

Hawaiian Gifts Produced Here

Gump's Has Expert Wood Carver From Europe

In response to a need for gifts that were truly expressive of the Hawaiian Isles, the S. & G. Gump company of Honolulu has developed a thriving little industry of unique wood carvings from native tropical woods.

Probably their best known creations are the perfume bottles originated and designed by Alice Spalding Bowen, manager of Gump's. These are hand carved, each to represent the flower of the perfume which it holds, achieving a perfect gift idea of Hawaii.

Salad and fruit bowls, hors d'oeuvre plates, nut dishes, trays, cigaret boxes, lamp bases and table decorations are among the other articles that they make. Hawaiian flower and foliage motifs are usually depicted on these wooden art objects in an unusual and original way.

Gump's designs in wood are particularly interesting because of their meticulous execution, the carving being done by a talented Swiss carver, Fritz Abplanalp. His ability has made it possible to complete the distinctive modern furniture now being designed at Gump's, through the use of unusual flat carving.

Abplanalp was brought to Honolulu by Gump's to do their wood carving after a wide search for local professional talent of the type needed proved unsuccessful. He began his vocation at the Carving School of Brienz, Brienz Ct. Bern, Switzerland, his native town, and continued at the Thomann Studio of Christian Art and Figure Carving. He spent six years carving all the enrichments on the interior of the Convent of the Transfiguration Cathedral before coming to Gump's last March.

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