

HS Preview: September 2009

“The Enigmatic McDonald Pattern”, by V. L. Davison.

The McDonald pattern, early on, was misidentified by Dorothy Daniels as an early Russian pattern. It has also been labeled as a Burgess pattern. Most discussions of pattern similarities or differences concern visual aspects of the patterns, dwelling primarily on relative arrangements of easily recognizable elements, such as fans, hobs, vesicas, etc. Perhaps the small number of pieces available contributed to the mis-identifications.

As McDonald is a geometric design, why not examine the design, and compare it geometrically?



Figure 1 Small pitcher in McDonald

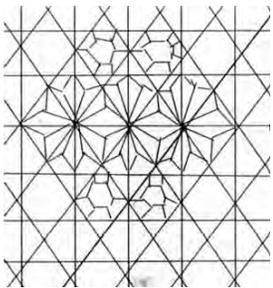


Figure 2

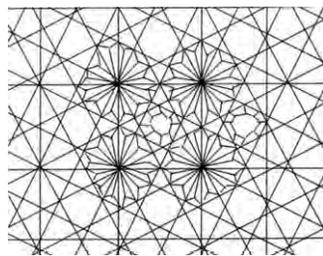


Figure 3

Figure 2 A graphed representation of the McDonald pattern, and Figure 3, a representation of the Russian pattern. McDonald has rows of stars separated by rows of hobs. Russian has each hob surrounded by four stars. Burgess has two patterns that are similar to McDonald, but in neither are the stars co-joined as in McDonald.

“It’s About Time”, by Becky Skinner

Very early in the history of mankind, the passage of time was recognized, and attempts to measure and record that event lead to the development of many devices for determining the passage of time. The most useful device was the clock. As refinements to clock making advanced, parts became more interchangeable leading to mass production techniques. The first item to be successfully mass produced anywhere in the world with truly interchangeable parts was the American clock.

Cut glass clocks were fitted with movements that varied widely in quality. Small boudoir clocks were typically fitted with cheap 30-hour movements or occasionally a cheap 8-day movement. The larger and more elaborately cut clocks were fitted with higher quality 8-day movements that often struck the hours in addition to keeping time. On higher grade movements, the clock company’s name may appear just above or just below the dial center. However, most of the time the clock company name will appear at the bottom of the dial, around the perimeter and outside of the chapter ring.



Louis XIV Design clock

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