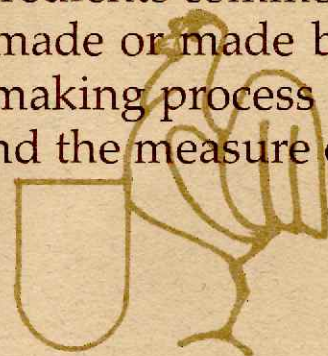


PAPER IS a very special invention of man. It is an invention born of our need to communicate with one another. It is a product of intellect and skill. These are the ingredients common to all paper; whether it is handmade, mouldmade or made by machine. The difference between each papermaking process is in the time we allow the paper to take form and the measure of tender loving care we pour into its making.



## *Handmade papers*

The slowest and most rewarding paper making process is, of course, by hand. Each sheet is the product of one man's consummate craftsmanship and patience. The mould that is used to form the sheet is a wooden frame on which rests a mesh of brass wire. The mould is dipped into the pulp (cotton fibers or vegetable fibers suspended in water), then lifted to allow the pulp to rest on the wire. The paper maker then shakes the mould horizontally in both directions. The wooden frame prevents all of the pulp from running down the edges, while allowing the excess pulp to spill off. When the sheet is finally formed by this method, each edge will have an uneven edge called a deckle edge.

After the water has been drained, the deckle frame is taken off and the sheet is couched on a felt. Another felt is placed on top of it and over that another newly formed sheet of paper. Once the stack of paper and felt sandwiches grows to about three feet in height, it goes into a press where whatever water remains is pressed out. The felts are carefully peeled away and the sheets of paper are ready to be dried or finished in various ways.

Many times they are left to dry and mature while standing in piles where the weight of the pile itself exerts the pressure to flatten the sheets. Thirty days later, the pile is turned upside down so that the pressure now should flatten the sheets that previously were on the top. Some hand papermakers dry the sheets in hot lofts, on fishing nets that are suspended from the ceiling. Some other papermakers hang the

rice plant. The Japanese papers that are most prevalent today consist of Japanese fibers derived from native shrubs like Mulberry (Kozo), Gampi and Mitsumata. Some Oriental types of handmade papers also come from Korea, Taiwan, Nepal and India. In the Western world, only cotton fibers are used in the hand paper making process. The Fabriano Mill in Italy, first produced paper in 1268, and is the oldest, continuously functioning mill in the Western world. The French Richard de Bas Mill probably ranks second in this distinction. The largest handmade paper mill today is the Barcham Green Mill of England.

Only a decade ago, hand papermaking in America was nonexistent. But, today there are perhaps two dozen papermakers around the country involved in this craft on a full-time or part-time professional basis. As in everything, here also American imagination and initiative produced some of the most interesting experimental developments in papermaking history.

## *Mouldmade papers*

Mouldmade papers are often referred to as handmade, but there is a distinct and important difference. The mould is not held by hand. It is on a slowly rotating cylinder that picks up the pulp from a vat as it rotates. The sheet is then discharged onto a continuously moving felt or may be peeled off the mould by hand.

Most mould machines are small and the oldest ones move very, very slowly. This accounts for the handmade look and properties of mouldmade paper. In fact, it may be at first difficult for the novice to distinguish mouldmade paper from a handmade

REVIEWS