

PUT YOUR WORDS IN YOUR MAGAZINE!

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The ATHA magazine, THE ART OF RUG HOOKING, is a community-sponsored production. Articles are written by ATHA members. You do not need to be a teacher, published author, or even an expert rug maker to submit articles to ATHA; and it does not matter if they are short or long. It is best if they give some advice, or how-to instruction, or some interesting background story. The magazine is only as good as the material that is submitted for publication — if nothing is sent in, we don't have a magazine!

I have frequently attended workshops, classes, exhibits, or hook-ins where I have seen fabulous rugs and interesting works. Then I would approach the rug hooker either in person or via email and ask them to submit an article on their rug for ATHA if they are ATHA members. If they are not ATHA members I give them information how to join and encourage them to join and write an article for others to enjoy.

How to write an article for ATHA

Most often after asking someone to write an article, I am met with these words “I can't write!” But I believe everyone can write. Just pretend you are talking to your friends about your rug, and talk about your process, likes, dislikes, etc. In order to assist those who

think they can't write, I finally devised a handout with a few questions that can help a rug hooker write an article, or just a paragraph. And later we took this list of questions one step further— if the rug hooker still insists she can't write article she can simply answer these questions and add anything she wishes then we will create an article or long paragraph about the rug.

Most rug hookers think “Everyone already knows this. I can't contribute anything to the magazine.”

But that is not true. Your words may be just what another rug hooker needs to hear and wants to try. And most importantly, remember, we always have brand new or novice rug hookers who are hungry for more information. Your hints and experience may help someone who doesn't have a teacher nearby or any friends who hook rugs.

We aren't asking you to write the world's best-selling novel, but just an article that expresses your thoughts about your hooked piece.

There's no need to worry about spelling, grammar, or punctuation — we can take care of those minor details. ATHA has a fabulous proofreader who is also our Communications Director, Kathryn Kovaric. If we don't completely understand your explanation, you

will be contacted. No worries!

Final Step: Include good photos.

There's one other thing we need from our members along with the article: a good photo of your rug. You can now easily use your iPad or phone. It's best to take a head-on shot—meaning that you place your rug on the wall. If you leave the rug on the floor get it as square as you can. When you send the rug to ATHA via email choose LARGE, FINE or ORIGINAL File when your phone or iPad asks you. Don't make any changes or corrections to your original photo. We need it as original and in large file to make sure it publishes correctly.

When you submit an article include :

- Your name
- City, state
- your chapter or region
- name of the rug
- designer of the rug
- size of rug
- Widths used
- backing

We sincerely hope you will consider submitting a rug photo and an article.

Just to get you started I have included that list of questions to answer on the next page.

QUESTIONS TO ANSWER FOR ATHA ARTICLES

If you want to write an article for ATHA or have been asked to do so, below are a few questions to be sure to answer in your text.

You must be a member of ATHA. Good photos taken with a camera (or Iphone) are a must now that we have improved our magazine. If at all possible, please hang your rug on a wall and take your photos head-on. Photos and article can be emailed to me (canorw@aol.com) or to cdboll@msn.com. If we have questions or need anything, you will be contacted.

To pay for or renew your membership go to www.atharugs.com, where you can pay via paypal or mail check.

INCLUDE YOUR NAME, CITY, STATE, NAME OF PATTERN, DESIGNER, SIZE.

1. How and when did you start rug hooking? Why??
2. How many pieces have you hooked?
3. What is your favorite style and width of wool strips? What size strips were used in this project?
4. Do you dye? Do you design?
5. Do you participate in any other fiber arts?
6. Are you a member of _____ guild, chapter, or group?
7. You chose this design— why? Changes made?
8. Who dyed the wool?
9. What is your favorite part of the rug?
10. What did you find to be the most difficult part of the rug? And how was it solved?
11. Fabrics used, backing used, and pattern size and name of pattern and designer.
12. Add anything you think may interest a reader.
13. Is there anything you would do differently?
14. If a teacher helped you, it's nice to mention or if you started it at a particular rug camp.

Don't worry if you don't think of yourself as a writer. Just write as if you are talking to your hooking friends. If we have any questions or need more information, we will contact you. We also have a fabulous editor and proofreader! If you REALLY think you can't write, you can simply answer these questions and send them to me. We will make an article from your answers.

REMEMBER: It is the participation of our members that makes the magazine great!

Thanks again, Cynthia (canorw@aol.com)