



Embroiderers' Association of Canada, Inc.
Association canadienne de broderie, Inc.

AN INTRODUCTION TO EAC/ACB

The Embroiderers' Association of Canada/Association Canadienne de Broderie, Inc. (EAC/ACB) is the volunteer umbrella organization for more than 40 individual stitchery guilds across Canada. Founded right here in Manitoba, our national organization has much to offer its members. Members belonging to a local guild which is part of EAC are automatically members of EAC and are entitled to enjoy its many advantages. You can find complete information about EAC on its website, www.eac.ca. Here is a quick "primer" of information compiled from the website.

History

The idea for a national embroiderers' association began with a small group of dedicated embroiderers who met in Winnipeg in the studio of Leonida Leatherdale. Letters were sent to needlework groups and guilds across Canada. The first formal organizational meeting was held September 27, 1973. With the aid of competent legal advice, bylaws were drafted and approved by the federal government, and in November of 1974, The Embroiderers' Association of Canada, Inc. officially came into existence. The head office was in Winnipeg, Manitoba – the geographic centre of Canada – where, it was felt, EAC could grow to the east and to the west. Now more than 40 years old, with 45 chapters and more than 1,500 members from all across Canada and beyond, we have grown into a vital and exciting organization.

The first EAC chapter was our own Winnipeg Embroiderers' Guild, which sponsored the first two Seminars with participants from across Canada and the United States. Annual seminars were held at various Canadian locales thereafter, and EAC began to gain members and chapters.

Privileges of Membership

- *Embroidery Canada* magazine published four times annually, with beautiful photographs, projects, suppliers, and informational articles.
- An annual Seminar held in a different Canadian location each year with an opportunity to take classes from accomplished national and international designers and teachers, and meet and share knowledge with a wide variety of stitchers. This is the main fundraising activity of EAC and is a great opportunity to bask in all things needlework for a week each year. And it's really fun!
- Other workshops and retreats held across Canada.
- Individual and group correspondence courses and cyber courses in every embroidery technique imaginable, from basic to advanced levels.
- Membership in local chapters which meet regularly to study and interact with other stitchers.
- A cyber chapter with membership available to anyone, anywhere.
- Youth chapters to encourage young people to learn embroidery as art or hobby.
- Exhibitions, grants, contests, and fun activities available to all members to further their knowledge of needlework, support educational opportunities, sponsor travel to the annual Seminar, etc.
- Lending book and video library available to all members, with extensive holdings in a wide variety of needlework techniques. We are lucky that this Library is currently housed in Winnipeg so we have easy access to a wide range of needlework resource materials.
- Study portfolios to aid in your research and education of the needle arts.
- A Heritage Collection that is a must-see, housed at Government House in Regina.
- A comprehensive website that includes full information about the organization, a blog and "Members' Only" section featuring content geared to enhance our main goals of education and fellowship.