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Final Report--
Silk Screen Industry

*National Archives:
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Amache

SILK SCREEN

PRINT SHOP

*M*ay 10th 1943 ≡
≡ May 15th 1945

AMACHE SILK SCREEN PRINT SHOP
HISTORY OF THE SHOP AND ITS PRODUCTION

May 10, 1943 through May 15, 1945

For the purpose of presenting our story briefly but completely, I have broken down this report into the following sections:

1. Silk Screen Process and Its Uses
2. Why Silk Screen Shop was Established in Amache
3. Production History
4. Relocation of Workers
5. Costs
6. General Summary

Submitted by

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Maida G. Campbell
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April 30, 1945

Section No. 1

THE SILK SCREEN PRINTING PROCESS AND ITS USES

Silk Screen printing, though a comparatively young industry, has been definitely recognized in the commercial and fine art fields. It is a highly refined stencil process. (See attached illustration for a more graphic description).

It has two important values. The first being that one may print on all smooth hard surfaces such as glass, metal, wood, etc.

The second value is the ease and speed in preparing multi-colored plates. This permits the user of small quantities of printing to purchase multi-colored printing at a minimum cost.

Section No. 2

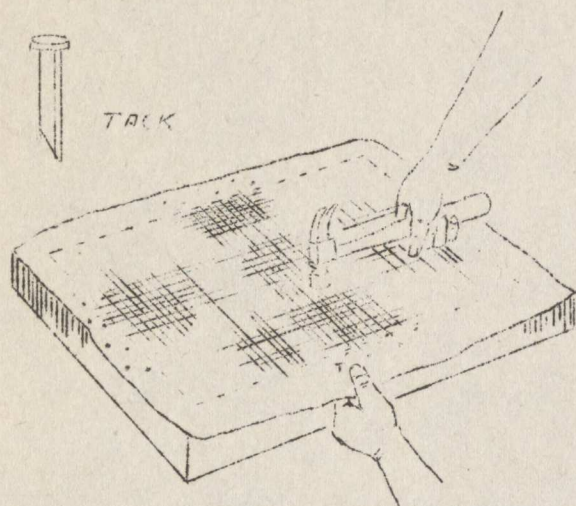
WHY A SILK SCREEN SHOP WAS ESTABLISHED IN AMACHE

The Silk Screen Shop in Amache was set up at the request of the Training Aids Division of the Navy Department, Washington, D. C. They were in need of many posters, charts, and pamphlet covers, and it was difficult to obtain these on schedule from outside firms due to labor shortages and an increased volume of work.

War Relocation Authority considered the shop worthwhile from the standpoint of its vocational training values, and value of production for the war effort.

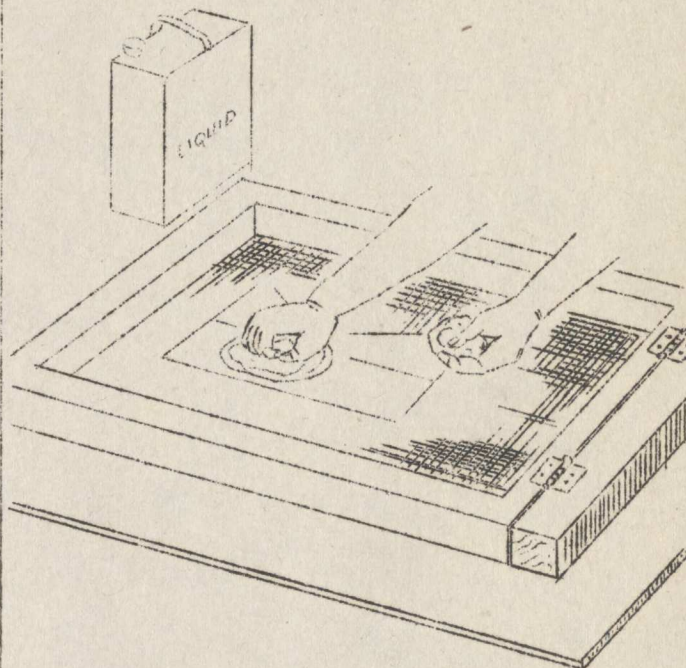
I

TACKING SILK TO FRAME



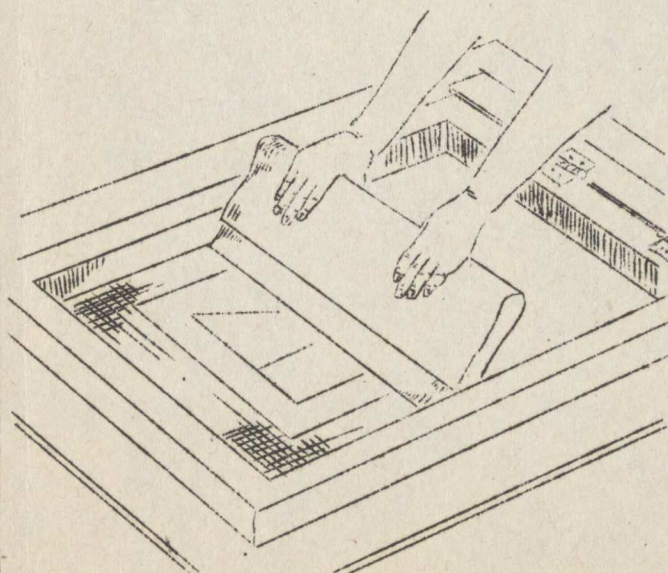
II

ADHERING LACQUER STENCIL



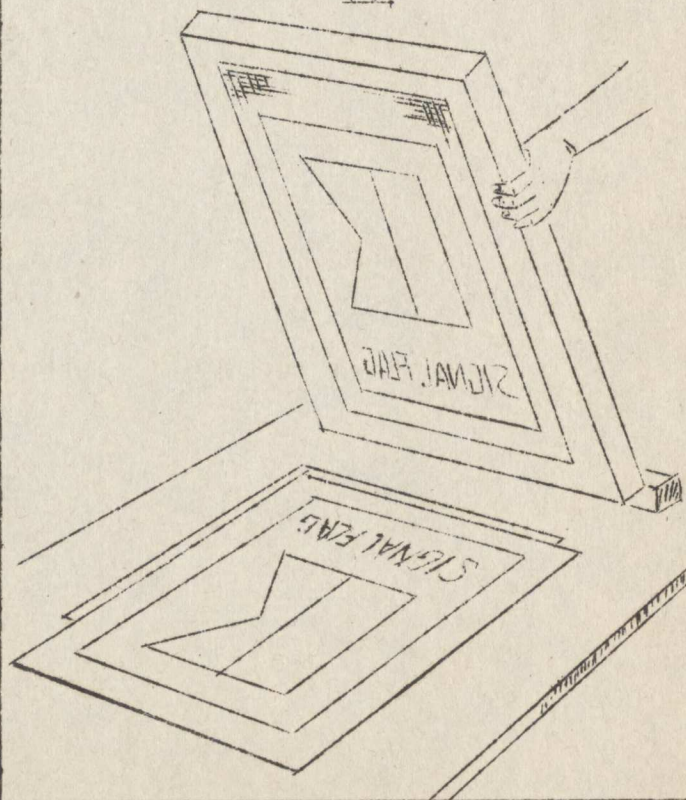
III

PULLING SQUEEGEE
(Printing)



IV

FINISHED PRINT ON BASE BOARD



The shop opened May 10, 1943. War Relocation Authority purchased the nucleus of the Work Projects Administration Silk Screen Project equipments and materials of New York City. The first four and one-half months were spent in fixing working quarters and in preliminary training of a crew. After this time, work was started on the production of Navy posters. This work continued to January 1, 1945.

In December, 1944, an announcement was made of the opening of the West Coast area to all loyal Japanese. The Navy was questioned as to whether or not they wished us to continue anticipated production for them in view of the uncertainty of available Silk Screen Shop labor. They replied that they would require no further work from us.

The matter was discussed and it was decided that the shop would continue as a school and War Relocation Authority production unit through the school year.

In March, it became increasingly obvious that there was little work to do for War Relocation Authority and that students and crew members were relocating at an increasingly rapid rate.

It was agreed, in a joint meeting of Mr. Lindley, Mr. Fuller, and myself (April 12, 1945), that the shop would cease production on April 30, 1945, and would officially continue through May 15th in order to clear our records and see that all materials and equipments were properly checked and packaged.

As of this day, Monday, April 30th, all students and workers are terminated, with the exception of a small nucleus of workers to be retained through May 15, 1945 to aid in closing our records.

Section No. 3

SHOP PRODUCTION HISTORY

When the shop first opened, there was the necessity of preparing the shop for work, and the training of a crew. This took approximately four months.

In the training, many small pieces were printed for various established clubs and organizations in the center. This proved to be an excellent training program and has been carried through the whole operation of the unit.

Our Navy production was started in early fall of 1943 and continued up to January, 1945. In this period of time, we printed well over 250,000 posters of various sizes, designs, and color combinations. We used film, glue tusche, and photographic stencils. All stencils and some of the designs were prepared by our shop artists.

We have turned out another 35,000 posters and charts other than Navy. These include, booklet covers, fire posters, school posters, relocation posters, high school annual pages, and charts for various offices.

The above figure does not include any of the smaller pieces such as cards, play programs, award ribbons, and dance bids.

Since the first of the year we have designed and printed, covers for Mr. Buckley's office, three relocation posters, four high school annual pages (1,000 each), covers for Block Manager's book (2,400), covers for Relocation Handbook (2,600), four fire posters, one "Clean-up" week posters, and bids, posters, and announcements for various center groups.

Section No. 4

RELOCATION OF WORKERS

It is impossible to offer an exact figure of workers who have relocated and have gone to work in Silk Screen Print Shop over the country. However, via personal letters written to me by relocatees, and letters written to shop workers, it would be safe to say that at least ninety former evacuees have worked in silk screen jobs since leaving the shop and camp.

Some of these workers have gone directly into silk screen shops and are still there. Others have gone to other work, and later transferred to silk screen. Still others have worked for awhile in silk screen and have then transferred to other work. In view of the fact that no worker, employed by the shop, had previous silk screen training, our average of one relocatee a week over a two years period to the silk screen industry outside, shows the value of shop training.

Section No. 5

COSTS

Based on our report of costs for the year May 10, 1943 through May 10, 1944, and our records of this year, the total cost of operation of the Silk Screen Print Shop for 22 years and 5 days is approximately \$27,200.

This includes items such as appointed personnel, evacuee labor, administrative travel, transportation, electricity and water, contractual services, general supplies, maintenance, duplicating service transfer, non productive labor, overhead transfer, and credit account.

An estimate of total minimum retail value of work produced would run well over \$100,000. This is offered to give a comparison of cost of production and value of goods produced.

Section No. 6

GENERAL SUMMARY

- * - - - - Period of shop operation - Two years and 5 days. (May 10, 1943 - May 15, 1945)
- * - - - - Former shop workers now relocated and working in Silk Screen - 90.
- * - - - - Period of actual production for Navy - 16 months. (Plus 4 months original training and 4 months without Navy orders.)
- * - - - - Total cost - approximately \$27,200.
Total retail value produced - \$100,000.
- * - - - - Closing date - May 15, 1945.
Finishing of final orders - April 30, 1945.
Reason - Closing of center by January, 1946 with resulting relocation and lack of production orders makes it advisable to close the shop on above date.

