

The Art Box's Featured Artist: Harry Stinger

Sometime in 1959 I was perusing my then-current edition of Time Magazine and I came across an ad for Chivas Regal scotch. Apparently the company had commissioned an artist to create it and he had chosen to depict Robert the Bruce at the Battle of Bannockburn. What really caught my eye was that he had chosen to render it in the art form of ancient Byzantium, in other words, mosaic.

It occurred to me that it would be an interesting challenge to produce the picture as shown. At the time I had a friend who was a tile importer from whom I was able to obtain what I needed. I enlarged my mosaic three and a half times the size of the picture, and using an ordinary grinder (two carborundum wheels, one coarse and one fine) I proceeded to reproduce the painting as a mosaic.

Although I enjoyed it very much, I was engrossed in my painting con-

tracting business, so I did not pursue that interest for another 25 years. When I retired, my wife presented me with a kiln, and then I was off at a run. I tried to choose various subjects and avoid repeating them and the techniques exactly. Then, about three years ago, I accidentally pixilated a picture on my computer, and recognized it as a potentially new style. Though it proved more time consuming to reproduce pictures this way, my love of colors made the additional effort worthwhile.

Come March the sixth I will be 90 years old, a veteran of World War II, and I am no longer engaging in sports made for younger men, so a gentle hobby like this suits me perfectly. My wife is enthusiastic about my work, but also my sweetest critic. As she says, "At least it keeps him out of the bars and pool halls."

(Written by the artist.)



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