often referred to as the Christmas rose although it is not a member of the rose family.

The shape of the younger leaf is somewhat similar to that of the rose but the edges are smooth, not serrated and the leaf rather oblong in shape. As it matures however the leaf changes in form entirely, the edges though smooth are very irregular, and while the leaf veins are similar, the matured leaf bears but little resemblance to the sprout. The leaf stems are slender, reddish in color and arranged irregularly on a rather heavy flower stalk.

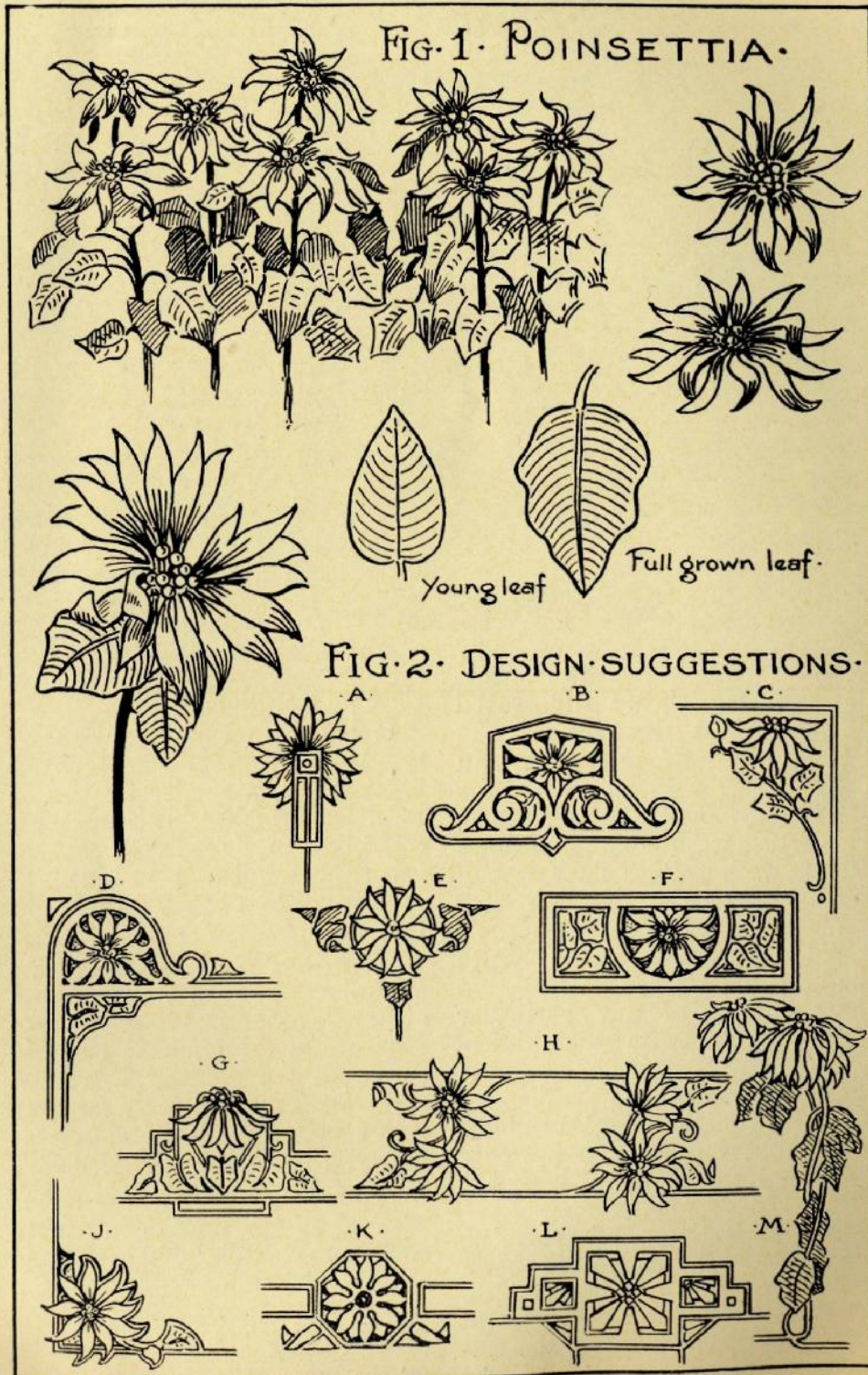
The flowers are a beautiful red in color, very large in size yet delicate in structure and exceedingly popular as a Christmas decoration in the home or arranged in many varied design schemes for Christmas boxes, paper and seals. The Holly is also used for such de-

corative purposes, but it is generally conceded that the Poinsettia is more popular and by far the more beautiful of the two plants.

The Poinsettia like the other flowers illustrated in this series is expressive in religious symbolism, beautiful and practical in structure and worthy of consideration as a decorative motive in pleasing memorial design. Some consider the flowers and leaves too large for practical memorial design, especially when simplicity of detail is the demand, but if a little care be exercised in the arrangement of the various parts of the plant, satisfactory results are easily produced, even by the inexperienced designer.

The Poinsettia in its natural state is illustrated in Fig. 1 of the accompanying Plate. These drawings were made from a single plant which may be obtained from any florist at this season of the year. It will be noted that the petals of a single flower are greatly varied in size and when two flowers are examined for comparison there is a difference in the number of petals. Thirteen petals were found in one and fourteen petals in another of the two flowers examined. The difference in shape of the young and more

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eight children are cut in the sides of the die.

Having lost our family documents by fire which destroyed our home, we often refer to our memorial as the family record, and it's an assured fact, this record will not be lost the same way. We are very proud of our memorial. I did not have five dollars left after it was set and paid for and because I was a cripple, the neighbors criticised me for spending so much money when as they said I needed it for necessary things.

Well I am still a cripple, on crutches all the time but the monument is there and I am still doing business.

Signed,
Wm. H. Batchelor.

THAT WE HIGHLY RESOLVE—

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of this new season, in extending to you our fraternal respects and regard we express the hope that you will take advantage of your time and will realize on every precious moment.

We hope that you will find in it new treasure and will show great impetus and unrivaled advance in your business as a result.

We hope that, above all, you will get the great satisfaction which comes from doing a job well and realizing that, so far as you know, it could not be done more thoroughly.

And with this thought we wish you a Happy, Prosperous and Productive New Year.

Say you saw it in DESIGN HINTS

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matured leaf is also illustrated in the renderings of the natural plant. In design schemes the large leaf is often drawn to resemble the leaf of the holly although the shapes of the two leaves are not so similar as represented.

Twelve design suggestions using the Poinsettia as a basis are offered in Fig. 2 of our plate. Most of these arrangements are very simple and practical for modern sandblast treatment of ornament.

Sketches B, E, F, G, H, K and L are offered as central motives in design while the others are for side decoration.

An ornament similar to sketch D is carved in the LACLEDE memorial, *Design Hints* design number 60 which is shown on another page of this issue. Any of the other suggestions may be just as pleasingly arranged in memorial design even though simplicity of detail is requested.

Sketches C, H and M are a little too natural and also too fussy for simple and correct memorial ornamentation, but if the design is merely outlined and the detail kept small the results obtained will not be displeasing.

The student in design will experience but little difficulty in successfully drawing a Poinsettia. Copying the natural plant is the best practice and at this particular season of the year, many plants are available at the florists which may be or should be purchased at very attractive prices. Also, do not overlook the discarded Christmas seals and boxes for ideas in pleasing design schemes.