

# Scherenschnitte Craft

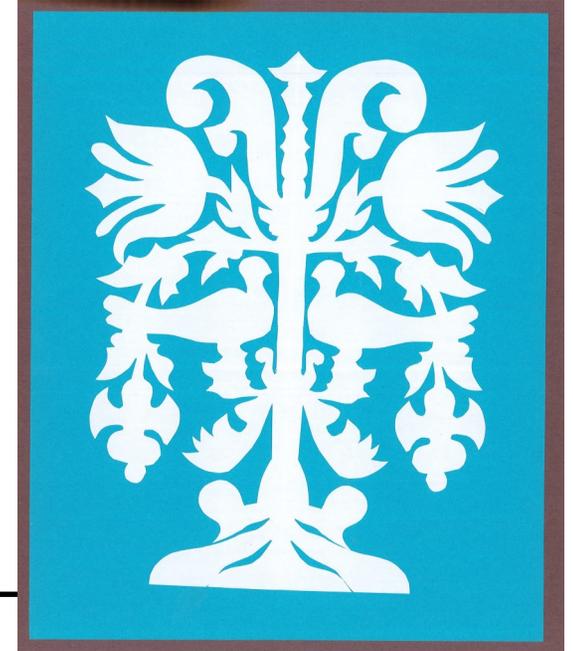
Winters Heritage House Museum, Elizabethtown, PA [www.ElizabethtownHistory.org](http://www.ElizabethtownHistory.org)



To complete your Scherenschnitte will need; Printed pattern(s), scissors (small scissors work best), construction paper, frame (optional).

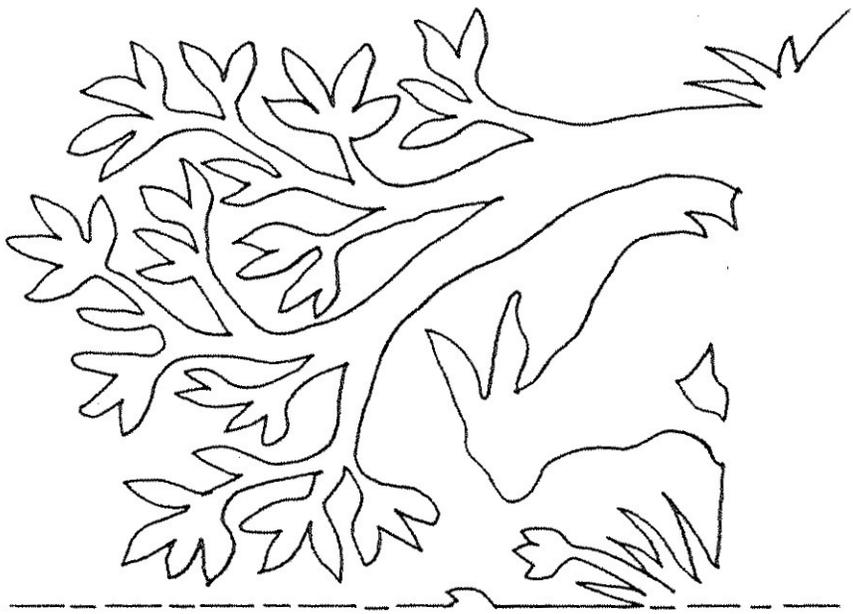
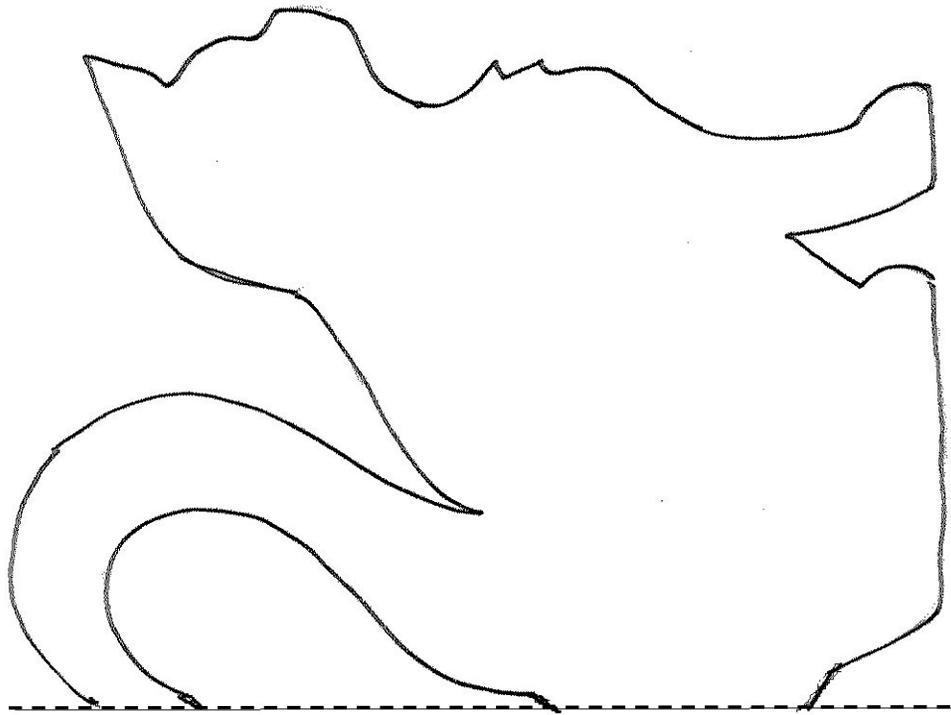
Skills; Scissors cutting. Concepts; Creation, history learning, Creativity

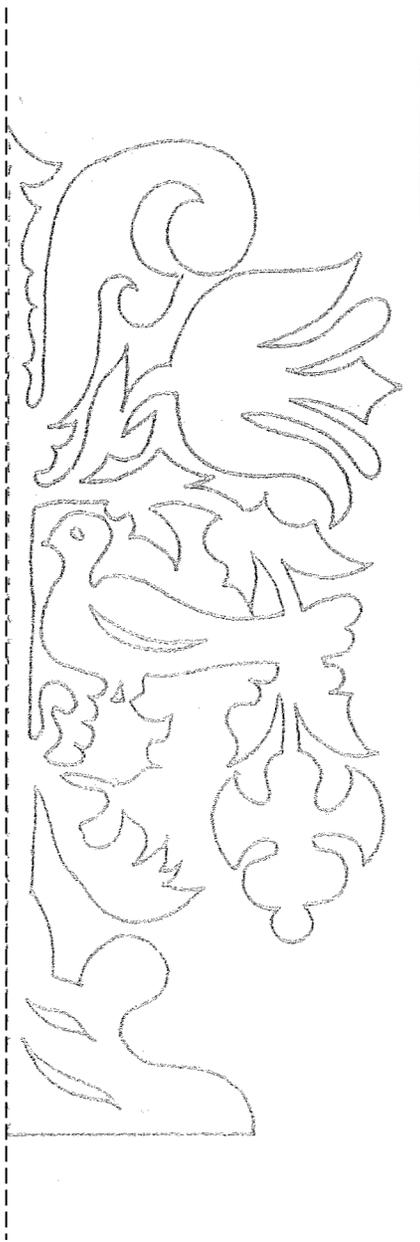
1. On printed sheets with dashed lines fold paper on dashed line. Cut designs on solid lines. Make fold in paper a sharp crease, so paper does not shift while you are cutting. (For advanced difficulty patterns, a stencil knife and cutting mat makes work much easier. Please be sure to properly use and supervise this method.)
2. After the design is cut out, unfold the paper and admire your handy work.
3. Designs can be mounted on construction paper, framed, or used alone as decorations to make cards, valentines, etc.

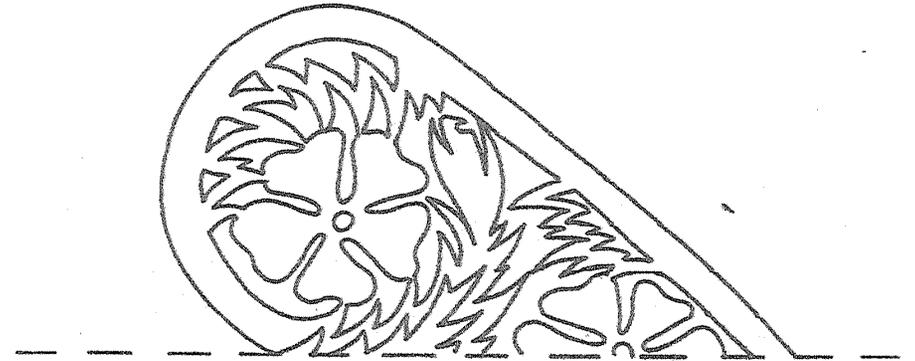
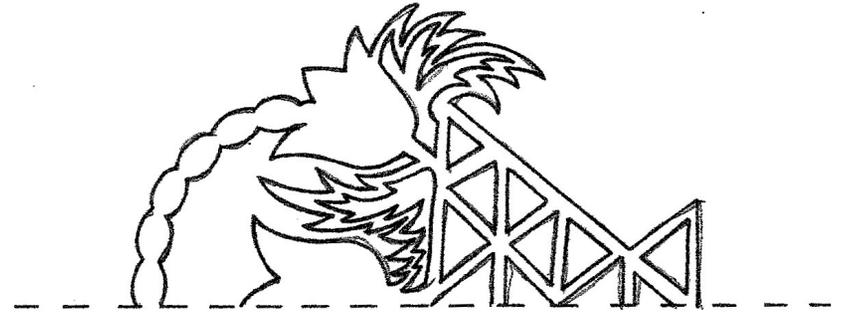


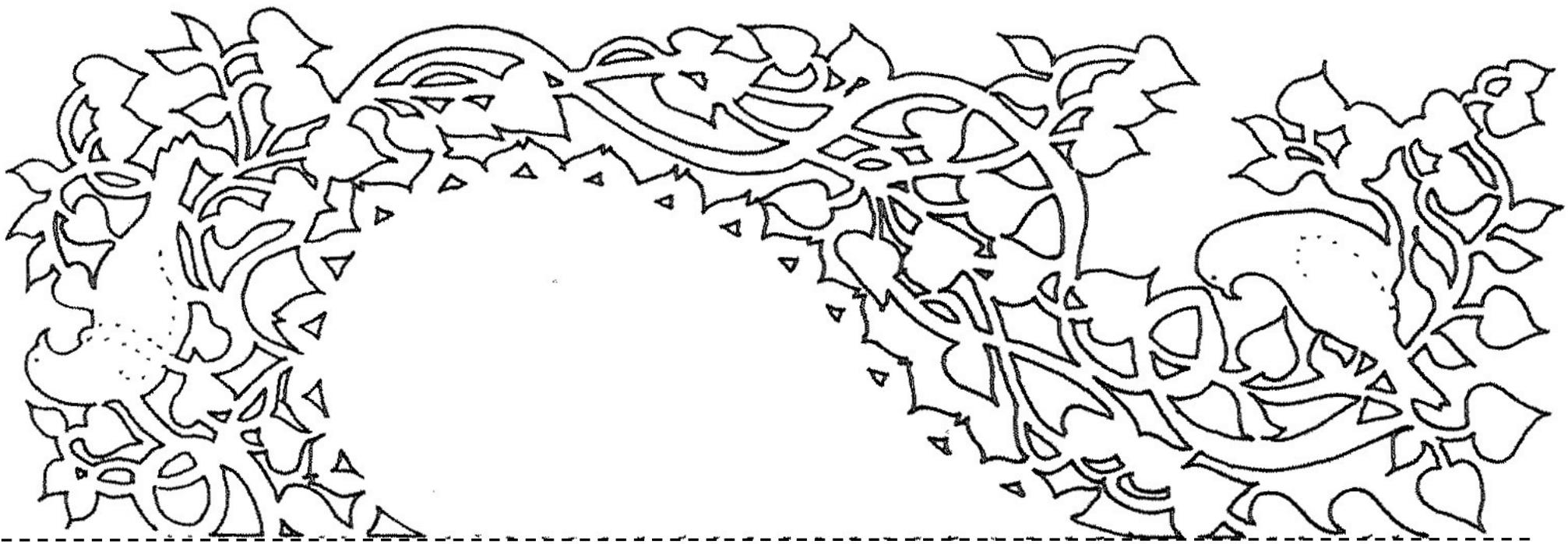
## Scherenschnitte History

Scherenschnitte (pronounced: **shear** – en – schnitt – uh) is the PA German word for “scissors cutting”. The technique involves cutting one piece of paper into a continuous and often elaborate design. Paper may be used in a flat sheet or folded before cutting. This art form’s roots can be traced all the way back to 4th century China. It appeared in the countries of Switzerland and Germany in the mid 1600s, and was brought to the Americas in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by Swiss-German immigrants. They traditionally used the technique for birth and wedding certificates, love letters, valentines, and even silhouettes. Farm life, flowers, trees, animals, birds, and hearts are often common motifs used.







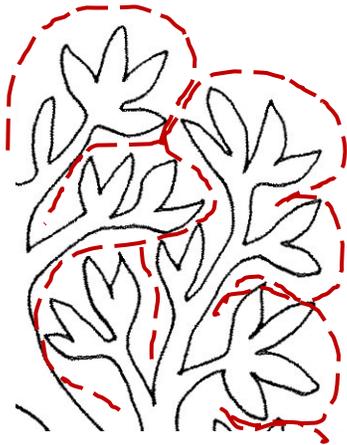


# Snipping tips and tricks

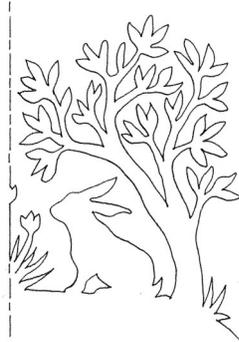
It's instinctive to try to cut along the outline in one continuous direction. However, this is difficult when you get to tiny detailed areas.

When cutting lots of tiny details;

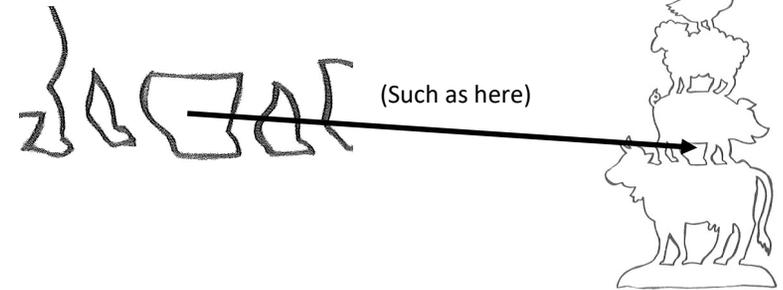
1. Cut around the larger form first.



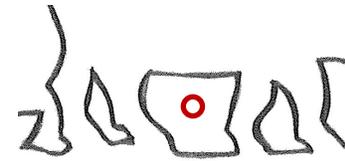
2. Snip into tight corners from the outer edge. Then go back and shape them.



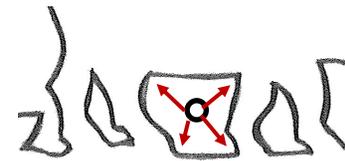
When cutting out an area that is completely enclosed;



1. Carefully, poke a small hole with the tip of one scissors blade or a paper punch.



2. snip a little in each direction, making a star-shaped hole. Aim the snips towards any tight corners. You can make as many little snips as you like.



3. Gradually expand your star until you can reach and follow the cut line.

