

Send Your Personality

by Helen Clark

THERE is something in the intimate appeal of Christmas cards made by the sender that makes them doubly valuable. A card of this kind reflects the personality of the sender. It is her own. Her design, the colors and paper she uses—all are expressions of the girl herself.

Why not send a bit of your personality to your friends this year? Making your own cards is very simple and so fascinating that you may be tempted to neglect studying for final exams.

Some girls block-print their cards. Others use stencil for transferring their designs to paper, which may be white and stationery weight, colored construction paper, or a slick, colored paper. One girl used a good grade of brown wrapping paper to send her homemade greetings. Although it was indeed inexpensive, her card had simplicity and charm.

Most of us know how to block print. Remember, you cut your design, that has been carefully worked out on paper, into a piece of plain linoleum with the regular cutting tools you may have bought for Art, or with a razor blade.

Be sure your design is cut backwards or the figures will face the wrong way.

Your design should be very simple and conventional, but use your ingenuity and make a new design from a new subject.

Martha Jaques made attractive cards last year with a stencil cut from the 3x5 inch English cards. She says, though, that plain paper may be used and paraffin applied with a hot iron. The iron is put on the block of paraffin just long enough to melt a little off onto the iron. Then the iron is quickly put on the paper and the paraffin rubbed off.

For stenciling cards you will need a stiff stencil brush and oil paint. Martha's cards were bright blue. Her

card is illustrated on the page. The kneeling angels were white on the blue background.

If you are a good letterer, cards with the greeting and name in modern letter-



ing will be simple to make. Plain envelopes may be made from white paper to fit your card. The best way to learn to make them is to tear apart an old envelope the desired size and make your pattern from it.

More than one color may be used for either the printed or stenciled cards. For varicolored stenciled cards, different stencils must be used. Two colors may be painted on the same block or separate blocks used for the block printed cards.

If you draw or paint, accept this challenge to your ingenuity.

Give yourself and your friends a real thrill this Christmas by sending your own individual greetings in your own individual way.

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