

THREADS

Rotarian Fellowship of Quilters and Fiber Artists



The History of Knitting by Esther Arlan

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It is springtime and the flurries, here in NH, are still with us. So before I head out to warmer weather where I hope to explore yarn and fabric shops, I thought I'd share some thoughts with you regarding the history of knitting.

Knitting goes back many centuries and several books have been written about hand knitting and when it started. A "History of Hand Knitting" by Richard Rutt and Anne Macdonald have many facts in their book about knitting in England. Listed below are some facts that I gleaned from an article I read a while back: Textile fragments have been found that date back to about 256 A.A. Coptic sandal socks were found that have been dated to 300-400 A.D. Over the next few centuries tombs have been found with knitted fabric and in one article it said that the knitter was buried with needles. By the middle Ages knitted pieces of caps and gloves were found. Mention is made of paintings depicting the Madonna knitting. By 1527 the first guild of knitted-cap makers was established in Paris. Countries that we know today as England, France and Spain contributed to the stitches that are still being used today. Jumping ahead to 1815 Jane Austen (author) published "Persuasion" in which a 31 year old widow helps support herself by knitting pincushions. During the Civil War years "Godey's Lady's Book" included knitting patterns in its magazine. History can tell us much more as we move forward thru the 1800s and 1900s about what men and women contributed to our knowledge of knitting.

Can you close your eyes and imagine what our ancestors would think if they walked into a Barnes and Noble or news stand and saw the multitude of magazines available to us from around the world? I can only imagine what they would think of the books that have been published and the stashes we have in different textured yarn. The various needles-double pointed, straight and round with tips that can be changed at the blink of the eye.. More is coming our way with the creativity of designers and manufacturers.

As you go thru your stashes of multicolored yarns, different weights and different types available to us, reflect back to the beginning of time. Think of the hours women spent shearing cleaning and spinning yarn. Initially only a couple of colors were available. It was much later that plants and seeds were used to dye the spun yarn. I wish I could give you more info but the article I clipped is about 15 years old and this is the first time it has been out of a box in years. It does whet my appetite to learn more about the history of this craft. In future editions I'll provide information on other centuries.

Do you have any suggestions on quilting history? Crochet? Tatting? Let us know and we can include it in a future article. In you Rotary Club or travels tell us about the special fabric place or yarn shop you found that shouldn't be missed if we are nearby.

CHECK IT OUT

Sister Outdoor Quilt
Show 11 July 2015
Sisters Oregon USA

"Sew Whimsical"
Heart of California
Quilt Guild 2015 Show
June 13-14 2015
Madera CA

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Reading time

By Esther Arlan

At breakfast this morning as I sat drinking my coffee I decided it was time to clean up the stack of catalogues that had accumulated in the past few weeks. The problem with that is that one must go thru each catalogue to make sure they are not missing out on the latest news in quilting, knitting or other handwork. Must admit I spent way too much time reading the catalogues when there were many chores waiting for me.

While going thru the some of the catalogues I saw that many new patterns of *Downton Abbey Collection* of fabric available (from the BBC TV show). With this year's segment over with I noticed that there are more patterns and ideas than in the past year. So, dig into your stash and come up with something before January 2016 when the series returns to PBS.

There are several patterns for knitters and crocheters as well in magazines.



Your Thoughts Esther

Many of us have books and magazines and articles put aside to read another day. Here is a quick question to our readers:

1. What magazines do you subscribe to? Quilting, knitting, crocheting, needlepoint, counted-cross stitch, embroidery?
2. What book in your collection would you never give away?
3. What novels have you read that center around quilting, knitting, etc?
4. Did you know there are a number of books for children on crafts?
5. You end up getting stuck on an island – what handcraft work will you have with you?

Looking forward to seeing all your responses.

Helpful Hints

If your newspaper comes in a plastic sleeve – put a few of them in your car and when you get into your car on a rainy day slip the umbrella into the sleeve.

Did you lose an earring? Don't throw out the mate that remained behind – use it as a pin on a blouse, shirt or jacket along with other “halves”.

To keep your favorite pin from opening and falling off your jacket – use the little plastic backing of an earring on the back of the pin. If it becomes unhooked the earring backing will prevent it from falling off.

Do you have ideas to share with us? Send along an e-mail to me or Lynn. We love hearing from you.

Peninsula Quilt Guild's 20th Annual Quilting at the Beach

By Lynn Raymer



Fire Island Hosta and Bargello by Lynda Newell

This quilt show in Ilwaco WA USA always has many beautiful quilts with creative ideas. I always enjoy it. The above quilts were so amazing. The one on the left was the peoples favorite, the one on the right was my personal favorite. On the next page are a couple of pictures of larger quilts, then one of two challenges. The blue and brown was to design a square with the fabrics given. For the lower left, they were given the pattern and given only the instruction to use bright colors. The Right hand corner was a tribute to law enforcement.



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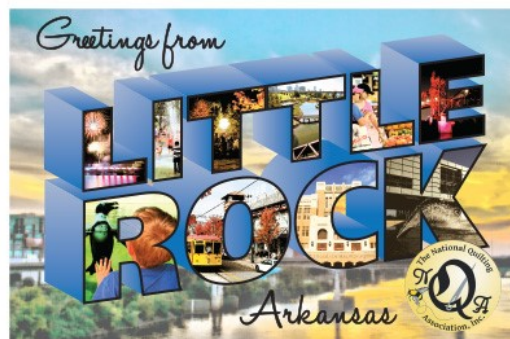
Share ideas on facebook at [Rotarian Fellowship of Quilters and Fiber Artists](#). Or send ideas for articles to:

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Join the Celebration!
NQA 46th Annual Quilt Show



Down by the Riverside
Statehouse Convention Center
Little Rock, AR
June 18, 19, 20, 2015



Don't forget that we will be having a booth at the RI Convention in Sao Paulo. Donated items are exchanged for contributions to the End Polio Now campaign. If you have items to contribute, please see if someone from your district is attending and if they have space to bring your items if you are not planning to attend.

July is the beginning of our new year, and dues will be due. Chairman Diana tells me she will be sending invoices July 1. She also mentioned that she will be contacting members about serving as officers, as that is also on the agenda. It is her hope to have officers from different parts of the world. If you are interested please contact her.

<http://www.knitandcrochetshow.com/> San Diego July 2015
http://www.ukhandknitting.com/knit_crochet_shows.php
Show Dates 2015

DONATED QUILT HAS A BIG IMPACT

by Claudia Buzard Susitna Rotary Club

Some of my non-Rotary friends and I made several quilts similar to the photo below and donated them to a homeless teen shelter in Wasilla, Alaska. One of my quilting friends saw a teenage girl with a quilt she had made and donated, asked the girl where she got the quilt. The girl said she got it from the shelter and it meant a lot to her that someone cared enough to make something so warm and lovely to donate it. The story really touched us all and we decided to make more quilts which we did.

