

Classic scrollwork designs from the days of carriage painting

The images that follow are shown courtesy of the Carriage Museum of America. The archives at the museum contain back issues of *Carriage Monthly* and *The Hub*, periodicals to the carriage building trade. Both magazines featured articles on coach painting—or as it is known today, pinstripping. We have included an excerpt from the April 1894 issue of *The Hub*. It's the introduction to an article entitled, "The Reign of the Striping Specialist":

"In company with the other specialists of the modern carriage factory, the active and speedy young men who devote their time entirely to striping, are gradually bringing their work down to a plane where the 'survival of the fittest' is best and most completely exemplified. To succeed as a striper in the factory establishment, one must have an eye trained to scientifically gauge distances, proportion space, and compass measurements, coupled with a steady hand and a speed of movement. If by patient practice, the learner is fortunate enough to acquire the above

necessary qualities, even if he is not fertile in the invention of original striping designs, he may consider himself sufficiently skillful [sic], and fortified to win success as a straight line workman.

"For be it known that the high class straight line striper, the workman capable of doing a three line job in a style to excite admiration, is an individual quite as rare and fully as much sought for, and none the less handsomely paid, as the 'jigger' and 'cut up' striper is.

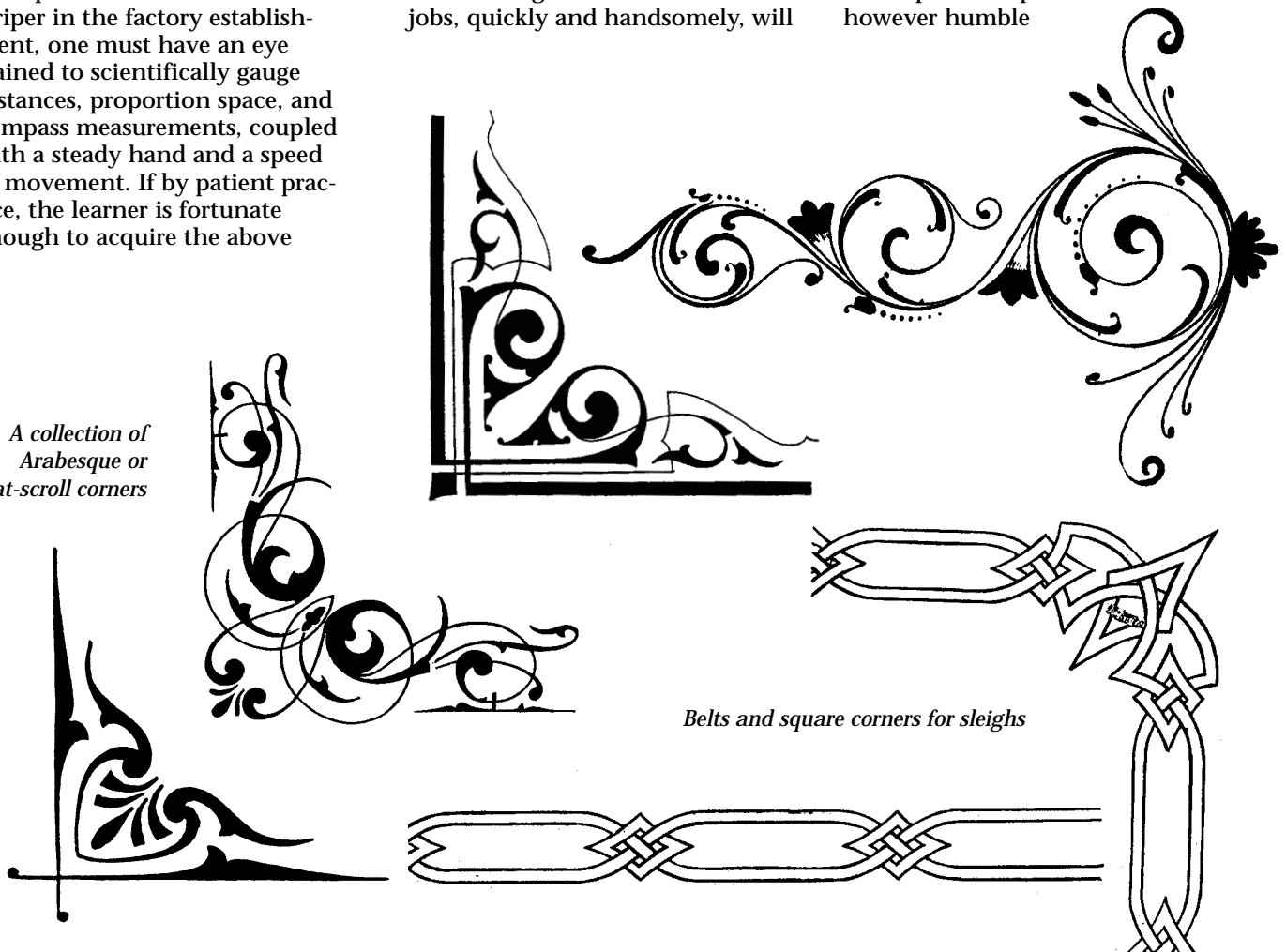
"It does not follow, therefore, that, because the youth fails to prove himself a genius as an inventor of elaborate designs, curiously and wonderfully complex, he should feel forced to abandon the field. The workman capable of executing double and three line jobs, quickly and handsomely, will

find his services in demand for all time to come. The ornamental striper will, as the years go by, find himself occupying a field conspicuously independent from that which embraces straight line striping.

"The call for specialists, then, is the redeeming agency responsible for the separation of ornamental and straight line striping, and to a certain extent at least it may prove a blessing in disguise to many a young painter, who, while a bright, particular expert in one of the two lines of work, but not a success in both, deems himself fit only to pursue some less promising highway of industry.

"In view of the above, we advise all our young friends of the paint shops, however humble

A collection of Arabesque or flat-scroll corners



Belts and square corners for sleighs

their positions may be, to learn the art of striping. It matters not which branch of the art the bent of your fancy may happen to incline to, give it free rein and practice untiringly. If straight line work is taken up, make that your specialty. Train the eye as well as the hand. Practice with a view of acquiring speed. There is no royal road to success in the striper's field. Like all the battles which count in favor of one's standing as a skilled mechanic, it takes hard fighting to win."□

